

United Way of Laramie County End-of Year Report
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Agency Name: Cheyenne Housing Authority

Program: Southern Wyoming Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Reporting Period: Jan - Dec 2009

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Agency Mission/Vision:	Provide meaningful and rewarding opportunities to older adults using their time, talents, skills and life experiences, RSVP is a volunteer resource in the enhancement of community, governmental and human service agencies.
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Community Issue Program Targets:	Helping our neighbors in crisis and strengthening families to move toward economic self-sufficiency.
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Program Target Population: Elderly

Using bullet format;
Describe the individuals who are the focus of your work, and are influenced by your activities?

- Senior Citizen Volunteers age 55 and older

What are the specific characteristics, needs and requirements of these individuals?

- Retired & Senior Volunteers are elderly individuals with varying degrees of experience, education, mobility & health issues, time constraints, etc. Each volunteer is placed in a volunteer opportunity based on their specific needs and requirements.

Are there any additional characteristics of these individuals, or group as a whole, that influence the design and delivery of your activities?

- Due to the economy, many of our volunteers have had to return to work to make ends meet, leaving less time for volunteering. The economy has also made it difficult for organizations that have had to cut corners to survive. Now, more than ever, there is a great need for volunteers to help deliver services. We have had to be creative in finding ways to provide volunteer placements that meet the needs of the organization and the individual such as after hour volunteer opportunities and working from home.

Program Significance to the Community

- Target – Seniors (RSVP volunteers are age 55 and older)
- Desired Outcome – Seniors in Laramie County have supportive community programs that advance skills, facilitate independence and engagement of residents in civic and social life. RSVP Volunteers are matched with local organizations “stations” in order to strengthen their community. Elderly volunteers help their community while helping themselves. Volunteers are able to stay active in a healthy way; polish your existing skills; develop new skills; strengthen your resume with new experiences and references; give back to the community; gain networking opportunities; broaden circle of friends; impact the lives of those who need help now.
- People over the age of 55 have skills and interests built over a lifetime. Often these individuals have more free time and want to share their experiences and skills in a rewarding way now that children are grown or they are retired. The Southern Wyoming Retired and Senior Volunteer Program provides prescreening of community non-profit, governmental and faith-based organizations, to find a suitable match that is physically, socially and emotionally rewarding for the RSVP Volunteer.
- During the past 6 months, 236 Southern Wyoming Retired and Senior Volunteers have provided 24,101 hours to 68 organizations in an effort to meet the needs of our community. According to a study conducted by the Independent Sector, the dollar value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$20.25. This is a cost savings to our community of \$433,045.25. Not only do RSVP Volunteers save our community a tremendous amount of money, but through volunteer placement, volunteers have the opportunity to use their experience and skills; have a chance to learn something new; make new friends and get reacquainted with old ones; and have the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference through volunteerism.
- We are seeing many people over the age of 55 continue to work longer – usually into their 70s and want to volunteer during a time when they are available (evenings and weekends). Also, the younger senior does not view themselves as a senior and is not ready to be considered a senior, even though they are volunteer in the community they do not see the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program as a resource because they are “not a senior yet”.

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Program Resources		Program Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three part-time staff • 384 Volunteers • Facility – 2 offices located in the Senior Activity Center, shared conference room and meeting space • Oversight and Fiscal Records provided by the Cheyenne Housing Authority • Collaborate with 130 non-profit, faith-based and governmental organizations – list available upon request 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility – Age 55 and older • Financial Assistance – Supplemental insurance available for the volunteer while volunteering, mileage reimbursement, meal reimbursement • Training – Training is provided by the volunteer site for each volunteer • Recognition – Formal recognition is provided 4 times throughout the year and informally in a regular basis • Find suitable match between volunteers and volunteer sites 	
Outcome	Performance Measure	Method of Measure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide prescreening of community non-profit, governmental and faith-based organizations; to find an individual who is a physical, social and emotional match for the organizations; to assist in providing proper nutrition for the elderly community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of organizations screened for volunteer placement • Number of RSVP Volunteers reviewed • Number of hours served by RSVP Volunteers over-all • Number of Senior Programs Assisted • Number of volunteers who provided assistance to senior programs • Number of hours served by RSVP Volunteers for senior programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Time Sheets • Station Memorandum of Understanding • Survey/Questionnaire 	

Program Results	Results Analysis and Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 organizations were screened for volunteer placements – 74 organizations received an RSVP Volunteer. • 384 Volunteers were reviewed for placement – 281 RSVP Volunteers served. • RSVP Volunteers served 52,514 hours during the past year. • 12 Senior Programs received assistance from 73 RSVP Volunteers who provided 11,735 hours of time to serve meals and assist in activities for the elderly community. • 74 Community Organizations saved \$1,063,408.50 in wages because they utilized volunteers to carry out much needed community needs. Organizations are much better off because they are still able to deliver services without the costs associated with hiring staff. • 281 RSVP Volunteers are better-off because they are able to give of their time and talents for the good of the community. When interviewed, volunteers state that they are able to stay active and healthy through their volunteering. • Over 5,000 elderly are better-off because 73 RSVP Volunteers provided 11,735 hours delivering meals and programs. • Senior Programs are better-off because 73 RSVP Volunteers helped deliver meals and programs to the elderly. • Over the past year we have seen a decrease in the number of volunteers who are able to serve. Even though the number of volunteers has decreased, the need for volunteers has increased. Therefore, existing volunteers are volunteering more hours to fill the gaps. We need to obtain more volunteers and provide more assistance to the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though there are many opportunities for volunteering we need more opportunities for volunteering at varying times. Because more elderly are having to work and many volunteers have had to return to work. Volunteer opportunities need to be flexible. • With an excellent existing volunteer base we need to address additional ways to utilize volunteers. Organizations need to think beyond the day-to-day business and identify the opportunity to utilize volunteers in other ways than sitting in the office from 8 – 5. Maybe work from home or evening and weekend accessibility. • Brain storm with organizations on ways to utilize volunteers so that both the needs of the organization and the volunteer are met.