

THE RSVP

Serving Hardin, Jefferson & Orange Counties, Texas

Oct - Dec 2022

2023 ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Golden Triangle RSVP
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Penny Pearson
Golden Triangle RSVP
Volunteer Coordinator

Jessica Spiller
Golden Triangle RSVP
Admin Assistant

RSVP Direct Line:
(409) 924-3382

2210 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, TX 77703

*The Golden Triangle RSVP
is sponsored locally by the
South East Texas Regional
Planning Commission.*

www.setrpc.org

Chris Cullather:



Volunteer in the Spotlight

to the early 90's. Currently, he is serving his community at The Giving Field, where he was nominated as Volunteer of the Year, Market to Hope and VI-TA (volunteer income tax assistance) with Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas, The Art Studio, Beaumont Farmers Market, his running group known as the Sea Rim Striders, and his church St. Jude's Thaddeus Catholic Church. In the past, he has had roles with the Rainbow Room and as an Ombudsman for SETX Area Agency on Aging.

Before Chris became a full time volunteer, he worked as a ...**Continued on page 2**

"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another." - Author Unknown

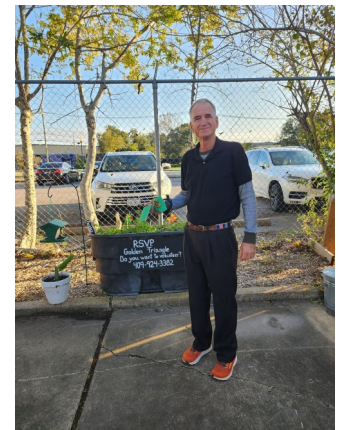
While this quote describes all of our volunteers, those that know Chris will agree he truly has a heart for helping others. He has volunteered with RSVP at various locations for six and a half years for a total of 2,020 lifetime hours, but he's been volunteering since long before that. Some of his volunteering roles date back

"Golden Triangle RSVP is about serving others."

CHRIS CULLATHER: VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

...Continued from page 1 ...chemical engineer and also as a fitness instructor at Christus Health and Wellness. But his work as a chemical engineer was the most exciting for him. In his downtime, he enjoys running half marathons. In November, he traveled to Monterey, California for his most recent run. He has been married to his wife, Mary, for thirty five years and she also volunteers often with Chris.

In November 2022, Chris was awarded Volunteer of the Year at The Giving Field. See pictures below. He was awarded at their annual Farm to Table fundraiser event on Nov 5. Congratulations, Mr. Chris Cullather! And THANK YOU for being a Golden Triangle RSVP Volunteer!



Golden Triangle RSVP is on Facebook!
LIKE our Facebook page [@GoldenTriangleRSVP](https://www.facebook.com/GoldenTriangleRSVP)



Our program is dedicated to volunteer recruitment and placement for people age 55 and older in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange County, Texas. So stay current on RSVP projects and volunteer activities by liking our page.

Be "in the know" on all things RSVP!





Look Who's New to RSVP!



Burgard, Mary
Joffrion, Oscar Jr.
Joffrion, Jule
Griner, Diann
Griner, Charles

Some Other Place
Catholic Charities—Hospitality Center
Catholic Charities—Hospitality Center
Beaumont Community Players, Baptist Hospital
Beaumont Community Players, Baptist Hospital

A huge THANK YOU to these RSVP recruits!!!

We Are Looking For a Few Good Volunteers

Are you 55 years or older? Do you live in Hardin, Jefferson or Orange County, Texas? Do you want to give back to your community? If you answered "YES" to these questions, then you need to become a Golden Triangle Retired and Senior Volunteer. We are actively looking for someone just like you to volunteer. Here's just a few of our volunteer opportunities available to you:

Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas – In need of Courtesy Shuttle Driver volunteers - providing hospitality, courtesy, safe transportation service for patients, guests and employees. Shifts are Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to noon and noon to 4 pm. Orientation and training provided.

Beaumont Public Library - needs a volunteer to assist with testing of students, simply sit there and be in room while students are testing for GED.

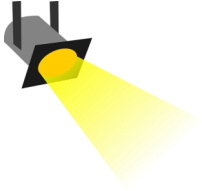
Catholic Charities Market to Hope - looking for some good volunteers any day Monday - Friday, any hours between 9am to 1pm.

- Help is needed to -
- * assemble boxes
 - * put goods in boxes
 - * put boxes on pallet
 - * bag groceries
 - * assisting with customers

United Board of Missions - in great need of volunteers to help in kitchen prep for their Meals on Wheels which is done at the United Methodist Temple in Port Arthur, (Tuesday mornings 8-11 am). In addition, meals on wheels drivers are needed, Tuesday and Friday.

VA Clinic - Volunteers are needed to serve at refreshment table, Monday – Friday, any hours 8 - noon. Also, van drivers are needed to take patients from Beaumont to Houston.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, call Penny Pearson at 409-924-3382.



VOLUNTEER STATION IN THE SPOTLIGHT: THE GIVING FIELD

By Sharon Begnaud



The Giving Field is a one-acre organic donation garden in Beaumont, TX. Our mission is to feed the hungry by providing area soup kitchens with organic fruits and vegetables. This project that started 10 years ago has harvested over 78,000 pounds of produce to help feed the hungry.

The vision for the project came out of the need to help people of all income levels get access to healthy food by providing produce to the area soup kitchens to make the 200,000 meals they serve each month. Volunteers both young and old dig in the dirt together at The Giving Field to learn about organic gardening - all while serving the higher purpose to help hungry people in their community.

The volunteers are the backbone and the sweat that makes a seed grow into a life-giving fruit or vegetable that fills our neighbors in need. They put in close to 4,000 hours combined each year. Volunteers are welcome to the field each Tuesday morning from 7:30am-9:30am, Wednesdays from 4-6pm and the second Saturday of each month from 9am-noon. Additional work hours can be scheduled for your group if these times don't work.

The name, The Giving Field, was chosen because it encompasses everything the field stands for. The Giving Field gives food to the people in our community who need it the most. It gives education to all who come, whether it's insight on how to garden organically, to be more sustainable or just to know where our food comes from. It gives the volunteers a sense of ownership and pride to watch the seeds they plant turn into nourishing food. It gives all who visit a calming and reflective space in the busy times we live in. Everyone who comes to the field gives a little of themselves to help better our community and our neighbors in need.

The Giving Field gives to so many people because so many people give to it.



If you are interested in volunteering with The Giving Field, please call Penny Pearson at 409-924-3382 or email ppearson@setrpc.org.

Attention Volunteers

Did You Know?

...IF YOUR ADDRESS, EMAIL, OR PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED,
PLEASE CALL US TO LET US KNOW...

PLEASE CALL PENNY PEARSON AT,
409-924-3382, OR EMAIL HER AT [PPEARSON@SETRPC.ORG](mailto:ppearson@setrpc.org) TO
UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES WITH GOLDEN TRIANGLE RSVP.



THANK YOU!



RSVP Volunteer T-Shirts

If you have not received your RSVP t-shirt, please
contact **Penny Pearson** by email, ppearson@setrpc.org or
phone, **409-924-3382** with your **name & shirt size**. After
we know your size, the shirts will be available for pickup
at the **SETRPC front desk, 2210 Eastex Frwy in
Beaumont.**



Tell A Friend About Golden Triangle RSVP!



GOLDEN TRIANGLE RSVP IN THE COMMUNITY



GOLDEN TRIANGLE RSVP IN THE COMMUNITY TEAM RSVP DAY AT THE GIVING FIELD

Each quarter, Golden Triangle RSVP plans a “Team RSVP Day” at one of its partner volunteer stations. A group of RSVP staff, volunteers and Board members “team up” to volunteer on a project together.



It’s a way for us, not only to benefit RSVP by increasing volunteer hours, but to help our volunteer sites in their mission to serve their communities.



It also introduces new people to volunteer service and expands knowledge of other volunteer opportunities amongst current RSVP volunteers. RSVP Advisory Board members and current volunteers are encouraged to invite a friend to these “Team RSVP Days” to help serve toward a common goal.

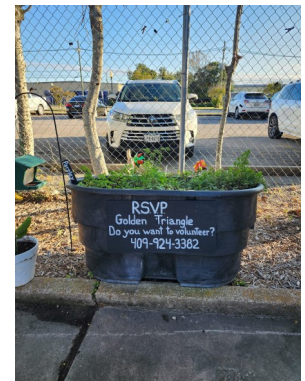
On Nov 15, RSVP volunteers, Board members and staff teamed up to serve at The Giving Field. Those who came out helped to loosen soil, seed/plant beets, snap peas, turnips, cut kale, weigh citrus, feed chickens and weed the garden! WHEW! All produce is donated to area soup kitchens - Some Other Place & Hospitality Center, plus the Market to Hope food pantry! GO TEAM RSVP!!!

A huge THANK YOU to all who joined us in making this particular “Team RSVP Day” a great success! Mary Nixon, Donald Nixon, Robyn Long, Milton Rabb, Rebekah Klauss, Sandra Davis, Linda Funchess, Zach Stiles - we really appreciate you all giving your time to help such an amazing project!

For our next “Team RSVP Day”, we plan to serve at the Nutrition & Services for Seniors Community Garden. Date and time to be determined. If you would like to serve your community in a new & fun way - come volunteer on “Team RSVP Day!” Please call Penny Pearson at (409) 924-3382 and we will notify you when we have a date scheduled for the project.



REMEMBER TO INVITE A FRIEND!



GOLDEN TRIANGLE RSVP NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!



Recruit One Person for RSVP!

We are requesting the help of our current volunteers. Our RSVP volunteer numbers are down due to the pandemic. Our partner volunteer sites need volunteers. RSVP members are our GREATEST and MOST VALUABLE resource for volunteer recruitment and ongoing program success! **We are asking each of our RSVP volunteers to recruit one person - just ONE person - for RSVP.**

Do you know someone 55 years or older who might be interested in volunteering just 1 hour of their time once a month or even just twice a year? Take a moment to consider your family, friends, acquaintances, fellow church members, club members, etc. We know there are older adults out there who would love to connect and engage with their community by serving others in need, if they only knew where to go to start. **Golden Triangle RSVP is their one stop shop for finding their volunteer opportunity match!**

For the volunteer that goes above and beyond a single recruit, it is our pleasure to announce a new award that will be given to the **Top RSVP Volunteer Recruiter** at the Annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. **The RSVP volunteer with the most RSVP recruits for the year will receive at least \$100 in gift cards for shopping, gas or groceries!** In addition, the winner will receive an award certificate and recognition for their recruitment success and valued support of Golden Triangle RSVP at the Annual RSVP Volunteer Luncheon!

Please direct people who want to know more about us or are interested in signing up with RSVP to call Penny Pearson at 409.924.3382. THANK YOU!



GOLDEN TRIANGLE RSVP

50TH ANNIVERSARY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

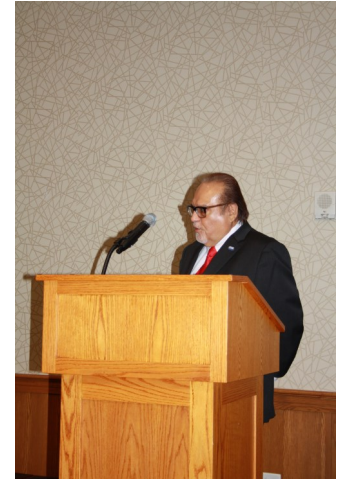
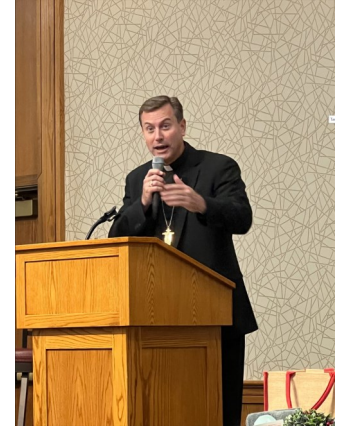


In 2022, Golden Triangle RSVP celebrated its 50th year in operation. On Friday, November 4th, the Golden Triangle RSVP held its 50th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon where RSVP volunteers were recognized and rewarded for their service. The event was a great success and enjoyed by all!

Mary Nixon, RSVP Advisory Council Chairperson, kicked off the Luncheon with welcome remarks and Dr. Thomas Noyola, RSVP Councilmember, was our enthusiastic & energetic Master of Ceremonies! City Councilman Randy Feldschau gave the Keynote Address providing timely and much needed encouragement to all the volunteers since the onset of the pandemic. Even Bishop David Toups, himself, arrived to give his blessing over the food and fellowship!



And finally, Britt Godwin was kind enough to provide awesome entertainment for all with song performances from various genres. A huge THANK YOU to all who made this banquet so special!!!



GOLDEN TRIANGLE RSVP 50TH ANNIVERSARY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON



SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION
GOLDEN TRIANGLE RSVP
2210 EASTEX FREEWAY
BEAUMONT, TX 77703

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Did You Know?

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TRIANGLE RSVP.

THANK YOU!

A Word From The Director

Join **AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP** and
bring out the best of America

Golden Triangle RSVP pairs hundreds of
Texas volunteers aged 55 and older with
organizations making positive impact in
communities across Southeast Texas.

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who serve in
our RSVP program choose how, where, and
when they want to serve, with commitments
ranging from a couple hours per month to 40
hours per week. You can find an opportunity
with any of the organizations we partner with
that see service as a solution to local, regional,
and national challenges. AmeriCorps
Seniors volunteers themselves report better
health and longevity having served their
community.