



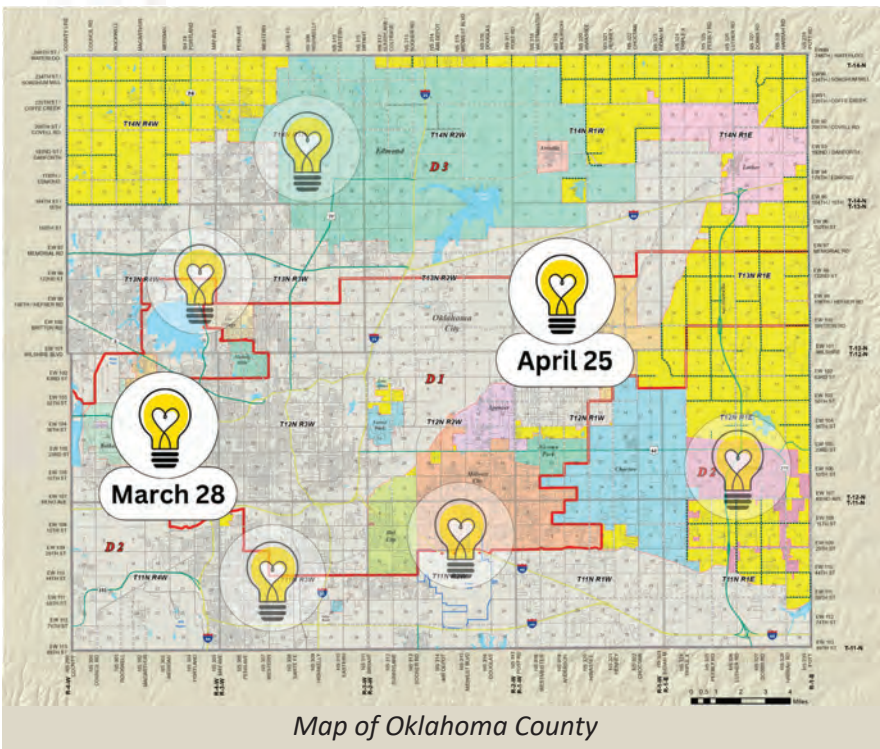
# Heroes of COMPASSION

Getting Things Done Since 1973

Spring 2024



## The RSVP Neighborhood Connection: Coming to a Location Near You!



Map of Oklahoma County

The RSVP Neighborhood Connection offers RSVP volunteers a chance to foster connections and learn about community programs that are making a difference. Celebrating the commitment and expertise of RSVP volunteers is core to our program! The Neighborhood Connection will bring presentations relevant to interests and areas of outreach where RSVP volunteers serve, such as food & nutrition, environmental stewardship, the arts, disaster preparedness, homelessness, youth, history & culture, literacy, and more!

The RSVP Neighborhood Connections will be held throughout the year in locations across Oklahoma County. Come to one closest to you or one that works best with your schedule. If someone you know is curious about RSVP or about volunteering, bring them along! Let's get them connected!

### Upcoming Dates & Locations

**Thursday, March 28**

**Metro Library System Bethany Library**

**6700 NW 35th Street**

**Bethany, OK 73008**

**Registration at 1:30 pm**

**Program at 1:45-2:30 pm**



**Thursday, April 25**

**Metro Library System Jones Library**

**9295 Willa Way**

**Jones, OK 73049**

**Registration at 1:00 pm**

**Program at 1:15-2:00 pm**





# 2023 Impact by the Numbers

- ☆ 341 RSVP Members served
- ☆ 53,646 hours of volunteering
- ☆ At over 53 local non-profits



RSVP added 6 new partners in 2023!

## 2023 Volunteer Survey Results:



**100%** of volunteers surveyed agreed that **RSVP involvement & activities:**

- Offers ways to make a difference in others' lives
- Enhances their sense of purpose
- Enhances their ability to give back to the community
- Allows them to try new things
- and Improves their overall quality of life!

**We listened!** We heard that you would like to know more about ways to serve and to have advance notice of events coming up so you can plan your schedule. We also heard that you would like to be connected to service opportunities that don't require driving to our office! Check out the information in this newsletter about two exciting things RSVP is creating for YOU to address these concerns: *The RSVP Response* monthly flyer, and The RSVP Neighborhood Connection events!



### Introducing Andrea Post, Outreach Coordinator

Andrea Post joined the team at RSVP of Central Oklahoma in late December 2023 in the new role of Outreach Coordinator.

As Outreach Coordinator, Andrea will be assisting with monthly hours collection, special events, creating the newsletter, office duties, and managing RSVP of Central OK's Facebook page and website. Andrea previously worked as an Executive Assistant and in tourism marketing and promotion.

She is also an avid volunteer. "I have been volunteering for several different community organizations since college, and find so much fulfillment and purpose from volunteering. It's so rewarding to see the many ways volunteers bring their talents, skills, and efforts to uplift and serve others in the community, and I am absolutely thrilled to work at RSVP of Central OK!"



Andrea volunteering for Raptors Keep in 2022

# Partner Spotlight: Metropolitan Library System



**Heidi Port, Volunteer Coordinator  
Metropolitan Library System**

Heidi Port has served as the Volunteer Coordinator for Metropolitan Library System for 27 years and is passionate about her work and about volunteers.

"I fell into volunteer management as part of a job right out of college, and [...] I realized what I loved most was

ensuring people know they matter and are important, and that they have the opportunity to make a difference in their world. Working with staff and volunteers within the Metropolitan Library System and Friends of the Library is a perfect Venn diagram of those two things! I also delight in empowering our 70+ staff members who work directly with library volunteers to provide exceptional experiences and expand our community reach. I love my job and it's definitely my sweet spot!"

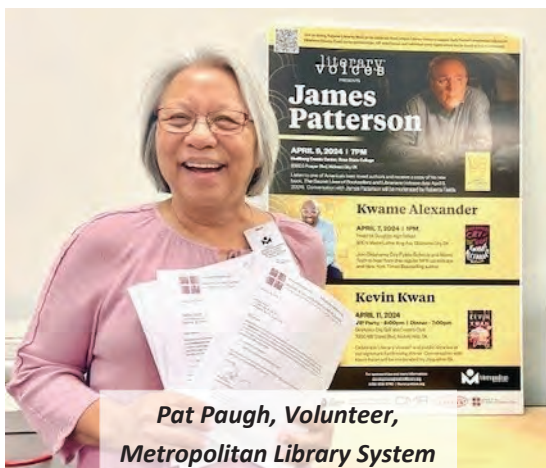
A couple months ago, Heidi contacted Jamie Williams, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator, to request a volunteer to help with office projects one day a week, and Pat Paugh began volunteering.

"Pat quickly became an integral part of our team, and we appreciate and value her kind heart and quick hands! She is a complete delight!... Our team is so much more efficient with Pat's participation!"

Pat Paugh, a military aircraft engine mechanic and U.S. Air Force Veteran, retired in 2008, and, while searching for "more," began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Phoenix, AZ, in 2009.

After moving to Oklahoma, Pat applied late last year to start volunteering through RSVP, and began volunteering for Metro Library in the Development & Volunteer Services Office, where she is helping maintain the Dolly Parton Imagination Library database.

Pat told us, "I have noticed that the members of the volunteer family move effortlessly to the beat of service... It doesn't hurt that RSVP employees show so much appreciation, kindness, and care. The most pleasurable part of volunteering is engaging with the people around you."



**Pat Paugh, Volunteer,  
Metropolitan Library System**

***"The most pleasurable part of volunteering is engaging with the people around you." - Pat P.***

Metropolitan Library System has served Oklahoma County for over 120 years, and since the beginning, has strived to positively affect our communities. Metro's mission is "Connecting our diverse communities with resources and experiences to educate and enrich lives."

From providing essential services like onsite housing navigators and embedded DHS social workers to offering innovative opportunities such as 24/7 book kiosks and internship programs for Master of Social Work students, Metro Library is committed to meeting the evolving needs of patrons. In recent years, Metro Library has expanded its reach and impact through initiatives like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, implemented in 2022, which continues to grow with over 14,000 participants.

Today, Metro Library features 100+ onsite libraries, notary services, community-wide strategic planning, and OKC Literacy partnerships, and has added over 70 new service partners this year alone. Whether through large-scale programs or individual interactions at the circulation desk, Metro Library is committed to fostering a positive and inclusive environment for all, driving innovation and positively impacting the communities they proudly serve.

***Would you like to volunteer at  
Metro Library?***

***Call (405) 605-3110 or email  
jamie.williams@rsvpokc.org.***



## Announcing *The RSVP Response*

In addition to the quarterly newsletter and monthly email, RSVP has created a new monthly flyer that lists new volunteer opportunities and partnerships to explore. It also features a calendar of RSVP volunteer activities. This leaflet harkens back to RSVP's monthly newsletter from the 1970's, *The RSVP Response*, which some readers may remember! The first edition of the new *RSVP Response* is included with this newsletter. If you don't want to receive this monthly mailing, contact us, and we'll take you off the mailing list and only send you the monthly news via email.



### Continuing our Legacy of Service

As we kick off a new year, we are excited to continue our mission of enriching the lives of older adults by connecting them with meaningful and rewarding community volunteer opportunities, and to explore new ways to continue building a culture and legacy of service throughout Oklahoma County. We are

blessed to work amongst a vibrant network of dedicated volunteers and community partners, and with the launch of RSVP Neighborhood Connection gatherings, we hope to provide a new and enhanced level of support and engagement for everyone we encounter.

When people ask who our volunteers are, or what they are like, I tell them the following:

- **We are experienced.** Our volunteers have a wealth of wisdom and understanding gleaned from life experiences – and are still learning!
  - **We are empowered.** Our volunteers bring proficiency, zeal, and thoughtfulness to the projects and places where they serve.
  - **We are diverse.** Our volunteers come from many different races, cultures, religions, traditions, skills, abilities, interests, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
  - **We are generous.** Our volunteers give selflessly of their time, talents, and resources.
  - **We are resilient.** Our volunteers show resolve and willingness to overcome barriers and tackle community challenges together.
- ...and ***We get things done!***

I am honored for the opportunity to continue building on our rich tradition of compassionate service. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you for your tenacity and dedication as we build this culture and legacy together!

Laura McRaniels, Executive Director

## *In Fond Remembrance*

In loving memory of our volunteers whose generosity in service touched all our lives.

**Terry Biggs**

**Linda Suchak**

A proud partner of:



Congratulations to:

***Jim Osborn***

winner of the hours drawing.

Enjoy your gift card!

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