



volunteer vision

Volunteer Gwinnett – Senior Services

collaborative efforts for effective services

Spring 2014

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Volunteers are on our mind – By Shawn Valadez, Volunteer Specialist

2013 was a challenging year for many, however volunteers once again rose to the occasion and achieved some great things for local seniors. I sincerely appreciate every one of our volunteers who continue to give so selflessly to others in need. We really can't thank our volunteers enough for everything they do.

April 6 – 12 is **National Volunteer Week**. Established in 1974 by President Nixon and sponsored by the Points of Light Institute, National Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. In keeping with this tradition, this year Volunteer

Gwinnett – Senior Services will take on a series of yard work and minor home repair projects for local seniors. We sincerely appreciate all of our volunteers who will participate in this week-long event to make a difference in the lives of so many seniors.

Also, please note that on Thursday, May 22, we will host our annual **Volunteer Recognition Lunch** at Garden Plaza in Lawrenceville. Festivities will begin at 11:30am and will end around 2:00pm. Be on the lookout for invitations to this event in the coming weeks. This is a fun time of good food and fellowship to say thank you for all you do. We hope to see all of you there!

Program update

In the last edition of the *Volunteer Vision*, we announced the launch of **Volunteer Gwinnett – Senior Services**, a new volunteer program focused exclusively on initiatives to assist local seniors and grandfamilies. Volunteers previously enrolled in Volunteer Gwinnett – Health and Human Services and were engaged in Senior Services related activities were automatically transferred to the new program, effective July 1, 2013.

With this launch comes a few minor changes that we want our volunteers to note. First, it is with pleasure that we announce the launch of a new web page designed to provide comprehensive information about the new volunteer program. The page also features a simplified method for new volunteer registration. To view this page, go to www.gwinnettseniorservices.com and select "Volunteer with Seniors" from the options located on your left. Have questions about the program? Check out the *Frequently Asked Questions* section for answers to commonly

asked questions. Want to get friends and family involved in volunteer service? The new registration process is simpler than ever.

Secondly, tracking volunteer hours has become Gwinnett County's primary tool in gauging the overall progress of programs under the Volunteer Gwinnett umbrella. In order to better facilitate this process, we will be sending out simple interactive forms that can be completed on your computer and easily returned via email with the click of a button. Active volunteers will be asked to submit hours once a month. Those who complete this task on time will be rewarded for their efforts.



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Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services

Good Neighboring Campaign



Founded in 2000, local Korean-American group **Good Neighboring Campaign** was created to assist Asian immigrant families to find volunteer opportunities in the community where they can get involved and ultimately build lasting relationships with their Gwinnett neighbors.

These skilled volunteers have been able to provide Taekwondo and Yoga classes at our senior activity centers and have also been a great help at our new satellite center at the Centerville Community Center. Lastly, we are also excited to share that group member Mrs. Young-Za Kim is working hard to provide the new Chronic Disease Self-Management Program to seniors in Korean sometime late next year. We greatly appreciate our volunteers from all over the world who help make Gwinnett great.

Holiday miracle workers

Once again, volunteers showed up in a big way to assist Gwinnett seniors over the holidays. Special thanks to **Gerry and Sam Serotte**, as well as **HomeInstead Senior Care** for hosting our annual Be a Santa to a Senior project. This special project collected, wrapped, and delivered over 700 personalized gift bags to Gwinnett seniors in time for Christmas.

In addition, **Sharna Fulton**, with Alternative Home Care for Seniors organized their annual **Sweaters for Seniors** project to help local seniors to stay warm over the holidays. Hundreds of sweaters and blankets were collected and provided to local seniors. Many thanks to both of these special volunteers!



Home repair angels



Home repair volunteers achieved some incredible things for seniors in 2013. This year, two dedicated groups took on the bulk of these special projects—**Mountain Park United Methodist Church** and **Home Repairs Ministries**. With funding assistance from Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services, these skilled handymen were able to directly impact the quality of life for over 60 local seniors by completing some badly needed repairs. We cannot thank these gentlemen enough for their tireless efforts.

Thanks also to Ground Zero Grace, Fred Ramos, John Pine, Sonny Bettis, Mark Law, and Bill Journey for their gracious assistance with these projects.

Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services

Additional thanks

Special thanks to: Jim Griffith, Joe Hall, Kim Thompson, Susan Clarke, Mike Bonzek, Sarah Dunn, Karen DeBoer, Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta, Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services, Sindu Collins, Rauna Long, Susan Roebuck, Deena Defazio, Chariss Glover, Rosa Hoefler, Rising Church, Rhonda Zimmerman, Kawneer, Rico Electronics, Susan Pech, Shirley Lucia, Veronica Vasilik, Ingrid Patrick, Vivian Gaither, Ines Beltran, Shupan Abraham, Bill Mayfield, Theresa Sherrif, and Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services.



We greatly appreciate all our volunteers. Thank you all!

Opportunities to Support

Listed below are the top three opportunities currently in need of volunteer assistance. For more information about these opportunities, please contact volunteer specialist Shawn Valadez at **678.377.6716** or email **shawn.valadez@gwinnettcountry.com**.



Transportation assistance

Volunteers are needed to assist seniors with various transportation needs within Gwinnett County. Examples of destinations include senior activity centers, local errands (e.g. grocery store, post office), and medical appointments.

Interested volunteers will have opportunities to provide this assistance on an ongoing basis or as needed, with consideration given to your personal preferences and availability.

Greatest need



Yard/lawn assistance

Volunteers who can commit to assisting a local senior with various yard/lawn needs over the spring and summer months are needed. Examples of yard/lawn needs include mowing a yard, raking leaves, trimming bushes, and disposing of yard debris.

Interested volunteers will be paired with no more than two local seniors and will be asked to provide this assistance through September, as needed. Volunteers will also be asked to supply their own yard/lawn equipment.



Minor home repairs

Home repair volunteers who specialize in roofing as well as plumbing repairs are currently in high demand. Volunteer Gwinnett – Senior Services will take on a limited number of roofing projects this year and we will attempt to schedule these when the weather is best. Plumbing requests include repairs such as patching minor leaks, replacing faucets, and clearing clogged drains. For more information about these and other home repair opportunities, please contact Shawn Valadez at 678.377.6716 or email shawn.valadez@gwinnettcountry.com.

Additional areas of need:

- **Home-delivered meals volunteers:** Deliver meals to local seniors. Currently available in Grayson and Snellville areas only.
- **Centerville Senior Center aides:** Assist staff with daily operations at Centerville Senior Center.

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Gwinnett County
Board of Commissioners
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6935



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Volunteer Gwinnett – Senior Services is designed to engage groups and individuals with meaningful opportunities to assist local seniors. The **Volunteer Vision** is a biannual publication of Gwinnett County Senior Services. For newsletter questions and comments, as well as all inquiries about volunteer opportunities to assist local seniors, please contact **Shawn Valadez** at **678.377.6716** or email **shawn.valadez@gwinnettcountry.com**.

Gwinnett Senior Services Admin

www.gwinnettseniorservices.com
567 Swanson Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-4537
678.377.4150

Home-Delivered Meals Admin

678.277.0972

Volunteer Gwinnett

www.volunteergwinnett.net
Find information about additional volunteer opportunities in Gwinnett County.

Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services

www.fogcss.com
770.822.8775
Contact for information on how make donations to benefit local seniors.

Senior Helpline

678.377.4150
Contact for information about available resources for seniors and to refer a senior in need of volunteer assistance.

Gwinnett Helpline

770.995.3339
Contact for information about additional resources available to Gwinnett County.

Senior activity center locations

Most senior activity centers operate Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm. Centerville location is closed on Thursdays. All centers are closed on weekends and holidays. To inquire about available volunteer opportunities at a senior activity center, please contact the center directly.

Lawrenceville Senior Center 225 Benson Street Lawrenceville, GA 30046 770.822.5180	Buford Senior Center 2755 Sawnee Avenue Buford, GA 30518 770.614.2527	Centerville Satellite Senior Center 3025 Bethany Church Road Centerville, GA 30039 770.978.4532	Norcross Senior Center 5030 Georgia Belle Court Norcross, GA 30093 770.638.5683
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