



# Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

July through December 2021

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## Upcoming Dates:

December 24  
Holiday Office Closure

January 31  
New Year's Day Office Closure

January 1-31  
Martin Luther King Jr. Service Act: Donations for Rescues

April 6th  
National Service Recognition Day

April 22nd  
Birthday Banquet

## Celebrating Our Superhero Volunteers

On August 27th RSVP celebrated volunteers at the 49th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet. This year's event featured a "Superhero Volunteer" theme with 70 volunteers and guests in attendance at the Great Plains Coliseum. Volunteers were recognized for their continued service to the Lawton Community.

Guests enjoyed a dinner of BBQ pork, mashed potatoes, baked beans, potato salad with cobbler for dessert.

Many volunteers have been with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program for 17 years or more, the longest having served 28 years! Volunteers received a certificate of appreciation. "Volunteer of the Quarter" Awards were also presented to Helma Blackburn, Aaron Boone, Harold Davis, Ken Horner, Kendal Miller, Johnny Monroe, Jerry Nottingham, Pat Powell, and Tony Washington.

Yvonne Howard and the "Ain't No Stopping Us" Line Dancers provided the evening's entertainment and instructed volunteers in a modern line dance.

Each volunteer received a door prize filled with fantastic items such as a car care basket, a baking basket, a birdhouse, and a "Taste of Oklahoma" gift basket.

See more Volunteer Recognition Banquet pictures on page six.



*Station Supervisor Jan Rhodes from Benjamin O. Davis Sr. High Rise received flowers during the announcement of her retirement.*



*Volunteer Yvonne Howard with the "Ain't No Stopping Us" Line Dancers.*



## 9/11 National Day of Remembrance Service Act

Twenty years ago, America was devastated by the 9/11 attacks. As we marked the 20th anniversary, RSVP honored the sacrifices made by the U.S. military and their families. For that reason, this year we chose to collect donations for veterans at the Lawton-Ft. Sill Veterans Center.

RSVP volunteers generously donated socks, slippers, and toiletry items for our veterans. We collected a total of 586 items, including 198 pairs of socks and slippers, 256 bottles of hand sanitizer, and 132 toiletry items.

Marsha Black and Deta Turner also made 24 lap quilts for the veterans!

***Thanks for all your donations!***



## Holiday Banquet Celebration

Seventy RSVP volunteers and guests gathered on December 10 to celebrate the holidays. The event was held at Great Plains Coliseum and featured a full holiday dinner: Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans and pumpkin pie for dessert!

After dinner volunteers played Bingo for the chance to win some great prizes including, various food gift baskets, "Grow the 580" gift certificates, golf putting game, hat/gloves/scarf sets, movie night gift basket, and much more! Thanks to volunteer Linda Tessmer for the ladies' spa gift sets that she donated.

A wonderful time was had by all!



*Volunteers Iris Wilcox and Elfriede Werdehoff.*



## MLK 2022 Service Act: Donations for Rescues

The Martin Luther King Jr. Service Act is an effort to encourage all Americans to improve their communities. AmeriCorps has led this effort for the past quarter century.

For this project, RSVP will collect donations for rescue animals to benefit the Humane Society of Lawton-Comanche County and Lawton Animal Welfare.

These two organizations work in partnership with local foster families, businesses, and organizations to accomplish their rescue missions. Their primary focus is to eliminate the needless euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals in Lawton and Comanche County.

Donations will be accepted at the RSVP office from January 1st through the 31st. More information is available on our Facebook page. Please call the office at 580-581-3408 to coordinate a drop off.



## Welcome New Volunteers

Volunteer	Station
Joe Jones	Complete Home Health & Hospice Care
Sharon Marshall	Center for Creative Living
Joe Montoya	St. John's Missionary Baptist Church
Evelyn Sotelo	Fort Sill Thrift Shop
Linda Tessmer	Society of Military Widows

## In Memoriam: Helen Mazzo

Helen joined RSVP in 2012 and volunteered at First Baptist Church, Fort Sill Thrift Shop, and Hearts That Care Volunteer Health Clinic. She passed away July 12, 2021.

Helen loved to travel with Arvest Seniors and the Center for Creative Living groups. She went on many trips and cruises and also loved to golf with her friends.



## In Memoriam: Rose Markus



Rose joined RSVP in 2012 and volunteered at the Fort Sill Thrift Shop for over ten years. She passed away August 13, 2021.

Rose loved garage sales and flea markets and finding treasures and fine antiques. She had many hobbies including baking amazing treats, sewing, knitting and embroidery, painting with watercolor and acrylics and was a wickedly smart Scrabble player.

Volunteer of the 3rd Quarter  
Petra Taylor



Petra joined RSVP in 2012 and volunteers with the Center for Creative Living. She also volunteers for AARP Tax Services, the Arthritis Exercise Class, her church, and many other organizations! Lorene Miller, Executive Director at the Center for Creative Living, says Petra *"has lived her life as a servant to other people. Her entire life has been lived and focused on helping others. She inspires, encourages, and nourishes. She exudes an aura of strength."*

Volunteer of the 4th Quarter  
Horace Whetstone, Jr.



Horace (Stoney) joined RSVP in 2016 and volunteers with the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 751 and Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Chapter 319. He wears many hats with these organization! For the VVA, Stoney serves as Membership Chairman and Secretary. For the KWVA he serves as Vice President and Secretary. He also volunteers with the New Post Chapel.

## Station Spotlight:

### Complete Home Health & Hospice Care

Complete Home Health & Hospice Care is a family-owned company that provides comprehensive, professional, in-home health care services. Volunteer Coordinator Nicole Berryman recently joined CHH&HC and is excited to share this opportunity to bring RSVP volunteers into their home health care family.



Volunteers are needed to be part of the Hospice Interdisciplinary Group to provide emotional support and compassionate care. Volunteers may choose to visit residents at care facilities and provide companionship and conversation. Additional opportunities are available in the office to assist with mailings, preparing for local events, and transporting donations to care facilities.

Volunteers are needed for this RSVP partner station and if you are interested, contact Nicole Berryman, Volunteer Coordinator, at 580-351-6565 to discuss the opportunities or if you have any questions.

## RSVP Volunteers in Action



*Mary Fountain (right) receives the Carolyn Stone Award from the Wall of Honor Committee of the Comanche County Veterans Council. Nori Kassik (center), Mary's mother, also received this award in September of 2018. Mary's daughter Bekah (left) joins them for this generational photo.*



*Dollie Ducre volunteering at the American Red Cross at Fort Sill.*



*Everlena Jackson with Hearts that Care at the Walk to End Alzheimer's event.*



*Barbara Curry (center) receives the Shelia O. Lee Volunteer of the Year Award. Pictured w/Barbara are Dr. Krista Ratliff and Mark Scott of the Chamber.*



*Katharina Bryant playing a game of Chickenfoot dominoes with residents at Brookridge Retirement Community.*



*Patti Puckett volunteering at Birthright's garage sale fundraiser event.*

# Volunteer Recognition Banquet Photos



*Julie Montoya and husband Joe.*



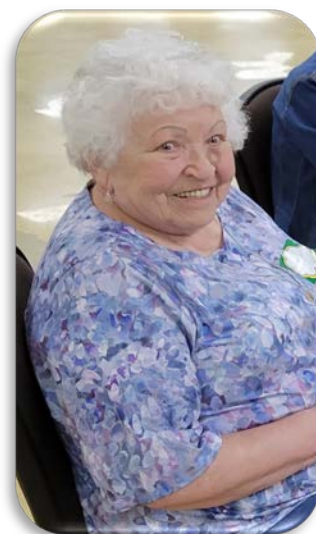
*Ed Mayfield receives his door prize.*



*Mary Swafford and My-Anh Wynne.*



*Gloria Monroe and Shirley Williams.*



*Rosemarie Arnett having a good time at the banquet.*



*Wynn Ann Wright enjoying the banquet.*



*Kathy Rogers smiles for the camera.*

# Holiday Photos

Do you have something you would like to see in the next newsletter?

Send your pictures, stories, events to [rsvp@lawtonok.gov](mailto:rsvp@lawtonok.gov)

## Links

Facebook:



City of Lawton Website:

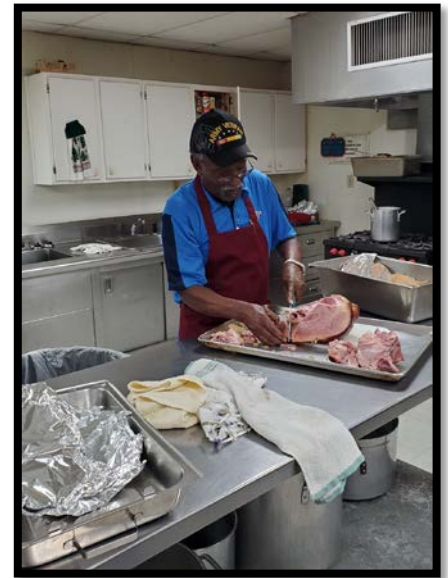


## Contact Us

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Joe Jones entertains guests at the Center for Creative Living Thanksgiving dinner.



Deacon Harold Davis slices ham for Thanksgiving meals delivered to Mobile Meals recipients.



Nick Stewart at the Holiday banquet



Velda Jefferson with her Bingo prize at the Holiday Banquet.

## ← How to use the QR Codes

A Quick Response Code aka a "QR Code," enables a smartphone to display online information when scanned with your phone's camera. Simple steps to use a QR Code:

Open your camera app on your smartphone and hold your device over a QR Code so that it is clearly visible within your smartphone's screen. Your phone will automatically scan the code, or you may need to press a button to take a picture (depending upon the app). Violà! Your smartphone reads the code and navigates to the intended destination, which may take a few seconds to load on most devices. If it does not recognize the QR code, you may need to enable the function in your "settings" under "camera."