



The Response

www.rsvpokc.org

Volume 32, Issue 1

January, February & March 2011

2011 Senior Day at the Capitol

Oklahoma's seniors and senior advocates will meet at the state capitol Monday, February 28th, to discuss the needs of the growing number of older adults. RSVP encourages you to attend this important event.

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. in the chambers of the House of Representatives (4th floor) and will conclude at 11:30 a.m. Exhibits will be on display on the second floor rotunda immediately following the program. Scheduled speakers include Rev. Dr. George E. Young Sr., member of the OK Commission for Human Services and pastor at Holy Temple Baptist Church in OKC, and Lance Robertson, director of OKDHS Aging Services Division.

For more information, contact the OKDHS Aging Services Division at 405-521-2281.

RSVP Office Relocating in the Spring of 2011

Our time in the historic Oklahoman building has been wonderful...we will miss the YMCA staff and our special friends at UNITY, but change is inevitable and this one is good! Negotiations for our new space have been underway for over a year, and we are very excited that OK County Social Services has room for us in their facility at 7901 NE 23rd Street.

Our move means exciting new opportunities for you, too! RSVP will partner with OK County Social Services to assist with a Cooperative Community Garden on the grounds of our new home. These are raised bed gardens, accessible to those with walkers or wheelchairs. There are also opportunities to assist the OK County Social Services indigent pharmacy program.

There will be a volunteer activity room for you, too! This brings back our famous card-coloring parties, special office projects and the development of project circles. (If you have an idea for a group project, please contact Evelyn at 605-3110 or evelyn.harms@rsvpokc.org.)

You'll soon find you love visiting our new location, which is only seven miles from our current office, and very easy to get to. There is no hassle of downtown traffic, plenty of parking (yippee!), windows in every office (double yippee!) and wide open spaces (there are horses next door!).

Watch our website at www.rsvpokc.org and "*The Response*" for new phone & fax information. In the meantime, all phone calls will be forwarded when we move, enabling you to reach us at our present phone numbers.





Beth Patterson
Executive Director

A Note from Beth...

Did you know there is a group of dedicated volunteers from around our state who spend endless hours each month championing the needs and issues confronting older Oklahomans, especially our seniors in great social and economic hardship? The group is called the Oklahoma State Council on Aging. I feel proud and privileged to serve on the Council and would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about what we do.

The Council consists of a 30-member appointed body that serves in an advisory capacity to the OK Commission for Human Services and the OK Department of Human Services Aging Division.

We're charged with educating our legislators, OKDHS commissioners, state agencies, federal agencies and the general public about the needs, conditions and concerns of elderly Oklahomans. The Council reviews and comments on policies, budget appropriations, planning, regulations and legislation that could benefit or adversely impact elderly Oklahomans. We conduct public forums on the needs or condition of elderly Oklahomans, and we maintain high visibility and a strong voice when advocating elderly concerns and issues.

We at RSVP and the OK State Council on Aging encourage you to attend the 2011 Senior Day at the Capitol event on February 28th (see front page article). It's a great opportunity to learn about the challenges and opportunities that are ahead of us. Plus, it gives you the chance to meet your legislator and talk about your concerns regarding senior-related issues. We'll see you there!

Green Thumb?

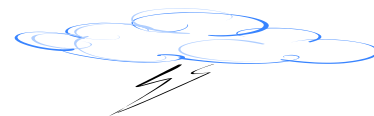
Volunteers are needed to help with the new Cooperative Community Garden at RSVP's new location, 7901 NE 23rd Street. If you have horticulture experience or just a knack with gardening, please give a little of your time to help this garden become a huge success! Team players are needed to assist with planning, organization, soil prep, planting, weeding, maintenance and harvesting these raised-bed gardens, which will benefit low-income residents of Eastern Oklahoma County.

Others from RSVP, OK County Social Services, and the community will work together to make this community garden a productive effort, and it will take lots of volunteers to make it happen. Did you have a garden, but had to give it up because it became too much for you to handle alone? This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge, and the work! Please contact Patty Corona now at patty.corona@rsvpokc.org or call 605-3110 to get your name on the list for this exciting spring project.

The Perfect Storm...

The phrase may have begun as a nautical term, but it fits our current economic status, too. A perfect storm is a series of events, disruptive but not destructive individually, converging at once to create a catastrophic event. It is projected that the state of Oklahoma will experience an unprecedented budget shortfall over the next two years, creating a perfect storm in the state budget.

RSVP anticipates a hard hit in the 2011-2012 fiscal year as a result of the state budget crisis. You can help us remain strong by making an annual monetary donation, as predictions also show this crisis will last beyond 2011. When planning your annual donation, please remember RSVP is much more than an avenue for volunteerism...our volunteer members provide valuable services to vulnerable seniors every day, such as our Provide-A-Ride service. Thank you for weathering the storm hand in hand and hang on...it looks like it may be a bumpy ride!



Attention All Mentors...

January is National Mentoring Month and we would like to recognize all RSVP members who serve as mentors. Your guidance and encouragement truly make a difference in the lives of those you mentor. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunities...

Arcadia Round Barn, 9 miles east of I-35 on Hwy 66, volunteers are needed in the gift shop and as docents for the historic site.

Eagle Ridge Institute, 601 NE 63rd, family & youth services, needs a volunteer to help with light office work and to answer phones.

The Garage, 14385 NE 23rd St, help sort clothing and donations, and assist clients at Choctaw's new community resource center.

Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma, deliver programs to inner-city schools teaching lessons of courage and character, or volunteer one evening a week for the Survival Skills for Young Women program.

Good Shepherd Hospice, 4350 Will Rogers Pkwy, needs light office volunteers for filing, preparing mailings, stuffing brochures, and possible computer work. Tuck In Phone Friends are also needed to call patients and their families on Thursday afternoon or evening to inquire and relay the patient's weekend needs to the staff.

Metropolitan Library, volunteers are needed at several locations, to help set up, register, assist at a craft table and help with clean up for the library's 1-2-3 Play With Me program, providing a special time and place for parents to spend one-on-one time playing with their child and learning about different community resources. Saturday help is also needed for the Library Midsummer Night's Dream Tour, ushering, tech support, lading in, setting up, tearing down and a multitude of other tasks.

OU Medical Center, 700 NE 13th St, needs volunteers to help with the information desk, popcorn and coffee cart, patient welcome gifts, cancer peer support, the hospitality room, and many other areas.

Positive Tomorrows, 1804 N Bauer, Oklahoma City's school that serves homeless children is in need of a volunteer who can teach a PE class for a couple of hours per week.

Project Break Through, 6900 S Walker Ave (Southern Oaks Library), still needs a math tutor for a 27 year old GED student, preferably on Mondays or Wednesdays for a couple of hours a week.

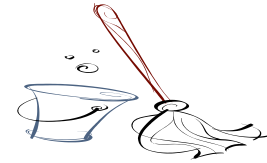
RSVP Provide-A-Ride, 500 N Broadway, needs volunteer drivers to provide medical-related rides to local seniors.

To expand, make changes to your volunteer activities, or to refer a friend, contact Patty Corona, Volunteer Coordinator, at patty.corona@rsvpokc.org or call 605-3110 to get linked with the activities that keep you smiling.

Cleaning for a Reason

If you know a woman undergoing chemotherapy, please tell her or her family there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning, once per month for four months during her chemotherapy treatment.

She simply registers and has her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating company in her zip code area arrange for the service. For complete details, call toll free 877-337-3348 or log onto www.cleaningforareason.org.



Telephone Buddies...

Please tell your church or civic group, family, and friends that RSVP's Telephone Buddies program has openings for new clients.

If you or someone you know would like a friend over the phone, or a regular wellness check, please contact Patty at 605-3110 or patty.corona@rsvpokc.org.

A new retiree greeter at Wal-Mart had trouble getting to work on time. He was always 10-15 minutes late. His boss decided to talk to him about it. The gentleman said he knew it was a problem, but he was working on it.

The boss told him he was surprised by the tardiness, considering the mans regimented military background. He asked what his military office would have said about this issue. The gentleman replied, "They always said 'Good morning Admiral. May I bring you your coffee, sir'?"



RSVP of Central Oklahoma, Inc.
"A Bridge Between Those Who Need
and Those Who Give"

500 N. Broadway, Suite 50
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-6200

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
PERMIT NO. 1225

Return Service Requested

Mission Statement: RSVP links volunteers age 55 and older with essential community needs throughout Central Oklahoma



*Two silk worms were in a race...
They ended up in a tie.*

Welcome to RSVP...

James Barlow	Vonnie Prince
Barbara Bartlett	Katrin Puckett
Jill Cox	Helen Reid
Norma Heidebrecht	Josephine Scurra
Doug Miesse	Robert Smith
Timothy Miller	Shirley Smith
Veronica Miller	Richard Walton
Kathyleen Mosley	Shirley Walton
Don Orange	Sandra Williams
Deborah Peron	

Congratulations...

Patsy Shepherd and Leo Davis

They are the winners of RSVP's Hours Drawing for November and December. We hope each enjoyed receiving our little surprise in the mail!

Thank you for realizing the importance of reporting your volunteer hours!

To report hours (or make changes to your phone, mailing address, or email) contact **Natalie** at:

Phone: **605-3110** ~ Fax: **605-3108**

E-mail: natalie.dubuc@rsvpokc.org

The Response is published quarterly by RSVP of Central Oklahoma, Inc. To conserve paper and postage, receive your publication online by contacting Natalie (phone & email above).

- Beth Patterson**.....Executive Director
- Evelyn Harms**.....Assistant Director
- Patty Corona**.....Volunteer Coordinator
- Faye Beam**.....Provide-A-Ride Coordinator
- Mary Lou Cozzens**.....PAR Assistant
- Natalie DuBuc**.....Administrative Assistant

Contact Faye at 605-3106 for rides, cancellations, or information on RSVP Provide-A-Ride.