

Date:

Name:

Address:

Cite, State Zip:

To whom it may concern:

I would like to share with you vital information regarding the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

RSVP is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55 and over. RSVP helps to link volunteers with nonprofit agencies where their time, interest, talents, and experience are most effectively utilized to meet important community needs. At a time when the number of older Americans is growing by 10,000 a day, RSVP is poised to provide nonprofits nationwide with support and resources they could otherwise never hope to receive. **On behalf of VANTAGE RSVP, I urge you to reject proposals to cut or eliminate funding for this vital service and ask you to consider investing in RSVP.**

A report from the Corporation for National & Community Service states the following:

“Over the past two decades we have seen a growing body of research that indicates volunteering provides individual health benefits in addition to social benefits. This research has established a strong relationship between volunteering and health: those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer. Comparisons of the health benefits of volunteering for different age groups have also shown that *older volunteers are the most likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering*, whether because they are more likely to face higher incidence of illness or because volunteering provides them with physical and social activity and a sense of purpose at a time when their social roles are changing. These findings are particularly relevant today as Baby Boomers reach the age typically associated with retirement. Based on U.S. Census data, the numbers of volunteers age 65 and older should increase 50 percent over the next 13 years, from just under 9 million in 2007 to more than 13 million in 2020. What’s more, that number can be expected to rise for many years to come, as the youngest Baby Boomers will not reach age 65 until 2029.”

As a personal advocate for VANTAGE RSVP, I have witnessed first-hand the impact of this program on my community. There are dozens of volunteer opportunities throughout Summit and Medina Counties, and they are all designed to mutually benefit the volunteers and the nonprofit sites. From distributing food at the Green Good Neighbors food pantry, educating children about nutrition with YMCA CATCH, and even providing a few minutes of conversation to prevent isolation with its signature Telecare program, RSVP is making a positive, measurable impact on its community. In 2018 alone, 321 volunteers from VANTAGE RSVP donated more than 13,400 hours of community service to nonprofits.

It is my hope that after reading this information, you will join me in advocating for RSVP and efforts to fund to it. Your support of RSVP means support for our nation’s most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,