

Program volunteer finds benefit from her service

By E.I. Hillin Phoenix Staff Writer | Posted: Friday, August 8, 2014 12:24 am

Marilyn Brown said helping others not only improves life, but also prolongs it.

“Volunteering helps you live longer, I think,” Brown said. “It keeps me young and keeps me in contact with what’s going on.”

Brown has volunteered with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program in Muskogee for almost 10 years.

Samantha Cook, RSVP program coordinator, said the program’s goal is to help improve the lives of individuals in the community.

The program is seeking volunteers ages 55 and older who live within Muskogee, Cherokee, Sequoyah, or McIntosh counties.

RSVP provides volunteers for more than 50 nonprofit organizations in the area. The type of volunteer work varies from filing paperwork and labeling envelopes to helping set up for events and banquets.

Andreka Pace, program coordinator, said one need they have in particular is providing senior transportation and companionship.

“We are in need of RSVP transportation drivers especially,” she said.

Drivers will transport seniors to and from their doctor appointments, prescribed treatments and therapy, and to the pharmacy.

The requirements for being a volunteer driver include having a valid driver’s license, a working vehicle and car insurance, and passing a background check. Drivers are reimbursed for mileage.

After retirement Brown had extra time to give, and a friend who was a RSVP volunteer suggested she join.

“All my kids are grown and I just have time and I can fill it how I want,” Brown said.

Brown said she worked at the tourist information center for the first five to six years of her volunteer



10-year volunteer

Marilyn Brown, 68, labels envelopes at the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program Muskogee office at Country Club and Chandler roads. Brown said she had made lasting friendships during her almost 10 years of service.

career. She also helps the United Way, Salvation Army, and Oklahoma Blood Institute.

Cook said Brown is one of the most dependable RSVP volunteers. Brown said she would expect the same dedication if she needed help.

“If I need some assistance, I think that someone will help me,” Brown said. “I hope they will.”

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