



Seniors in Action

Foster Grandparents Program

RSVP

Senior Companions Program

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New RSVP Volunteers!!

Sha' Bendele
 Laurie Bramlett
 Rebecca Brothers
 Wanda Dews
 Bill Hill
 Paula Hill
 Darla Hulse
 Judy Martin
 Mitzi Merchant
 Clayton Pairett
 Cricket Pairett
 Laurie Phillips
 Shannon Pierce
 Martha Ratliff
 Linda Thomas

As we move into the summer months, I want to reflect on the highlights of this past quarter across our Senior Volunteer Programs at the Concho Valley Council of Governments. March began with a trip to Dallas for the Texas Senior Corps Association, where we connected with fellow RSVP, Senior Companion, and Foster Grandparent programs. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and make new connections. Also in March, we celebrated the retirement of our Abilene RSVP Coordinator, Max Ann. Congratulations, and thank you for your service!

We hosted our San Angelo RSVP beach-themed volunteer social in April—a fun event filled with laughter, bingo, and great conversations. We also participated in three community health and information fairs to help raise awareness of our programs. We thank our staff for their energy and support in raising awareness about our programs.

May was a time of celebration as we honored our Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion volunteers with a Cinco de Mayo-themed appreciation lunch. We recognized their incredible dedication, including three volunteers with over 20 years of service, and welcomed four new Senior Companion volunteers to the program. We're excited to have them join our mission.

Looking ahead, we're planning an RSVP social for our Abilene volunteers in June — more details coming soon. As summer heats up and the year continues to fly by, we hope you stay cool, take care of yourselves, and continue to share the impact of AmeriCorps Seniors in our community. Thank you for your ongoing passion and commitment - we are truly grateful.

Wishing you all a safe and joyful summer!

Warmly,

Daniel Orozco Martinez,
Director Senior Volunteer Programs



Sponsored by Concho Valley Council of Governments



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FOSTER GRANDPARENT AND SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAMS!

Senior Companion Program

WELCOME - New Companions

May 14, 2025, was the required 20 hours of Pre-Service Training completion for our new Senior Companions.



Clementine Urista, SCP trainer, and Michael Chandler, Dorinda Payne, Alicia Aguilar, and Amelia Ramos.

Thank you for being so committed!

Foster Grandparent Pre-Service Training

For **New** Foster Grandparents

July 23, 2025, (9:00 am – 12:00 pm) All paperwork meeting

**August 26,27, and September 17, 2025
These are the actual training days.**

**For more information:
Clementine Urista, 944-9666, ext. 225**

AmeriCorps Seniors

Annual Recognition Event

Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs

Each year, our volunteers are recognized for their commitment to community service in the 14 counties we serve. All our seniors truly have a servant's heart.



Our theme was ***“Let’s Celebrate You – Let’s Fiesta”***

First, we began our celebration by presenting certificates, gift cards, and recognizing our three seniors who have over 20 years of experience with the program: FGP - Frank Ruiz (23 years), Candelario Hernandez (20 years), and SCP – Bessie Sampson (21 years). **Congratulations!**

Secondly, we had our first winner for Fiesta Best Dressed: FGP – Rosa Ruiz, Annie Ramirez in 2nd place, and Dora Romo in 3rd place. Candelario Hernandez won 1st place for Best Dressed Man. Door prizes given.

We had a pinata, dancing, and then an excellent catered meal.

Thank you, Seniors!





RSVP Station Spotlight

The Grace Museum
102 Cypress St.
Abilene, TX 79601
325-673-4587



The Grace Museum is a place for all ages to explore art, history, and creativity. Our 1909 building was originally the Hotel Grace, built to welcome travelers on the railroad. Since 1992, The Grace Museum has been a cornerstone to Abilene's downtown revival into a welcoming center of the arts, dining, and family activities for this dynamic West Texas city.



Los Aficionados

Join our Grace Museum volunteer group!

Membership is open to any person who is a member of The Grace Museum. Established in 1969, the purpose of Los Aficionados ("the fans") is to promote the growth of the general membership and to support, organize, and sponsor educational, charitable, cultural, and social activities to benefit The Grace Museum. We provide information of interest to our LA members and foster the practice of volunteerism.

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the Month, September – May, 11:30 am, The Grace Ballroom

- Annual membership dues for being part of Los Aficionados are \$30/year.
- LA members also receive a \$10 discount on regular Grace Museum memberships.
- A volunteer can also just volunteer without being part of LA.



Thanks to The Grace Museum for these wonderful pics!

RSVP Station Spotlight

All Kind Animal Initiative
610 ES 11th St.
Abilene, TX 79602
325-698-0085

NEW

All Kind

ANIMAL INITIATIVE

NEW



Shelby Lawrence, Chief Lifesaving Officer



Brandi Walsh, Administrative Coordinator



Kaylee Philipp, Canine Foster & Rescue Coordinator



Denise Ibarra - Manager of Feline Care



Andrew Robinson, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Our goal is to educate pet owners, by providing resources to increase pet retention and accountability. We hope that by raising awareness of the factors that create an overpopulation of homeless pets, animals and humans will thrive in Abilene. All Kind believes that animal welfare is improved through sustained programming including accessible spay/neuter options, vaccination & microchipping clinics, TNR (Trap/ Neuter/ Release) cat programs, and more.

RSVP Station Spotlight

BeeHive Homes of Abilene
5301 Memorial Dr.
Abilene, TX 79606
325-225-0883



With almost 33 years of experience and over 200 locations, BeeHive Homes is a leader in Texas assisted living and memory care services. BeeHive Homes of Abilene is a senior care home in a residential setting. Uniquely designed, our assisted living services offer residents more access to personal care. By keeping our homes smaller with professional, skilled caregivers, our residents can have their needs addressed personally. We truly believe that in order to provide the very best care for our residents, we must get to know them well and discover what their individual needs are—and that's exactly what we do!



RSVP Station Spotlight

Building Bridges

West Texas Rehab's Hospice of San Angelo

1933 University Ave.
San Angelo, TX 79604
325-658-6524



"Building Bridges is a family grief support program of West Texas Rehab Center's Hospice of San Angelo, designed for children and teens in grades K–12 who have experienced the death of someone significant in their lives. The program provides a safe and supportive environment where kids can explore their grief through creative activities like art, music, and peer group sharing. At the same time, caregivers attend their own group sessions focused on education and support to help them navigate the grieving process alongside their children. Volunteers are a vital part of Building Bridges and can serve in many ways, including helping facilitate groups, assisting with registration, running supplies, and more. All volunteers must complete Hospice of San Angelo's general volunteer training, followed by specialized Building Bridges training. The program is held twice a year, one evening a week for six weeks, and is offered at no cost.



Volunteer News



Abilene



Abilene Cultural Affairs
The T&P Depot Gang



Top left: Cathy Rawlins
Top right: Charlie Perkins
Bottom left: Glenna Burrow
Bottom right: Linda Perkins
Christian Service Center



Ray Maddox
Meals on Wheels Plus



Attention Public Agencies and Non-Profits!!!

If you are a **public agency** or **non-profit** in the **Abilene area** looking for volunteers, the West Texas Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (WTRSVP) is here to assist you! We partner with local organizations to connect them with adults aged 55 and older who are eager to give back and make a meaningful impact in the community.

What is RSVP?

WTRSVP, part of the AmeriCorps Seniors network, is a federally and state-funded program that links experienced and dedicated volunteers with community needs. Whether you need help with special projects, ongoing support, or event staffing, we can help match you with volunteers who are ready to serve. To learn more or explore partnership opportunities, contact Teresa Covey, WTRSVP Program Coordinator, at (325) 944-9666 x:214 or teresa.covey@cvcog.org

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

Habitat for Humanity - Volunteers are needed during the summer (Tues-Thu, 9am-1pm), and the winter (Tues-Thu, 10am-2pm). Volunteers will help in the ReStore by stocking, dusting, sweeping and maintaining a neat place for our community patrons to shop in. What a great place to volunteer in for someone with a heart created specifically for this type of service.

Fort Concho - The *American Plains Artists Show* will be setting up in Barracks 6 this year at Fort Concho. Dates for this year's show will be June 20 - August 3rd. Just like in previous years, the show will be closed on Mondays and volunteers are needed Tuesday through Saturday, 10am - 1pm and 1pm - 4pm; Sundays, 1:30pm - 4:30pm. Volunteers will help the visitors with signing into the guest book and answer any basic "fort-related" questions, explain process of purchasing art work. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a book to read, puzzle books, and/or any needle work/crochet work, to help pass the time.

TGC Friends of the Library - Volunteers needed Mon/Wed/Fri, 9am-1pm. (located in basement of the library)...the Friends of the Library are also having a BOOK SALE, July 12th, 9am - 1pm.

CV Women Veterans Association (NEW VOLUNTER SITE) - Need volunteers to place roses on women veterans' gravesites at Lawnhaven Cemetery and Fairmont Cemetery, June 8th, 9am-11am, then again on June 14, 9am-11am, to collect the roses.

Volunteer News



San Angelo



Alice Piri nominated Darlene Lupton for the KLST Pay it Forward Award. Darlene is very involved in many organizations in San Angelo - the prison ministry, food and clothing ministry for Project Dignidad, Pregnancy Help Center; provides food and clothes for homeless and neighbors in need. The biggest one, since 2010, is the sewing ministry that she does with five other women every week, sewing dresses, skirts, shorts and head bands for children all over the world. She was honored at Alice's door April 1st in San Angelo. Darlene received \$300.00 from KLST's Pay It Forward, then immediately gave it to a family in need for groceries!!



Cindy Middleton "secretly" nominated Ruth Jordan, for the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award...and she won! Congratulations, Ruth!

For over **25** years, Ruth Jordan has been a tireless advocate for San Angelo State Park and a dedicated community leader. She founded Friends of San Angelo State Park in 1998, spearheading events like the R.A.N.G.E. Outdoors kids' camp, Silver Bluebonnet Day, and the Monarch Trail Ride. Beyond the park, she has served on the Texas for State Parks Board of Directors for **18** years and contributed to organizations like the Girls Scouts, Healthy Families of San Angelo, and Mosaic, earning the 2008 Girl Scouts' Woman of Distinction award. A retired teacher, she remains actively involved in fostering education and community engagement.



(L-R) Ruth's daughter, Polly; son - Bo; RSVP Volunteer Cindy Middleton



Happy 98th birthday to this incredible mom, grandma and great-grandma





RSVP Volunteer Social Event

April 25, 2025
San Angelo



Darlyne Vietor, "retired" RSVP Volunteer,
19+ years!



If you took pictures from
this event and wouldn't
mind them being posted to
the SVP website, please
email them to
teresa.covey@cvcog.org



Bingo Winners

We had an AWESOME time just enjoying "our" volunteers. A huge THANK YOU to the following volunteer stations who donated prizes for the BINGO game: Angelo Civic Theatre, Boy Scouts of America, Concho Christmas, Ft. Concho, Railway Museum of San Angelo, Through God Comes Justice Ministry, and the West Texas RSVP. All this to say, "Our Volunteers Create Waves!"



COMING SOON TO YOU!!!

Plans are in place to begin hosting informational webinars via Zoom calls, which RSVP Volunteers and RSVP Volunteer Site Coordinators can participate in. All that is required is internet...more to follow soon so watch your emails for more information.



Abilene Social Event



Abilene Social Event

Volunteers Make Waves!

West Texas RSVP Spring Social Event

Free food and BINGO with prizes!!

(Lunch is provided)

Thursday June 26th, 2025

11:30pm - 1:00pm

3185 North 10th St., Abilene, TX

(Christian Service Center)

**Any qualifying guest, 55+, with a completed RSVP Volunteer Application
will be our guest!**

**Everyone bringing a food donation to the Christian Service Center
will receive an extra BINGO card!**

RSVP by June 20th to Teresa Covey at 325-944-9666 X:214



SECURE OUR
SENIORS' SAFETY

SECURITY CHECKLIST

Not all senior living communities offer the same level of security. Use this checklist as a reference on visits to ensure the Senior building has established adequate security measures and protocols.

DOOR SECURITY

- ☐ **Locked Exterior Doors:** Verify that all exterior doors, except the main entrance, remain locked at all times from the outside.
- ☐ **Resident Access Control:** Ensure exterior doors are accessible to residents through secure means such as card swipe, keypad, key fob, or fingerprint recognition.
- ☐ **No Propping Policy:** Inspect the surroundings of exterior doors for objects that may indicate doors are being propped open.
- ☐ **Peephole Installation:** Check if resident front doors, whether interior or exterior, has a peephole adjusted to the resident's height for functionality.
- ☐ **After-Hour Visitor Entry:** Understand the community's protocol for managing visitor entry outside of regular business hours.
- ☐ **Nightly Security Check:** Determine who is responsible for ensuring all exterior doors are securely closed and locked each night.

VISITOR/VENDOR ENTRY

- ☐ **Digital Check-in:** Ensure a centralized digital check-in system that requires all people entering the building to sign in and out every time they visit.
- ☐ **Visit Data:** Verify the digital check-in system logs visitor identity, entry and exit times, the purpose of the visit, and captures a photo at check-in.
- ☐ **Visit Alerts:** Check that real-time alerts can be sent to the resident and guardian every time a visitor checks in to see a resident.
- ☐ **Daily Name Badge:** Confirm that every person entering the community is required to wear a name badge for the duration of their visit.

VENDOR/CAREGIVER SCREENING

- ☐ **Background Check:** Verify the community mandates that third-party and self-employed private caregivers maintain a valid state and federal background check on record.
- ☐ **License Plate Capture:** Ensure the license plate number of vendors/service providers is digitally recorded at check-in.

SECURITY CAMERAS

- ☐ **Camera Locations:** Confirm the presence of working security cameras at exterior doors and security gates and, ideally, in hallways, common areas, elevators, and parking lots.
- ☐ **Active Monitoring:** Verify the software system for monitoring security cameras is active and readily accessible to administration for review.
- ☐ **Recording Retention:** Ask about the duration of security footage retention, which should ideally be between 30 and 90 days.
- ☐ **Personal Recording Devices:** Ask if residents can install personal video doorbells at their front doors and personal cameras in their residence.

SECURITY PROTOCOLS

- ☐ **Transparency:** Ensure management regularly shares security reports or holds Crime Watch meetings with residents and families.
- ☐ **Training:** Verify that regular security and campus awareness training is required for staff, residents, volunteers, and frequent vendors.
- ☐ **Incident Notification:** Confirm that when 911 is dispatched, residents and families are notified in writing about the nature of the incident.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ☐ **Inventory of Valuables:** Make a habit of photographing or videotaping valuables in the resident's living space for record-keeping.
- ☐ **Security Signage:** To discourage potential intruders, consider placing a security deterrent sign, such as "Smile, You're on Camera," near the resident's front door.
- ☐ **Door Safety Practices:** Remind family members and residents of the importance of verifying everyone's identity before opening the door.
- ☐ **Daily Resident Check:** Inquire whether the community provides a daily check-in service to monitor resident well-being regularly.
- ☐ **Mail Confidentiality:** Check that mail system measures are in place to conceal resident names and apartment numbers.



Who do I contact – Social Security or Medicare?

Social Security offers retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. Medicare provides health insurance. Because these services are often related, you may not know which agency to contact for help. The chart below can help you quickly figure out where to go. Please share this chart with family and friends.

Topic	Social Security	Medicare	Resources
How do I report a death?	X		Contact your local Social Security Office or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)
How can I check Medicare eligibility?	X		www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare
What does Medicare cover?		X	www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers
How do I sign up for Hospital Insurance? (Part A)	X		www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare
How do I sign up for Medical Insurance? (Part B)	X		www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare
How do I apply for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription drug coverage? (Part D)	X		www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp
How can I check the status of Medicare Part A or B claims?		X	www.medicare.gov/account/login
Where do I find forms for filing a Medicare appeal or let someone speak with Medicare on my behalf?		X	www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/how-do-i-file-an-appeal
How do I appeal an income-related monthly adjustment amount decision? <i>(for people who pay a higher Part B or D premium because their income is over a certain amount)</i>	X		www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html
How can I request a replacement Medicare card? <i>(with a my Social Security account)</i>	X		www.ssa.gov/myaccount
If I already get benefits or have Medicare, how do I report a change of address or phone number?	X		www.ssa.gov/myaccount
What do Medicare health and prescription drug plans in my area cost, and what services do they offer?		X	www.medicare.gov/plan-compare
Which doctors, health care providers, and suppliers participate in Medicare?		X	www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/find-compare-doctors-hospitals-other-providers
Where do I find publications about Medicare?	X	X	www.ssa.gov/pubs/?topic=Medicare www.medicare.gov/publications
Where can I find out more about a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) and enroll?		X	www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/how-to-get-prescription-drug-coverage
Where can I find a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy in my area?		X	www.medicare.gov/medigap-supplemental-insurance-plans



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and tomorrow

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Who do I contact – Social Security or Medicare?
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5430 Link Rd.
San Angelo, Texas 76904

Return Service Requested



*Volunteers Needed in
Abilene & San Angelo!!*



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