



# Seniors in Action

Foster Grandparents Program

RSVP

Senior Companions Program

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## New RSVP Volunteers!!

Marie Beamer  
Laurie Bramlett  
Belinda Fulghum



**You just got SNAPPED!** Look who we found volunteering at the Ft. Concho American Plains Artist Show!?! None other than Marilyn Flage, who has been with RSVP since 01/09/2014.

It's hard to believe three months have passed since our last newsletter. During this time, our programs and dedicated volunteers have significantly impacted the Concho Valley and Big Country. A major highlight was the recent flooding that affected many within our community. True to the spirit of RSVP, our volunteers sprang into action, assisting neighbors with home repairs, delivering essential supplies, and providing support through a listening ear. These experiences are a powerful reminder that volunteerism is fundamentally about people coming together to help one another in need.

May was also a time for connection and celebration as we held our spring volunteer social for Abilene area volunteers. We are so grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to the huge donation of canned food goods we, as a program, made to the Christian Service Center Food Pantry. These moments of fellowship help keep our programs vibrant and welcoming.

We continue to navigate challenges with grant funding, which remains a pressing issue for many nationwide programs like ours. While these funding uncertainties create obstacles, we are committed to maintaining the quality and reach of our services. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to raise awareness of our programs and let the public know how important our programs are to our communities.

Looking forward, planning is already underway for our annual Volunteer Recognition events in October and November. These celebrations, which are a highlight of our year, are not just about honoring the remarkable contributions of our volunteers. They are about celebrating the spirit of community and the power of collective action. We are excited to create events that reflect the heart and dedication of those who give so much of their time and talents to serve others.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work, and to the Concho Valley Council of Governments for their continued support. Here's to a season of continued impact, new opportunities, and the joy of serving alongside one another.

Warmly,

Daniel Orozco Martinez,  
Director Senior Volunteer Programs



325-944-9666 ext. 222

## SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AMERICORPS SENIORS

Sept-Oct-Nov

# WORTH SAVING

## Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs

These programs equip older adults and everyday citizens to mentor, serve, and respond to local needs—but funding delays and cuts are putting it all at risk.

### Foster Grandparent Program

Since 1965, the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) has paired caring adults 55 and older with children who need extra support to succeed. Serving in schools, Head Start centers, hospitals, and community organizations. Foster Grandparents provide tutoring, mentoring, and encouragement to disadvantaged, disabled, or special-needs children. Volunteers typically serve about 20 hours a week and may receive training, transportation reimbursement, and a small tax-free stipend for those who qualify. The program not only changes the lives of children, but also enriches the lives of volunteers through meaningful connections, purpose, and the joy of giving back.

### Senior Companion Program

Since 1974, Americans aged 55 and older have been serving to provide assistance and companionship to older adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks such as cleaning and other household chores. Senior companions help these adults remain independent in their homes rather than having to move to more costly institutional care. Senior companions give family caregivers much-needed time off from their duties, run errands, and often provide friendship for their clients. Additionally, the individual who spends time with their senior companion is often happier when socializing with an elder while being able to contribute to their community.

### Future of The Programs

FY26 budget has proposed the complete elimination of AmeriCorps, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is withholding approximately \$200 million in FY25 federal funds for AmeriCorps programs. Congress appropriated these funds, and OMB's decision to impound them is unprecedented and threatens nonprofits and community organizations that rely on AmeriCorps funding.



### Impact in the Concho Valley

#### Foster Grandparent Program

**Number of Volunteers: 38**

**Hours Served 24-25: 49,489**

**Money saved: \$1.6 million\***

#### Senior Companion Program

**Number of Volunteers: 29**

**Hours Served: 25,979**

**Money Saved: \$903K\***

\*Value of Volunteer Time

The Current Estimated National Value of Each Volunteer Hour Is:

## \$34.79

Independent Sector. (2024, April 23). Value of Volunteer Time: Methodology | Independent Sector Resources. <https://independentsector.org/research/value-of-volunteer-time-methodology/>

#### How To Take Action

<https://voicesforservice.org/take-action/contact-congress/>



MAKE GIVING BACK YOUR SECOND ACT

*Tell your Members of Congress to Protect AmeriCorps Seniors!*



## Abilene News



Join me in wishing a Happy Retirement to Pam Sites at the Abilene Visitor's Center, the end of September. Pam, enjoy the well-deserved rest, relaxation, and new experiences that await. May your retirement be filled with long walks ...

Already an employee and ready to receive the reins is Kailey Valadez, [Kailey@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:Kailey@abilenevisitors.com)

Looking forward to working with you, Kailey!



**Abilene Walk to End Alzheimer's**  
**Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Grover Nelson Park**

2070 Zoo Lane | Abilene, TX 79602

Registration & Event Booths | 9 a.m.  
Ceremony & Walk | 9:30 a.m.

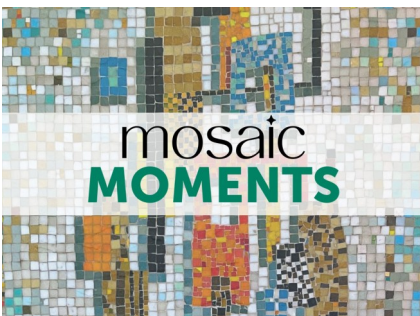


**REGISTER TODAY!**

Scan the QR Code  
or visit  
[act.alz.org/abilene](http://act.alz.org/abilene)

For more information, contact Lauren Stephans  
325.480.3868 | [lcstephans@alz.org](mailto:lcstephans@alz.org)

Register to participate, or volunteer to help with t-shirts and Flower Garden counts. There will also be a need for volunteers for some fundraising events leading up to this event, so stay tuned to your email or phone for further details to come.



**A new program for senior adults at The Grace Museum**  
**FREE for Grace Members or with regular Museum Admission**

Mosaic Moments is a special opportunity for senior adults to spend time in our art and history galleries engaging their minds and bodies in purposeful ways. This program will take place on the last Wednesday of the month from 10:00-11:30 am.

Each month we will offer the group a unique experience focused on a specific art or history exhibition. Mosaic Moments will include a variety of opportunities for creativity. Examples of activities may include music, poetry, painting, sculpting, writing, drawing, chair yoga, and more.

**ENJOY OUR ART AND HISTORY EXHIBITIONS AND AN EXCLUSIVE TIME OF GUIDED CONVERSATION AND CREATIVITY!**

**September 24 – 10-11:30 am**

Activity: Attendees will be led in chair yoga by Bit Whitaker.

**October 29 – 10-11:30 am**

Exhibition: *Cindi Holt: Little Mouse on the Prairie*

Activity: Attendees will gather in Gallery B to recall memories based on Cindi Holt's paintings.



# Abilene Social Event June 26, 2025



Our volunteers really get into a good game of bingo!



Andrew Robinson - Guest speaker with a new volunteer site, All Kind Animal Initiative



Food donations to the Christian Service Center, from the Abilene RSVP Volunteers and the Concho Valley Council of Governments



Meet Bindi, a certified therapy dog, who accompanies our RSVP Volunteer, Brenda Bredemeyer, while volunteering for Hendrick's Health Services





## Abilene Social Event June 26, 2025 (cont'd)



Bingo Winners, also known as the  
“Wild Beach Bunch”



Some of you take this game pretty  
seriously...Just saying...



### RSVP Station Spotlight

1900 Pine St., Abilene, TX  
325-670-2000  
Sabra Knox - Manager, Volunteer Services



#### **Benefits for Hendrick Volunteers**

- Volunteers are eligible for a 25 percent discount on meals purchased in the Archway Café.
- Volunteers are eligible for discounts on prescriptions through Hendrick Pharmacy.
- Volunteers are eligible for membership at First Abilene Federal Credit Union.
- Volunteers are eligible for free flu vaccinations and the tuberculosis skin test. The flu vaccine is optional while the TB test is required of each new volunteer and an annual TB screening is required of all active volunteers.
- Volunteers are eligible for a 20 percent discount in the Gift Shop.
- Volunteers are eligible for one free drink per shift at the First Perk Coffee Café.
- Volunteers should be wearing their name badges at all times to receive any of these benefits.

#### **Pet Therapy - Pet Enhanced Therapy Services is a special part of Hendrick Center for Rehabilitation.**

For more than 16 years, the Pet Enhanced Therapy Services or P.E.T.S. program is a special part of Hendrick Center for Rehabilitation. The program is comprised of volunteers who help with physical, occupational and speech therapy not only in rehab, but throughout the hospital. The P.E.T.S. program also provides visits to patients in the main hospital on a regular basis, as well as at the request of physicians, staff and the patients' families. Often patients who miss their own pets will be less anxious or depressed after visiting with one of our animal volunteers.

#### **Animal Participation Requirements**

Animals must be at least one year old, healthy, well-socialized and of good temperament. Dogs must have undergone basic obedience training as well. Dogs that can retrieve or perform tricks are especially desirable because these activities can enhance a physical, occupational or speech therapy session.

Each pet is carefully screened for both good health and aptitude. Volunteer teams are formally involved in treatment, helping the patient achieve a wide variety of goals.

# Volunteer Opportunities

**San Angelo** - For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities please contact Teresa at 325-944-9666 x:214, or [teresa.covey@cvcog.org](mailto:teresa.covey@cvcog.org)

## Abilene

**Abilene Christian Center Theatre** - Homecoming Musical - Shrek October 30th-November 1st from 6:30pm-10pm & November 2nd from 12:30pm-4pm (ushers needed (6) each performance)

### New Site!

**Camp Able** - We're back! Volunteer kickoff, Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 12PM- 4PM at their farm - 1205 Camp Able Trail, Buffalo Gap, TX.

First day of lessons where volunteers will be needed on is September 22nd. This will run Monday - Friday until the week of November 14th.

Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the program. If you have horse experience, they need horse leaders to lead horses during their 45 minute lessons; Sidewalkers during lessons - these individuals are responsible for the rider - they act as an extension of the instructor specifically during a group session. They also need volunteers for the following areas: office work, garden work, and teaching cooking to their students.

### New Site!

**Christian Homes & Family Services** - Yes! Christian Homes of Abilene are back, with a few changes. Tasks will vary from mailings, putting packets together, to helping set up for events. So excited to have this site partner with RSVP again. More info to come, so have your calendar and pen ready when you receive that call or email, requesting volunteers for this site.

### New Site!

**Abilene Christian University Athletic Dept.** - Seeking able-bodied volunteers for: Ticketing, Ushering, & Parking. Dates are: Sep. 6@7pm; Sep. 20@7pm; Oct. 4@2pm; Nov. 1@3pm & Nov.8@2pm. Goal: Building a group of volunteers to provide better customer service. Most roles will be 3-4 hours. Consists of 3-4 hours of outdoor work in/out of shade. Provided: Purple polo work uniform, water, a meal & training. Are you ready for some FOOTBALL!??!

## San Angelo

**Faith in Action (FIA) Medical Transportation** - West Texas RSVP welcomes all volunteers interested in transporting frail elderly citizens to their local medical appointments. So if you're looking for a way to fill a big URGENT need within our community, your perfect volunteer opportunity is probably waiting for you through Faith in Action. Come join our volunteer drivers and see for yourself!

**Catholic Outreach Services** - Seeking volunteers to assist in food preparation for noon meal, Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm. Those interested can come by 410 N. Chadbourne for a tour and to discuss volunteer opportunities.

**Hospice of San Angelo Fall** - Volunteer Training will be held 09/22-10/09 - each Monday and Thursday from 5-7:30 in the Hospice of San Angelo Conference Room, 1933 University. To sign up or for more information, contact Shrona at 325-658-6524 or email [sshannon@wtrc.com](mailto:sshannon@wtrc.com).

**Hospice of San Angelo hosts Building Bridges** - a grief support program designed to help children (grades K-12) and their caregivers process the death of a loved one in a supportive, age-appropriate environment. If you would like to join the Building Bridges Volunteer Team or would like more information about the Building Bridges program, please contact Kat at 325-658-6524 or email her at [kturpen@wtrc.com](mailto:kturpen@wtrc.com).

**San Angelo Visitor's Center** needs volunteers on a recurring basis, **NOT** as a one-day assignment. Some training is required, but consider how many new faces you'll meet...families outside of San Angelo visiting their family members here, military families passing through, to include visitors even outside of the United States! If you're a "people person", this volunteer opportunity is meant for YOU! Volunteer needs are for Mon/Wed/Fri at various times. Each volunteer shift is set at four hours. If interested, a calendar can be emailed to you, that shows the dates/times which volunteers are needed.



# RSVP Station Spotlight

Habitat for Humanity  
401 North Chadbourne St  
325-655-7535  
habitatsanangeloed@gmail.com



Habitat was started in 1976, in a small town in Georgia by a gentleman named Millard Fuller. Lots of people think President Carter started Habitat. President Carter and his wife, Rosslyn, loved our mission and the opportunity for everyone to own their home and have access to an affordable mortgage.

**In San Angelo, Habitat was started in 1996.** With 78 homes already built and sold, there are currently 34 mortgages being held. Habitat for Humanity serves as the bank because the home owners would never be able to walk into a bank or credit union and qualify for a traditional home loan.

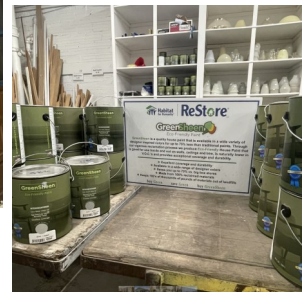
## the Habitat ReStore!

The store is GREAT fun! There are toilets, sinks, tubs, lights, light fixtures, windows, doors, ceiling fans, plumbing supplies, flooring and paint! Everything in the store is donated to us with the exception of the paint. The paint is recycled paint to help keep it out of the landfill. While we have a lot of products donated to us that are gently used, we also have lots of stuff donated to us that are brand new!

We cannot accept: used paint; chemicals; blinds with strings; appliances; florescent lighting; burned and/or wet, rotted wood; and furniture. The store environment is an open air store so they cannot keep furniture clean.

Store hours: Mon. – Thu. 9AM -1PM **Summer hours**/Mon. – Thu. 10AM – 2 pm **Winter hours**

**Extra hands (volunteers) are always needed in the ReStore.** So, if you would enjoy: meeting new people and helping them figure out their next project; helping to maintain cleanliness of the store; cleaning donated products and pricing donations, be sure to contact your RSVP office. **But remember...**the ReStore is not heated or cooled, so dress accordingly.



Tom Green County  
Library System

**Friends of the Library** - Public Book Sale dates, Sept 6th, 9am to 1pm and Nov 8th, 9am to 1pm  
Located in the basement of the Tom Green County Library at 33 W Beauregard Ave

Office of Senior Volunteer Programs  
5430 Link Rd.  
San Angelo, Texas 76904

**Return Service Requested**



September



November



October

**Happy Thanksgiving**



CONCHO VALLEY  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



CONCHO VALLEY  
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## **Contact Information for Senior Corps Programs:**

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Clementine Urista, FGP/SCP Manager  
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