

Texoma Senior Corps celebrates Retired Senior and Volunteer Program volunteers

SHERMAN, MAY 3 – Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) yesterday held its annual recognition banquet to honor the Texoma Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers of Cooke, Fannin and Grayson counties. In 2018 alone, RSVP volunteers contributed 93,919 hours of service within the region and were treated to a catered lunch with music provided by Larry Massey.

Eric M. Bridges, Executive Director of TCOG, formally commended the efforts of volunteers and provided encouraging words for all attendees regarding the importance of volunteerism.

“Our communities are very fortunate to have seniors who continue to give of themselves through their time and effort to help support our community outreach programs,” remarked Bridges. “Their commitment to serve others is priceless.”

Senior volunteers apply their skills and the wisdom they have 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 – creating a win-win experience for everyone involved.

During the meal, TCOG staff recognized volunteers for their service over the past year. Spirit of Service awards were presented by each county’s RSVP Advisory Council chair. The award recipients were nominated for their dedication and contributions and included Clenton and Pat Streeter in Cooke County, Tillman Boyd in Fannin County, and Patricia Jennings in Grayson County. Additionally, three volunteers received Lifetime Achievement Awards for having reached over 4,000 hours of volunteer service through the program. These recipients included Frank Stewart, Gerald Pelton and Judith Hughes.

The RSVP was established nationally in 1971 and became active in Texoma in 1987. Texoma RSVP currently consists of 622 volunteers and 58 volunteer host stations including crisis centers, hospitals, food pantries, meal deliveries, and other community facilities throughout the Texoma region.

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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