

Texoma Senior Corps celebrates Retired Senior and Volunteer Program volunteers

SHERMAN, April 21, 2016– Dr. Susan Thomas, Executive Director of Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG), commended the Texoma Senior Corps for hosting a recognition event honoring the Texoma Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers of Cooke, Fannin and Grayson counties on April 21, 2016.

RSVP volunteers attended the Annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Banquet held at the Municipal Ballroom in Sherman Texas. While enjoying a picnic theme lunch and listening to great music, volunteers were recognized for their service this past year. Nancy Jackson, Director of Community Development for Home Hospice, was the keynote speaker who provided encouraging words for all the volunteers. Former Denison Mayor and current TCOG Staff-Board Liaison, Ret Col. Bill Lindsey recognized Texoma veterans who are active RSVP volunteers by presenting each one with a service pin of appreciation. TCOG Deputy Director Dr. Randy McBroom presented the Spirit of Service awards to Bob Cheairs, Fannin County, Bruce Bernstein, Cooke County, and Laurie Tillery, Grayson County. The Spirit of Service recipients are nominated by the volunteers of each county, and are recognized for their dedication and spirit of service. Dr. McBroom also presented the Lifetime Achievement awards to volunteers who reach 4000 hours of Service. RSVP Advisory Council members assisted with the Milestone service awards presentations.

Dr. Thomas said, “Our community is very fortunate to have seniors who continue to give of themselves through their time and effort to help support our community programs. It is a privilege to recognize and honor their service.”

The RSVP currently consists of approximately 620 volunteers and 73 volunteer host stations which include crisis centers, hospitals, food pantries, meal deliveries, and other community facilities throughout the tri-county area. Texoma RSVP volunteers apply their skills and wisdom they’ve acquired throughout their lives to help make a positive difference in the lives of others. Volunteers have the flexibility of choosing short or long term projects for as long as they are able to serve. Texoma Senior Corps programs benefit the community, the organization, and the volunteer which creates a win-win experience for all involved.

The RSVP was established in 1971 and became active in Texoma in 1987. Texoma residents age 55 and older, with a heart to serve who meet certain income level requirements, are able to pass a physical and criminal background check, and can commit to a minimum of one hour per month are invited to join the program.

The Texoma Council of Governments is a voluntary association of the local governments in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties. Established in 1968, the Texoma Council of Governments promotes economy and efficiency in the coordinated planning and development of the tri-county region through its community and economic development activities. Either directly, or through contractors, the Council provides housing, utility assistance, and weatherization services for low-income citizens in the region and assists the elderly through a variety of Area Agency on Aging programs. The Council also facilitates the delivery of grant funding for homeland security and criminal justice.

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