



# Seniors in Action

Foster Grandparents Program

RSVP

Senior Companions Program

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## New RSVP Volunteers!!

Jimmie Auten  
 Judy Auten  
 John Cant  
 Yolanda Cant  
 Floradean Cockerell  
 Judy Martin  
 Carl McMahan  
 Helen McMahan  
 Susan McReynolds  
 Deb Turner  
 Susan VanHoozer

As we step into the spring season, I hope everyone is having a great start to the year. Spring is a time of renewal, growth, and fresh beginnings, and I am excited to continue learning and growing in my role as Director of the Senior Volunteer Programs. It has been a rewarding experience to learn more about the history and impact of our programs, and I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our volunteers. Meeting so many of you has been a highlight of my time here, and I look forward to getting to know even more of our members in the months ahead. I also want to express my sincere appreciation for our program leaders, Teresa Covey and Clementine Urista, who have been incredibly supportive and instrumental in helping me transition into this role. Their knowledge, dedication, and guidance have been invaluable.

Our team remains committed to meeting the volunteer needs of our community. Every day, we see the positive impact that our AmeriCorps Seniors programs - Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and West Texas RSVP - have on both the volunteers and those they serve. Whether mentoring children, providing companionship to older adults, or assisting in various community projects, the work is truly remarkable. These programs allow individuals 55 and older to stay active, give back to their communities, and build meaningful relationships.

As we navigate the evolving landscape of new federal directives and policies under the new administration, we are working diligently to understand any changes that may affect our programs. Despite these uncertainties, one thing remains clear - these programs are essential to our communities. We will continue to advocate for and raise awareness of the incredible contributions our volunteers make every day and encourage you to do so as well.

Spring also brings new opportunities for engagement and service. If you know someone who may be interested in giving back to our community, now is the perfect time to get involved. Whether providing companionship to older adults, mentoring children, or lending a helping hand in the community, there is a place for everyone in our programs. Volunteering not only enriches the lives of others but also brings a sense of purpose and fulfillment to those who serve.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Best regards,

Daniel O. Martinez  
 Director Senior Volunteer Programs



# RSVP Station Spotlight

## Abilene Convention and Visitor's Bureau

1101 N. 1st St.  
Abilene, TX 79601  
325-676-2556



The Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau, an affiliate of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, is a community asset responsible for programs promoting Abilene as an attractive travel destination by enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, it strengthens the economic position and provides opportunity for people in the community.

Abilene represents the frontier spirit by honoring its heritage while embracing the future. Its storied past gives rise to a charming and flourishing historic Downtown Cultural District with educational museums, urban parks, and a public art scene featuring an unrivaled collection of storybook sculptures. Abilene's authentic, welcoming sense of community and Texas traditions make for enriching experiences that create lifelong memories for visitors.



Planning is underway for the **2025 Children's Art + Literacy Festival (CALF)** in downtown Abilene, and RSVP helps make it happen!

The festival, which celebrates its 13th year this year, is a four-day event presented by the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, which is focused on the books illustrated by the children's picture book artist on exhibit each summer at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) in Abilene. The festival offers a variety of activities for one low-pass price. The activities include dramatic book readings with costume characters and an art activity; marionette show; instrument petting zoo; balloon artist; animal petting zoo; and more. Festival guests earn buttons for their lanyard by completing the different activities.

Thursday festival events are free. A pass is required for Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, festival registrants can use their pass to get into the Abilene Zoo for free for additional CALF programming.

RSVP provides valuable volunteers to help prepare different aspects of the festival. These include:

- Folding and organizing 1,000 festival T-shirts
- Preparing thousands of art activity kits
- Assembling sponsor goody bags
- Counting 40,000 festival flyers for schools around the Big Country.

One year, RSVP volunteers were requested no less than three times at the T&P Depot to finish creating 1,500 craft kits for one of the CALF venues. RSVP did not hesitate to work to provide the volunteers to complete the job. They always work with kindness and eagerness. Without RSVP volunteers, it would be difficult to put on CALF with the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council's small staff. This festival has a big impact on the city, attracting 5,400 people from 28 states in 2024. RSVP is an integral part of making CALF happen!

If you're considering this volunteer opportunity, please give Teresa a call at 325-944-9666 x:214



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## Volunteer Farewell



Daniel Martinez, Director, West Texas RSVP (WTRSPV) Senior Volunteer Program (SVP) and Teresa Covey, WTRSPV Program Coordinator, attended a Farewell Get Together for Wanda Hudson, at Meals for the Elderly (MFE). Wanda joined WTRSPV in 2005 and has served as the MFE Office Volunteer since 2016. With more than 2,600 lifetime hours accrued with the WTRSPV, she still plans to volunteer with MFE through her church.

MFE is a great place to volunteer! Come join the family! What are you waiting for?



# Volunteer Opportunities

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

**Christian Services Center** (CSC) - Seeking (2) volunteers to help sort incoming donations. The programs of the Christian Service Center are designed to help people who struggle financially, are experiencing a crisis or have an emergency need. The CSC relies on volunteers to operate and work with their neighbors.

**Hendrick Hospital Volunteer Services**- is seeking those volunteers who enjoy providing service and comfort to patients and their families, while serving as a valued asset to the hospital staff, in the following areas at both North and South locations:

- Gift Shop (assist customers, cash register)
- Assist with greeting at entrances (help screener as visitor/patients come into building)
- Escort patients in building (escort patients to the location of their test)
- Central Supply (pull supplies for different departments)
- Sterile Processing
- CCU waiting room (answer phones and assist with questions)

**Meals on Wheels, Plus** - There are 52 northside routes and 40 southside routes that do not have drivers. The recipients on these routes and every route need the meals delivered to them to be able to stay in their homes and to stay healthy. If you can spare an hour to deliver 1 route a week please call the RSVP office.

**Beehive Home of Abilene**-Looking for volunteers to call bingo, play games, paint nails, sing **karaoke** and exercise with residents! If you have an hour or two once a week, your volunteer time can be flexible here. So many options to help make someone's day special. Why not decide today "I can do this!!".

Have you considered volunteering at a "new" volunteer site that RSVP has partnered with? Your RSVP Staff are always looking for new sites to partner with. If you have new ideas that might interest others, too, please contact Teresa at  
325-944-9666 x:214

## **(Current Volunteer Sites Listed Below)**

12th Armored Div Mem Museum	Expo Center Of Taylor Co.
Abilene Baptist Social Ministry	Frontier Texas!
Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau	Hendrick Health Volunteer Services
Abilene Cultural Affairs Council	Hospice of the Big Country
ACU Theatre	Meals On Wheels Plus
Alzheimer's Association - North Central	Taylor Co. AARP, Chapter #1346
American National Red Cross	The Grace Museum
Beehive Home of Abilene	United Way Of Abilene
Ben Richey Boys Ranch	WCTCOG Area Agency Age.
Christian Service Center	West Texas Rehab Center
Clyde Public Library	West Texas RSVP

**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)

**TGC Friends of the Library (FOL)** - The Friends of the Library will have a book sale, Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and May 10, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The book sales are held in the basement of the Stephens Central Library at 33 W. Beauregard. The FOL has opportunities for volunteers at their book sales. There are also other opportunities to volunteers in other areas.

**First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo** - Looking for multiple volunteers to help catalog historical documents and records, anytime 9am - 4pm, Mon-Thu. Also need (1) volunteer to distribute snack bags, 2 - 4pm, Mon & Tue.

**Goodfellow Air Force Base Pharmacy** - Seeking a volunteer at the Pharmacy on Monday mornings. Volunteer must have access to the base. This is a "recurring" volunteer opportunity so they would depend on the volunteer's presence every Monday. Please contact Teresa at the RSVP office if interested; do not attempt to contact the Pharmacy directly with questions.

**Tom Green County Library** - Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity to start the new year? Our PALS program is a great way to give back to the community. People Attaining Library Services (PALS) is the outreach program for homebound patrons of the Tom Green County Library system. Library materials are delivered to county residents who are unable to come to the library due to an extended illness, physical disability, or limited mobility. PALS has a couple of positions opening up in January.

**Rust Street Ministries** - Seeking volunteers to interview their friends/neighbors who are seeking assistance, especially those volunteers who are bilingual.

**Catholic Outreach Services of San Angelo** - Seeking volunteers for the following areas:

- ◆ Afternoon Cook
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Front Desk
- ◆ Food Preparation

**First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo** - Looking for multiple volunteers to help catalog historical documents and records, anytime 9am - 4pm, Mon-Thu. Also need (1) volunteer to distribute snack bags, 2 - 4pm, Mon & Tue.

**Adult Literacy Council** - Seeking tutors! ALWAYS!!!! The San Angelo community has learners of all ages who want to learn ENGLISH or get a GED or learn the computer. Any day/evening - weekends or week days. There are also children who need help with school work---all ages---6 to 16!!!! If you have a "teaching" heart of education, can you spare some time to volunteer as a tutor?

**San Angelo Visitor's Center** - Looking for volunteers who are willing to commit to one day a week minimum, to be the big smile who greets visitors and enjoys meeting new people.

Please consider volunteering at the following sites, as volunteers are needed, on a recurring basis: Catholic Outreach, Family Shelter, First Methodist Church (Somebody's Rusty), Goodfellow Air Force Base Pharmacy (Government ID required to get on base), and Habitat for Humanity. Give Teresa a call at 325-944-9666 x:214 to discuss how you can help fill one of these volunteer needs.

# WANTED

Come  
Join  
Us!

Stipend paid  
Gas mileage  
paid  
Paid Holidays  
Make new  
friends!  
Rewarding

For it is in  
giving that  
we receive

55+ age **Seniors**

We need senior  
volunteers for  
**Foster Grandparents**  
and  
**Senior Companions**

**FGP** – Placed in a  
school environment to  
be a mentor.

**SCP**- Placed in the  
client's home,  
companionship.

Call: Clementine Urista,  
(325)944-9666, ext. 225.



# FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

Concho Valley  
Council of  
Governments  
5430 Link Rd.  
San Angelo, TX  
76904

To include all  
surrounding  
counties

325-944-9666 x:225  
[www.cvcog.org](http://www.cvcog.org)

Be a role model and mentor to disadvantaged children in our community by serving at Head Start and Early Head Start centers, public schools, and after-school programs.

**Foster Grandparents receive:**

- Tax-free monetary stipend for serving
- Mileage reimbursement
- Personal time off, paid holidays
- Monthly In-Service Training (lunch provided)

**CVCOG is an equal opportunity provider.**



## Serving Children in the Concho Valley



# SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Concho Valley  
Council of  
Governments  
5430 Link Rd.  
San Angelo, TX  
76904

To include all  
surrounding  
counties

325-944-9666 x:225  
[www.cvcog.org](http://www.cvcog.org)

Be a companion to a homebound senior citizen who may need assistance in order to remain living independently in their home. Services might include conversation and social interaction (reading and playing games), nutritional support, light housekeeping and light exercise.

**Senior Companions receive:**

- Tax-free monetary stipend for serving
- Mileage reimbursement
- Personal time off, paid holidays
- Monthly In-Service Training (lunch provided)

**CVCOG is an equal opportunity provider.**



## Helping Seniors in the Concho Valley



**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK (APRIL 20-26, 2025)**

What a great time of the year to look yourself in the mirror and declare that it's time to join RSVP...have that discussion with yourself and decide where you can connect and make a difference in your community!!



What do you want to accomplish in 2025?



**Adult Services at Stephens Central Library (Downtown on Beauregard) -**

Interested in learning more about computer program basics? Why not!! Come join others in a self-paced environment where your questions are welcomed!

Call 325-655-7321 to register!



Computer class schedule	Class	Time
<b>**Classes require registration</b>		
3/1	Computer and Windows Basics	10am
3/4	Mouse and Keyboard Basics	10am
3/11	Computer and Windows Basics	10am
3/13	Google Accounts: Gmail & More	5:30pm
3/18	Internet & PC Security Basics	10am
3/20	Microsoft Word Basics 1	5:30pm
3/22	Microsoft PowerPoint Basics 1	10am
3/26	Computer and Windows Basics	5:30pm
3/27	Microsoft Word Basics 2	5:30pm
3/29	Microsoft PowerPoint 2	10am







## FOR THE SVP JUNE - AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Tell us about your Pet(s)!

Send us a picture of you and your pet & share a fun fact about your sweet, cuddly (or not), furry (or not) family pet(s).



We're ready to receive your "Pet" entry...yes! We will vote on the most cuddly, most cute, most anything! Results will be posted in the Sep - Nov newsletter!

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## UPDATE ON POCKETS

These are not just some "ordinary" cute dresses for little girls. The two dresses on the far left might look familiar if you attended the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon back in November 2024. These red, white and blue pockets were used to hold the plastic ware for the volunteer meals. A total of 30 dresses will soon be taken by missionaries who will be visiting Kenya fairly soon. The cute dresses are donated by the Sewing Grannies, an RSVP signature program. What a great example to show how RSVP Volunteers' time and efforts have a big impact that reaches around the world.



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

**Return Service Requested**



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The Concho Valley Council of Governments is an equal opportunity agency. Enrollment is done without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, or political affiliation, marital or parental status, genetic information or military service.

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

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