



Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

January through June 2020

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Upcoming Dates:

[September 11](#)

September Service Act Project – TBD

[September 18](#)

Volunteer Recognition Banquet

A Spring Like No Other: Surviving the Coronavirus

Our nation - and the world - was hit with the Coronavirus pandemic early this spring. Citizens went into "shelter in place" mode as businesses were temporarily shut down and events were cancelled. Lawton RSVP had to cancel the annual Birthday Banquet, National Service Recognition Day, and participation in the Senior for Creative Living's Health & Wellness Fair and the City of Lawton's Spring Open Streets Fair.

Many of our volunteer stations had to reduce or modify their services as they didn't want to risk exposure for their clients/volunteers and to limit the spread of this virus. Yet this didn't stop volunteer stations from creatively providing services to our community with limited/restricted resources! Here's how some of our stations survived the temporary flow of diminished volunteer services:

Brookridge Retirement Community: Staff provided arts and crafts in small groups, Coffee with Veterans Video Chat with Mayor Stan Booker, Bible Study via video chat, and movie groups for under 10 people with different session times.

Lawton Food Bank: Provided drive-through services and continued giving out books for children via drive-through.

Lawton/Fort Sill Veterans Center: Veterans continued one-on-one activities such as reading, puzzles, and gardening. The Center also got Ipads that Veterans used to face-time family members.

Lawton Public Library: The library issued digital cards for citizens to access ebooks, audiobooks, movies and music. They also provided curbside book delivery and free printing services.

Leah M. Fitch Cancer Center: Volunteers continued to provide transportation for patients.

Hearts that Care Volunteer Clinic: Staff provided modified procedures to avoid grouping of people at the same time.

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church: RSVP volunteers continued to provide meals to those in need: 1,684 meals served in March and 1,942 during April.

The Senior Center for Creative Living: Staff provided a lunch "To Go" option so senior citizens could pick up meals without getting out of their car. Volunteers also made face masks to distribute to citizens.



Brookridge residents attend "Coffee with Veterans" via video chat with Mayor Stan Booker.



Senior Center for Creative Living Executive Director, Lorene Miller, prepares to-go meals for seniors during the coronavirus outbreak.

Martin Luther King Service Act Benefits Local Shelter

For the 25th annual Day of Service Act RSVP held a hygiene product donation drive through the month of January. RSVP collected over 600 items including soap, body lotion, shampoo, shaving items, toothpaste and brushes, socks, mouthwash, washcloths, travel items and so much more!

Items were donated to the C. Carter Crane Center for Advancement and Empowerment, a homeless shelter located at 1203 SW Texas Avenue, Lawton.

Thank you to all the volunteers and community members who graciously donated items for those in need in our community!

KSWO promoted this service project in December highlighting the purpose of RSVP and our members. From the interview: "Over 170 volunteers spend their time helping 40 different organizations in Lawton-Fort Sill, serving at hospitals, food banks, the library and more."

"Pretty much any service that they can think of, any hobby that they have, we can place them somewhere they can volunteer," said Jessica Musselman, RSVP Administrator.



Toiletries collected and donated to the C. Carter Crane homeless shelter.

RSVP gives volunteers purpose, residents products



RSVP gives volunteers purpose, residents products

RSVP volunteer John Hegna is shown in a KSWO promotion of RSVP.

Hearts That Care Opens New Volunteer Clinic

RSVP Partner, *Hearts That Care Volunteer Health Clinic*, opened their new facility at 1313 W Gore Boulevard on May 7. They have been a partner station since 2018 and provide free healthcare and medications for low-income Lawton residents without health insurance or who cannot be seen anywhere else.

The new facility includes five patient rooms within their 5,000 sq. ft. facility and includes 10 x 10 rooms and real doors - as opposed to shower curtains!

On opening night they saw 29 patients with 4 providers and 40+ patients received new medications or refills.



A new patient exam/treatment room at Hearts That Care Volunteer Clinic.

Volunteer of the
First Quarter
Aaron Boone



Aaron Boone spent 29 years in the U.S. Army and volunteers with the Korean War Veterans Association Chap. 319 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chap. 751. He joined RSVP in 2013 and is very dedicated to helping the veterans and family members in our community.

Volunteer of the
Second Quarter
Johnny Monroe



Johnny has volunteered with RSVP at the Lawton Food Bank since 2016. He spends around 40 hours a month at the food bank restocking the pantry items and assisting patrons. He continues volunteering during the pandemic to make sure operations continue in order to fulfill the local community needs.

Station Spotlight: **Lawton/Fort Sill Veterans Center**

We are excited to announce that the Lawton/Fort Sill Veterans Center joined as a station partner in January. The 200-bed, long-term care is very active with events sponsored by various groups on a daily basis.

Volunteers can interact with veterans in a variety of activities at the center: Painting, drawing, jewelry making, woodworking, gardening, leather work, or putting together a model. There are also opportunities to assist the activities director, work at the front desk or assist in the cafeteria.

Hours are extremely flexible: Come and go Monday through Friday between 10 am and 2 pm! If you are interested in volunteering, call Tonya Hendricks, Assistant Administrator, at 580-351-6511.



Buzz Sawyer shows off some activities at the Veterans Center.

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

Send your pictures, stories, events to rsvp@lawtonok.gov

Welcome New Volunteers

Volunteer	Station
Carol Stayer	America's Veteran Supporters
Jeannie Wheeler	America's Veteran Supporters
Patrick Oldenburgh	CCMH
Monica Day	Lawton Fort Sill Veterans Center
Melanie Gilbee	Senior Center for Creative Living
Mary Parker	Senior Center for Creative Living
Kathy Rogers	Senior Center for Creative Living

In Memoriam: Kenneth Lowmiller, Jr.



RSVP Volunteer Kenneth Lowmiller passed away on December 22, 2019. Kenneth joined RSVP in February 2016 and volunteered his time for America's Veterans Supporters and Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 319. Volunteer associates state that Kenneth was a wonderful man with a kind heart and that he always did a great job honoring the flag. He will be profoundly missed.

Kenneth was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. He enlisted in 1955 and served in the Vietnam War, retiring from active duty in 1980 at Fort Sill.

Corrections

In the last newsletter new volunteer Ellen Venniro was incorrectly identified as associated with America's Volunteer Supporters. She is associated with America's Veteran Supporters.

In the photo to the right, the gentleman was incorrectly identified as Larry Campbell at the POW MIA Remembrance Day. The gentleman in the photo is Marion Little.



Spotted in Service



AVS volunteers show off their t-shirts for their Wreaths Across America Dec. 2019 event.



Pat Powell greets the Wreaths Across America delivery truck.



Mary Fountain presents a check to Schyla Wright, Lawton Public School, to help with the Christmas Baskets.



Elfriede Werdehoff volunteering at Senior Center for Creative Living.



Sylvia Qualls at OKWVO Christmas Party where they presented over 200 handmade clothing protectors to the residents at the Veterans Center.



Kendal Miller at CCMH



Shirley Miller assisting clients at the Lawton Food Bank.



Everlena Jackson at Hearts That Care Volunteer Clinic



Yvonne Howard at Hearts That Care Volunteer Clinic



Michael Trice volunteers at St. John's Baptist Church.

Links

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/LawtonRSVPCouncil

City of Lawton Website:
<https://www.lawtonok.gov/department/retired-and-senior-volunteer-program>

Contact Us

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