Volunteer Voice

Connecting Senior Volunteers to Community Needs

Directors Message
From Julie Spivack

Wow. Where to even begin? It has been over a year since we have sent out a CSVP Newsletter. Granted, I did send emails out every few weeks, and I apologize if I was overbearing, but I felt the need to check-in 😊

It was time to begin creating this newsletter once again, not only because the County is opening, but because of how many thanks are in order; the appreciation for volunteers who always give so much of their time, and who still, during this most challenging year, did not stop working, the appreciation for staff who took on completely new tasks with grace, THANK YOU.

The feelings of this past year are very difficult to put into words. There are many volunteers we have lost and many who have moved away. Despite the many changes this pandemic has brought about, one thing that never changes is knowing what a great group we have here. I have spoken with many of you throughout this year, as well as worked with many of you. Whether it was via email, at the lunch program, the Tax Program, Wellness Fest, pick-up/drop off of donations, or via Zoom, it was a pleasure to be able to keep in touch.

Here we are, approaching July, and we are very excited to open the Goebel Center and see our senior volunteers and patrons in person. There is more information about the Goebel Center reopening on the back page of this Newsletter.

Make sure to check-out each page for our many thanks to staff and volunteers. Also, see page 2 & 3 for information on the first CSVP Volunteer Fair and new volunteer opportunities being offered. As we hear more from our local partner agencies on their opening plans and on their volunteer needs, we hope to be able to share many new opportunities with each of you. In speaking with many of our volunteers this past year, I know some of you are looking for something new and exciting to add to your schedule. We want to make this happen for you and our local nonprofits.

We are so thrilled to welcome the community back. Please come and give us a big hug at the CSVP Office once we re-open. We look forward to seeing you!

~ Julie Spivack

Why Turn in Timesheets?
CSVP volunteers donate more than 180,000 hours annually! We document these hours to report to CRPD. By submitting your timesheet, you are considered an “active” volunteer and receive excess insurance, quarterly Newsletters, birthday calls, and possible qualification for annual recognition lunches. These hours MUST be submitted on a monthly or quarterly basis, with the next quarter ending September 30.

We cannot take timesheets past the previous quarter.

Click above images to follow us on the CSVP Website, Facebook & Twitter.
Or go to crpd.org/csvp, facebook.com/conejoseniorvolunteerprogram.
The CSVP Boutique looks forward to reopening its doors this summer. We are excited to invite our patrons back to shop for some great cards, jewelry, handmade items and more. Very special thanks to the Thousand Oaks Library Foundation for the beautiful donations from their Library Gift Shop. These donations to our Boutique will help CSVP with its fundraising efforts and is greatly appreciated. The CSVP Boutique will be open Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm.

Mad Attic Thrift Store
Mad Attic Thrift Store, a small boutique thrift store in Thousand Oaks, seeks volunteers to serve at least 3 hours twice a month on Wednesdays or Thursdays between 1:00-4:30pm, or Saturdays as store clerks.
Training is available and duties include light retail, such as receiving donations, sorting, re-stocking, or cashier work. The Attic is a great way to give back to the community. Visit them at 226 N. Skyline Drive. Temporary hours are Tues. 10am-4pm, Thur. 10am-1pm, and Fri.10am-4pm. The Mad Attic is the oldest non-profit thrift store in T.O., all profits benefit local charities and causes such as Harbor House, Conejo Free Clinic, Manna Food Bank and others. The Mad Attic is a nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers.
**Current Volunteer Opportunities**

**JOIN A CSVP GROUP TODAY!**

**BUSY BEES WORKSHOP (FULL)**
Mondays, 10:00am-12:00pm: Sew, knit, or crochet for children, service members, and older adults.

**TEDDY BEARS WORKSHOP**
Mondays, 1:30-3:00pm: Make stuffed bears for children.

**CRAFTERS WORKSHOP**
Wednesdays, 9:00-11:30am: Knit or crochet to help support CSVP programming.

**NITTY LADIES WORKSHOP**
Wednesdays, 12:30-3:00pm: Sew special projects for patients, children, service members, and older adults.

*We gratefully accept donations of unused materials. CSVP Workshops are in need of:*
- Yarn, Stuffing, Batting, Elastic, Cotton Fabric, and Quilting Supplies

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**Forever Young Singing Group**
Forever Young is seeking a volunteer pianist to play with them at their Friday rehearsals from 9:00-11:00am and one day/week for performances. Their repertoire includes Broadway, 40's, 50's 60's, Holiday Theme, and more.

**Conejo Valley Botanic Garden**
The Botanic Garden is always looking for volunteers who enjoy the outdoors. They have many volunteer opportunities, including propagation, garden maintenance, such as pruning, weeding, spreading mulch, and maintaining hiking trails. They also have a number of themed gardens including salvia, herb, butterfly, desert, and more. Check out the website on this local beauty, [www.conejogarden.org](http://www.conejogarden.org)

**Merry Hall Tree**
Mary Health of the Sick is reopening their Merry Hall Tree Thrift Store located at 2929 Theresa Drive in Newbury Park. The store provides much needed income to assist the care provided by the Sisters. Join this fabulous group of people and keep the thrift store running. Duties include receiving donations, stocking the shelves, organizing books and running the cash register. Donations accepted Monday-Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Store hours are Monday-Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm

**CASA of Ventura County**
A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer is a trained community member who becomes a sworn officer of the court to represent the best interests of a court-dependent child. A CASA provides the court with carefully gathered information about how the child is doing while they are part of the juvenile court system. Check out link for information on this great opportunity or contact CSVP for upcoming schedule and trainings. [https://casaofventuracounty.org/how-to-help/become-a-volunteer/](https://casaofventuracounty.org/how-to-help/become-a-volunteer/)

**California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks (CMATO)**
Founded in 2008, CMATO is a contemporary art museum that aspires to positively enrich the lives of people in our community through world-class exhibitions and diverse programs that engage and inspire. Volunteers are a generous and talented group of CMATO supporters who are instrumental in making the Museum experience memorable for more than 40,000 visitors each year. Volunteers engage in a wide variety of activities, from welcoming visitors to facilitating hands-on art activities for children and families. If interested in the arts & giving back to the community, consider becoming a CMATO volunteer!

**Lutheran Social Services (LSS)**
Gain experience and help our community make a difference! LSS has many new opportunities available at their Thousand Oaks Office, including Clothing and Food Pantry Helper, Emergency Support (assists homeless drop-in center with donations and cataloging), and Resource Navigator (assists with screening at risk clients for program eligibility). See attachment for more thorough info.

**Breakfast & Senior Nutrition Lunch Program**
Join the CSVP team in the Goebel Café! Work side by side with Chef Victor in helping take breakfast orders and serve breakfast and coffee to our seniors or join our lunch program where duties include food preparation, dish washing, cleaning, and serving food to our patrons. If you enjoy food and chatter, this could be the job for you.

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Please contact CSVP, 805-381-2742/jspivack@crpd.org for more information.
Thank You Goebel Center Staff

CSVP oversees the Senior Nutrition Lunch Program (SNP) which typically takes place at the Goebel Adult Community Center, Mondays-Fridays from 11:30am-12:30pm. This grant funded program through Ventura County Area Agency on Aging is for seniors 60+. Lunch is a $3 donation and no one will be turned away for inability to pay.

Our lunch program generally includes 32 volunteers serving over 2,300 hours per year. When the pandemic began, we changed the congregate meal program to a drive-thru/pick-up program taking place Monday-Friday from 11:30am-1:00pm. From March 12, 2020 - May 31, 2021, Goebel & CSVP Staff have served 49,800 meals. Huge shout-out to Goebel Staff who stepped into an entirely different role this year. We could not have served our local seniors if not for each of you!

We will continue serving meals on a pick-up basis until we feel it is safe to open our in-person, congregate meal program inside the Goebel Café.

Welcome Back CSVP SNP Volunteers
Conejo Senior Volunteer Program (CSVP)

Tax Preparers and Greeters

During a most challenging year, CSVP Volunteers completed close to 2,000 free income tax returns, bringing over one million dollars back to our community.

In volunteering thousands of hours of their time this tax season, not only did CSVP preparers help create a brand-new virtual program at the start of the season, they opened in-person in April and worked through the IRS tax extension deadline.

CSVP thanks you for your on-going support and would like to recognize each of you:

Tom Beddingfield
Ed Craven
Leroy Friel
Joe Grodell
Kathy Habring
Steve Hansen
Dave Harkins
Chuck Huffer
Kim Kahmer
Ashraf Khan
Bill Lemons

Barbara Magnuson
Mitra Manchala
Bob Prendergast
Wayne Rickert
Neyda Rosas
Norb Rud
Caroline Tsaw
Beverly Van Scoyk
Sam Weiner
Sophia Zhou

John Abril
Saroj Angal
Marge Fischer
Judy Grodell
Susan Keene
Sharon Leir
Sharen Shapiro

The CSVP Tax Preparation Program is for seniors 60+ (any income level) OR persons with an income of $56,000 or less, regardless of age. This is a free program in cooperation with the IRS.
Please submit timesheet at the end of each quarter:
March, June, September, December

**** We cannot accept timesheets past the previous Quarter.

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**Volunteer Name:**
Thank you CSVP Workshop Volunteers
Busy Bees, Nifty Ladies, Teddy Bears, and Crafters

During the pandemic, these incredible volunteers have been picking up materials and dropping off handmade items to CSVP. Some of these items include pillowcases, lap blankets, masks, stroke aprons, mastectomy pillows, scarves, and baby clothing. This year alone, we have donated thousands of handmade items to local partner agencies, including James Storehouse, Hospice of the Conejo, America Supporting Americans, Many Mansions, Every Child’s Dream, CVUSD, and Los Robles Hospital. We are thrilled to be able to have our volunteers come back to the Goebel Center.
A MESSAGE FROM THE GOEBEL CENTER

We are excited to announce that the Goebel Adult Community Center will be reopening to the public on Monday, June 28, 2021. At the time of publication of the Goebel Gazette Newsletter (6.1.21), we are unaware of the guidelines Ventura County will have in place upon our opening date. Therefore, we might have to make adjustments in programming with consideration to physical distancing and/or mask requirements.

When the Goebel Center opens to the public and resumes regular programming on June 28, 472 days will have passed since we first had to close the center in March of 2020. We are so very excited to welcome you all back to the Center!