



theVolunteerVision

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Volunteer Gwinnett – Senior Services is a volunteer initiative of Gwinnett County Senior Services designed to engage groups and individuals with meaningful opportunities to assist local seniors. The **VolunteerVision** is a biannual publication of Volunteer Gwinnett – Senior Services. For newsletter questions and comments, as well as all inquiries about volunteer opportunities to assist local seniors, please contact **Carolyn Kim** at **678.377.6716** or email carolyn.kim@gwinnettcounty.com.

Gwinnett Senior Services Admin
Gwinnett Senior Services Center
567 Swanson Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-4537
678.377.4150
www.gwinnettseniorservices.com

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.

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

Volunteer Driver Program
678.377.6742
Contact for opportunities to assist senior in need of transportation assistance.

Senior activity center locations

All senior activity centers operate Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm, with the exception of the Centerville Satellite Senior Center.

To inquire about available volunteer opportunities at a senior activity center, please contact the center directly.

Lawrenceville Senior Center
225 Benson Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-4955
678.277.0970

Buford Senior Center
2755 Sawnee Avenue
Buford, GA 30518-2560
678.225.5367

Norcross Senior Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court
Norcross, GA 30093-2667
678.225.5430

Centerville Senior Center
3025 Bethany Church Road
Snellville, GA 30039
770.978.4532



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collaborative efforts for effective services

December 2015

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New Volunteer Specialist



Carolyn Kim is moving at full speed as our new Volunteer Specialist for Gwinnett County Senior Services. She brings many years of experience working with volunteers to her new position.

Carolyn Kim

She shared, "I am passionate about building friendships with our volunteers and our seniors. I understand why people choose to volunteer, and I want to make sure that their experiences are meaningful and meet the needs of our seniors."



Notes from the heart

Our volunteers are so dedicated and they truly care about the seniors that they are helping. We would like to share some notes from the heart so that you can recognize how important you are in the lives of others.

... from the heart of "a little old lady":

"I'm a little old lady and I can't do everything I used to be able to do. When she comes, my volunteer is very nice and does an excellent job helping me straighten up my house. I wish she could come more often, because we have so much fun together!"

... from the heart of a rider who loves her volunteer driver:

"Every day that she helps me get to my doctor and back is a blessing. God must have had a hand and sent her to be in my life. I love talking to her."

Carolyn looks forward to meeting as many volunteers and seniors as possible. She is excited about the many volunteer opportunity possibilities that are being created to help meet the needs of our growing aging population.

She is also intrigued with the various holiday projects. She said, "I am amazed that we have so many partners and so many good people willing to help our seniors. The **Be a Santa to a Senior** program is dependent on these partners to collect items, wrap gifts, and deliver almost 900 gift bags to our seniors!"



... from the heart of a volunteer:

"I want to express my appreciation for all that is being done for our community. I am so proud to be a volunteer, because I know that everything that I do is making a difference in someone's life."

... from the heart of a senior with a house that is now livable:

"I really thought that my house was beyond repair and I had no money to try to fix it up. Those volunteers worked really hard and now I feel like I have got a new lease on life. Thank you."

... from the heart of a Thanksgiving meal recipient:

"I can't cook anymore and I really wanted to celebrate Thanksgiving. The church volunteers cooked and delivered the best meal I've had."

Above & Beyond: Extra Special Services

Be a Santa to a Senior



2014 was a record-setting year for our seventh annual *Be a Santa to a Senior* project, developed and sustained through a partnership with **Home Instead Senior Care**. However, Santa is going to be even busier in 2015! More than 60 volunteers came together last year to collect, assemble, and distribute 835 holiday gift bags to local seniors, this year's total could approach 900 bags!

Home Instead Senior Care is again hosting this special project. Collection bins for donated gift items have been placed at **Walmart** superstores in Snellville, Centerville, and Belk in Snellville as an additional collection site. This year, employees from **Mitsubishi Electric and Cooling** in Duluth plus **RICOH Electronics** in Lawrenceville have joined in to provide gift items. "Super Elf" **Gerry Serotte** is again superbly coordinating wrapping parties and bags distribution. Volunteers from **Crosspointe Church** and **Cornerstone Church** will take on a large number of deliveries. **Sandy Brewer** from Crosspointe Church commented, "Our congregation is really excited to deliver these bags to seniors for our '12/12 Day of Service'. We will have at least 50 bags to deliver, along with holiday cards to bring added cheer to these seniors."

The *Be a Santa to a Senior* project has many valued partners. **Gwinnett Senior Providers Network** and **Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services** have again both made generous donations to purchase needed wrapping items for this project. **Kimberly-Clark** in Roswell has generously donated personal care wipes and paper products for the gift bags, and **Gwinnett Quilters Guild** members have outdone themselves by donating beautiful handmade items.



Home repair mega-project: the sequel

In 2014, **Pastor Steve Hammack** and volunteers from **Anchor Church** in Loganville completed an amazing project for one local senior in desperate need of assistance. "Mama Rachel" was living in a home that had no running water, no working toilets, no central heat, no refrigerator, major holes in the roof, and only one electrical outlet that provided electricity. Anchor Church stepped in to make sure this senior had a new roof over her head, electricity throughout the home, and a new bathroom.

However, a chunk of ceiling recently fell in on "Mama Rachel," and badly scared her. Fortunately, the **Mountain Park UMC** "Heaven's Helpers" came to the rescue and made the necessary repairs. The repair sequel was just as special as the major repair. Kudos.



A time to say thanks

Volunteers make a difference for seniors in a variety of ways. Below are some highlights of our fantastic volunteers in 2015.

- **Volunteer drivers** have provided 1,458 trips for seniors who no longer drive so far this year.
- **Mountain Park UMC's Heaven's Helpers** continue to be home repair angels as they complete repair jobs for seniors in need almost every month.
- **Kawneer employees** again volunteered at the annual Senior Prom to meet performance requirements for an action grant that benefits select Senior Services programming.
- **Alternative Home Care for Seniors** conducted their eighth annual *Sweaters for Seniors* campaign for local seniors.
- **Good Neighboring Campaign** volunteers regularly help to pack home-delivered meals.
- **Sunrise of Hope** volunteers have completed some amazing home repair and yard work projects for our seniors.
- **Harry Falise** has done some great repair work for seniors.
- **Cornerstone Church** in Duluth members prepared and delivered Thanksgiving meals to area seniors.
- **Girl Scout Troop 4521**, previous volunteers at Lawrenceville Senior Center, made holiday place mats for our seniors.

Thank you all for your commitment to our seniors!



Carolyn's Corner: Opportunities to support

Listed below are the top four opportunities currently in need of volunteer assistance. For more information about these opportunities, please contact Volunteer Specialist **Carolyn Kim** at **678.377.6716** or email **carolyn.kim@gwinnettcounty.com**.

- ① **Volunteer Driver Program:** Assist seniors with transportation needs to various locations within Gwinnett County. Examples of destinations include senior activity centers, local errands (e.g. grocery store, post office), and medical appointments.
- ② **Minor home repairs:** Home repair volunteers who specialize in roofing as well as plumbing repairs are currently in high demand. Plumbing requests include repairs such as patching minor leaks, replacing faucets, and clearing clogged drains.
- ③ **Yard/lawn assistance:** Typically needed most during the spring and summer months. Examples of yard/lawn needs include mowing a yard, raking leaves, trimming bushes, and disposing of yard debris.
- ④ **Home-delivered meals volunteers :** Deliver meals to local seniors.