



The Response

www.rsvpokc.org

January, February & March 2012

RSVP Card Coloring...

In November, we had our first card coloring party in our new location. We had lots of fun and made new friends while coloring the latest birthday cards designed by RSVPer **Camille Cooper**. Reserve your seat(s) to color with us on one or more of the following 2012 dates:



Thursday, March 1
Monday, March 26
Wednesday, May 9
Tuesday, May 22



Each session will be from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Seating limited to 20...**reservations required**. RSVP will furnish a light snack, but if you like, feel free to bring a small amount of your favorite finger food snack to share with your fellow volunteers. If you are new to RSVP, please take advantage of these opportunities to join us for one of our more light-hearted activities.

For reservations, contact evelyn.harms@rsvpokc.org or call 605-3110.

RSVP Orientation...

If you are new to RSVP, or need a refresher about your membership, we would like to invite you to attend one of our upcoming orientation sessions.

Each session will last about an hour, and will include time to address any questions you may have about RSVP. Tour the office, learn all about your membership benefits, meet the staff, learn the importance of hours collection, and more.

Thursday, March 15 - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 23 - 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 10 - 10:00 a.m.

Reservations required. Contact RSVP at 605-3110 or evelyn.harms@rsvpokc.org.

Senior Day at the Capitol...

Monday, February 27 is the date for Senior Day at the Capitol 2012. This is a great opportunity for you to meet those who make our laws and express your opinion directly to them on the issues most important to you.

The day begins with a program in the House Chambers from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Resource booths are open on the 2nd floor from 11:30 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

Visit the OK Senior Corps booth to learn all about the impact of RSVP, Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs on older Oklahomans, then visit with decision makers to explain to them how vital these and other senior programs are in our communities.



Beth Patterson
Executive Director

A Note from Beth...

One year ago today, Oklahoma was experiencing a record breaking blizzard. Today, it's 67 degrees I'm just sure I can see the buds sprouting on the trees as I write. I love yard work of any kind and pulling weeds is relaxing to me, so I would prefer to be outside in the community garden at this particular moment.

I've found a new place to pull weeds, and I could really use your help because there are a lot of them to pull. RSVP has an agreement with OK County Social Services to assist with upkeep of the "Garden of Hope", a beautiful community garden located behind our building. As spring rolls in, we'll need help with new planting, and there is a huge need for daily work in this organic garden. Watering, weeding and de-bugging are constant tasks to be done and we need your help.

It's a beautiful raised bed garden with a lovely shaded picnic area, surrounded by nature. There are low beds for the kids to work in, and then each bed is gradually higher to accommodate anyone, even those with walkers or wheelchairs. It's also a great opportunity for your family to garden together. Your grandchildren will love it! You can come for an hour and even bring a picnic lunch to relax while you volunteer.

The vegetables harvested from "Garden of Hope" are distributed primarily to low-income senior citizens who live in eastern Oklahoma County, but volunteers who work in the garden on a regular basis are invited to take a portion of the harvest for themselves. Please contact Patty at 605-3110 or patty.corona@rsvpokc.org to be on the list of those involved in this community based project...we'll be talking to you soon.

MLK Day 2012...

RSVP celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King in January by distributing goodie bags to local mobile meal recipients.

Many thanks to those who donated items for the 2012 MLK Day project. We couldn't have done it without RSVPer **Gwendolyn Wallace** and all the wonderful volunteers at St. Luke's Baptist Church in Spencer for delivering goodie bags to the clients of eastern Oklahoma County's Mary Mahoney mobile meal program.

The goodie bags contained food items, personal care products and other necessities for seniors, plus cozy thermal underwear (pink for the ladies!).



Community Support...

RSVP members, partnering organizations and financial supporters have helped provide support to several programs lately that we believe need continued support throughout the year.

Please partner with us to gather and distribute these items on a regular basis to Tinker Food Pantry, Adopt A Unit and eastern Oklahoma County mobile meal recipients.

RSVP will gratefully accept your donations year around of non-perishable food; canned foods, soup and fruit (pull-tab cans preferred); beef jerky; shampoo, conditioner & other personal care products; perfume/after shave; stationery, note cards & stamps; and any new items of use to homebound seniors.

Drop your donations off at RSVP anytime!

Volunteer Opportunities...

Stay linked with activities to keep you smiling! To expand or make changes to your volunteer activities, or to refer a friend, contact RSVP volunteer coordinator Patty Corona at patty.corona@rsvpokc.org or 605-3110.

Big Brothers Big Sisters, 4101 Perimeter Center Dr - Volunteers are needed for greeting participants, and the registration, t-shirt, and food tables for the BBBS, "Bowl for Kids Sake" fundraiser on April 12-15.

Britton Christian Church, 922 NW 91st St - Provide elementary homework help Tues. or Thurs. from 3-5pm, or middle and high school children from 6-8pm.

Camp Fire USA, 3309 E Hefner - assist with various indoor/outdoor activities, such as canoeing, fishing, science and nature experiments, and games for Spring Break March 12-16, and March 19-23.

Choctaw Elementary School, 14663 NE 3rd St - Has a need for reading tutors.

Harn Homestead & 1889er Museum, 1721 N Lincoln - Give adult tours of the 1904 Harn Home, or help to guide children in the "Land Run" April 24-27.

Heavenly Hospice - East OKC, provide companionship to an elderly gentleman, or in Bethany, sit with bedbound patient so family can attend church once a month. Training is provided.

Hugs Project, 7000 Crossroads Blvd - Support your deployed service members by helping to make cool collars, teddy bears or assembling care packages.

Mid Del Food Pantry, 322 N MW Blvd - There is an ongoing need for drivers who can pick up and deliver 25lb boxes of donated food to the pantry.

Myriad Botanical Gardens, 301 W Reno - Volunteer Tour Guides are needed to greet visitors at the gardens and to lead tours through the garden.

Oklahoma County 4-H - Help kids attain life skills through 4-H service learning.

Oklahoma City Literacy Council, 300 Park Ave - Reception volunteers are needed to greet prospective tutors, students, and to assist with general office help.

Oklahoma Small Business Development Center, UCO, 1 Santa Fe Plaza - Provide management consulting advise to small business owners under the direction of the OSBDC Regional Director. Reception/office help is also needed.

RSVP of Central Oklahoma, Inc 7401 NE 23rd Ave - Help maintain a raised bed vegetable garden benefiting low income seniors. Each bed is a different height to accommodate youth, and minimize bending. Wide paths are wheelchair friendly.

Safe Kids Oklahoma, 940 NE 13 St - Answer phones, help assemble packets for events, and participate in events to educate the public on child injury prevention.

TARC, 3800 N Classen - Provide companionship and assistance with decision making to someone with a developmental disability.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, locations vary - Help low income families and seniors complete simple tax forms. Training is provided.

Will Rogers Gardens, 3400 NW 36th St - Volunteer gardeners are needed on the 2nd Friday of each month, February through November from 9:30-10:30.

In Loving Memory

of those who have touched our lives

Glenda Briesch

Jerry Gore

Norma Heidebrecht

Lawrence Marrs

Moyne Ann Rogers

Dan Seniura

Rose Shaklee

William Shaklee

Pauline Trussell

Support RSVP in 2012...

RSVP would like to remind you that we are always happy to accept your donations to help keep our programs and services operating strong.

Please make your donations payable to RSVP and mail to 7401 NE 23rd Street, OKC, 73141-1420. Or drop by to make your donation and let us thank you in person!

If you would like to consider RSVP in your estate planning, please contact Beth Patterson, Executive Director, at 605-3110.

RSVP & Oklahoma County Social Services need you to help in the community gardens. In forefront below are RSVPers Jim Jeter and Marietta Corona on planting day in March of 2011.





RSVP of Central Oklahoma, Inc.

7401 NE 23rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73141-1420

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

Return Service Requested

Mission Statement: *Linking volunteers age 55 and older with essential community needs throughout Central Oklahoma*



Printing of The Response made possible in part by HUMANA.

Congratulations...

...to the latest winner of the Hours Drawing:

Sherrie Ives

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

Enjoy your WalMart gift card!

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

Welcome to RSVP...

Sharon Alexander	Judson Meyer
Nancy Baxendale	Rhonda Moler
Jerry Bortle	Almeta Nichols
Janice Brookshire	Beth Patterson
Reatha Compton	Steve Prieto
Mona Crisp	DiAnna Robayo
Frances Dumont	David Shafer
Louise Foster	Jerri Thomas
Phyllis Galante	Betty Vogle
Sharon Hampton	Geri Ward
Jo Hart	Donna Wynn
James G. Harwood	Janet Zybach
Melba Haun	

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.