



AmeriCorps
Seniors

NEWSLETTER

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

ISSUE 02 | FEBRUARY 2026

LOOKING BACK AT 2025

As we wrap up another year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our volunteers and partners. Your dedication, generosity, and commitment are the foundation of everything we accomplish. To our volunteers: your time and dedication make a

real difference in our community. Each project, hours served, and connection made has helped create meaningful change. To our partners: thank you for your partnership and trust. Working alongside your teams allow us to expand our reach and strengthen

our collective impact. As we look ahead, we look to continue to grow, deepen engagement, and explore new ways to serve our community more effectively.

BY: SANDRA SERRANO



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RSVP VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BANQUET

Every year we host a recognition event to thank volunteers and their commitment to the community of El Paso. Again, this year we were happy to host a Volunteer Recognition Banquet. We celebrated at the El Paso Community College Administrative Services Building on June 14, 2025. Over 400 volunteers and their guests, our partners and Volunteers Coordinators, and staff from the City of El Paso's Department of Community and Human Development came together

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AT EPCC ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUILDING

BY: LORRAINE HERNANDEZ

to recognize the amazing work of RSVP volunteers in El Paso. All of our 5-year recipients were acknowledged as a group. District 7 Representative, Lily Limon, congratulated volunteers celebrating 10 years plus of service with their recognition gifts and

awards. We were honored to recognize, Regina Arnold for reaching a milestone of 30 years of service with RSVP. Those in attendance got to hear the sounds of Mariachi Trio Mexico de Noche, and danced the afternoon away to the music of

Tejas Band. We thank everyone who attended this year's banquet, and for making it a special day for many. A big heartfelt thank you to our event sponsor AARP of El Paso and our good friend Liliana Mireles for making this event possible.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR TRAINING

BY: LORRAINE HERNANDEZ

On August 8, 2025, we invited our community partners and volunteer coordinators to an afternoon of learning for our annual Volunteer Coordinator Training held at El Paso Water's Tech2O Center. Liliana Oaxaca from the Alzheimer's Association West Texas Chapter gave us an overview of Alzheimer's and Dementia.

We also invited our partners Rachel Garcia with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of El Paso, and Mida Ponce and Anna Carrillo with CASA of El Paso to give the group a presentation of their services and their effective volunteer recruitment strategies.

During the training, we had the pleasure of recognizing the Montwood Church of Christ Food Pantry as the Volunteer Station of the Year. The food pantry receives donations from church members and local grocery stores, and they serve about 200 families every month. Their distribution is every third Saturday of the month.





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DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

BY: NOEMI SALDAÑA

September 11, a National Day of Service and Remembrance, is dedicated to honoring the fallen by serving our community, making a difference, and uniting through service. AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP/FGP, the AmeriCorps Seniors Advisory Council, and the Department of Community and Human Development worked together to collect donations to benefit La Casa de las Abuelitas, a shelter for elderly residents who are in need and frail.

Many of the abuelitas have special needs, which may include, but are not limited to, mental and physical frailty; being victims of violence; family abandonment; lack of family or a support system; substance use concerns; and emotional well-being challenges. More than ten bins of paper goods and toiletries were collected and delivered on September 11th.

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP/FGP also provided and served lunch to the 30 residents and staff of La Casa de las Abuelitas. We thank all who participated and donated in honoring the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

More images on next page...





THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO!

Welcome, and thank you for volunteering! We are truly grateful for your commitment to serve and for choosing to give your time, energy, and heart to our community. We're honored to have you with us.

Lucia Aguirre	Lucia Crawford	Mary Jaime
Maria Garcia	Nora Gonzalez	Irma Soto
Antonio Meza	Carmen Polanco	Maria D Estrada
Margarita Alaniz	Cille DAscenzo	Jesus Jimenez
Roberto Garza	Gladys Guzman	Shirley Stack
Jose Mirano	Frank Propeck	Laura Faudoa
Dolores G Baca	Paula Davis	Deborah Kiesel
Rosalba Gines	Alma Hernandez	Irma Valles
Hector M. Moncada Jr.	Ricardo Rivera	Maria Celia Favela
Elizabeth Barron	Mary Guemes De Colotla	Margaret Marsh
Henri Glazer	Ellsworth Hilt	Bettie Villasenor
Grace Peñaloza	Cruz Rodriguez	Alicia Felix
Maria Elena Bencomo	Consuelo R Diaz	Mary Meglitorino
Frank Gonzalez	Lucia Hinojosa	Leigh Vipond
Teresa Perez	Maria A Rodriguez	Benjamin Ford
Linda Carrillo	Macda Diaz	Hector Mena
Graciela Gonzalez	Charlene Huff	Larry D. Wagoner
James Phillips	Gladys Santiago-Howard	Aurora Garcia
Manuel Colotla	Irene Duran	Margie Mena
Javier Gonzalez	Blanca Hunter	Peter Zenker
Guillermina Pineda	Carinne Solis-Williamson	Irma R. Garcia
	Michele Ellington	



OUTREACH EVENTS

BY: NOEMI SALDAÑA

In 2025, RSVP staff attended outreach events and activities hosted by different organizations in El Paso.

It provided an opportunity to promote RSVP by handing out materials and swag in an effort to engage in conversations regarding the benefits of volunteering.

It was a great way to reach the community, especially retirees and others thinking about volunteering. We got to connect with other organizations and local resources in hopes it'll help with recruitment and visibility.



SOME EVENTS ATTENDED

SENIOR GAMES OPENING CEREMONY

DISTRICT 1 COMMUNITY COOKOUT & RESOURCE FAIR

AGING TO PERFECTION EXPO

SENIOR SAFETY SUMMIT

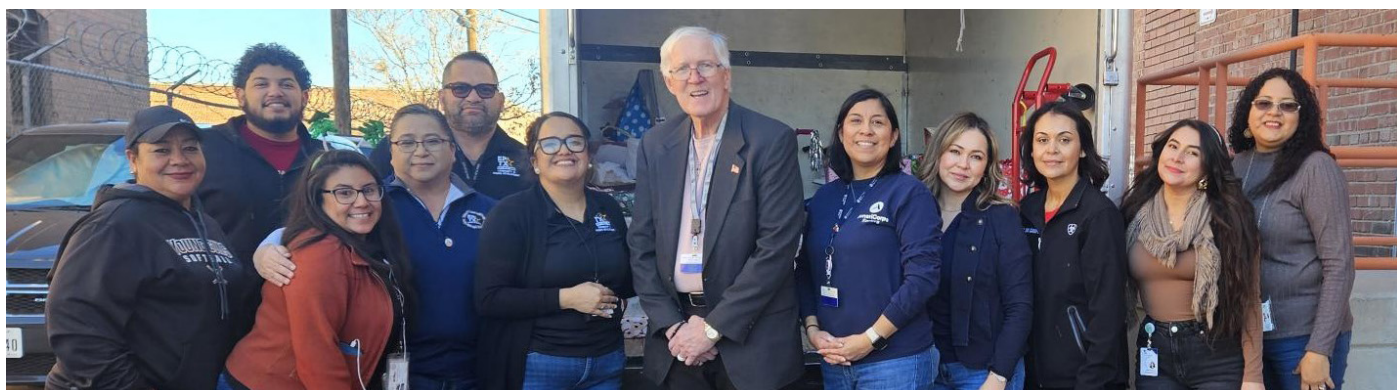
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES SUMMIT

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

CITY OF EL PASO EMPLOYEES HEALTH FAIR







VIRTUAL GIFT GIVING TREE

On November 10, 2025, the Annual Gift Giving Tree was kicked off, marking the fourth year in a row that our list has gone virtual as part of the over 35-year tradition. This initiative provided City of El Paso employees and the community with an opportunity to embrace the spirit of giving during the Christmas season by supporting those most vulnerable.

This year, 550 recipients from various partner organizations across the city were included on the wish list. We were able to fulfill wishes for children, seniors, veterans, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Our partners included

Bienvivir; CASA of El Paso (Court Appointed Special Advocate); Center Against Sexual and Family Violence; City of El Paso Department of Public Health; Department of Family and Protective Services; Department of State Health Services – Children with Special Health Care Needs; Opportunity Center – La Casa de las Abuelitas; Opportunity Center – Magoffin SRO; Opportunity Center – Veterans Transitional Living Center; YMCA Armed Services; Ysleta Senior Housing; YWCA Transitional Living Center; and El Paso Animal Services.

We would like to thank City Hall, City 3, and the four participating fire stations that served as drop-off locations for all gifts: Fire Stations #3, #16, #27, and #29.

Thank you to all city employees and community members who joined us in spreading joy and warmth this holiday season by coming together to fulfill every gift wish. Your acts of kindness truly made a difference.







AMERICORPS SENIORS ADVISORY COUNCIL

BY: LORRAINE HERNANDEZ

The AmeriCorps Seniors Advisory Council are volunteers who represent the community, and participating in annual service projects and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP).

We celebrated and thanked the AmeriCorps Seniors Advisory Council for their support and service with an Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 9, 2025. They are appointed by the Mayor's Office and City Representatives, and volunteers can also serve as At-Large members. They advocate for both programs by helping



OUR MEMBERS INCLUDE

Elizabeth Barron

Gloria Boyer

Angie M. Garcia

Gladys Guzman

Armida H. Hernandez

Kaaren Kimball

Jose Limon

Barbara Martinez

Nati C. Munoz

Christina Olivares

Alfred Reeves

Patricia Williams

Gilda Wilson

If you would like information on current volunteer opportunities please call or visit us:



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