FROM: Marie Brinkmeyer, Project Director

SUBJECT: RSVP Involvement Opportunities
Put your life experience to work with RSVP. Join with many other seniors, age 55 and over, who are taking time to improve the lives of others. RSVP can match your talents and interests with community needs. Call 544-8740 and offer your services.

The RSVP office is accepting applications to serve on the Board of Directors for this very important senior organization. Those with prior grant writing experience would be most welcome; RSVP is also looking for individuals with fund-raising expertise. These needs are critical and on-going.

SLO Countywide Opportunities
Have fun volunteering at special events and fundraisers throughout the county!! Many, many opportunities exist that need to be filled. Volunteers assist with registration, serving, helping set-up and breakdown, etc. This is a great way to contribute to community service, without a long-term commitment. Please call the RSVP office, 544-8740, to sign up for our on-call list.

The American Red Cross and the SLO County Public Health Department have volunteer opportunities available for healthcare professionals to join the SLO Medical Reserve Corp (SLOMRC), a group trained to respond and assist the local emergency responders and public health professionals to fulfill crucial staff needs in large-scale emergencies. Licensed or certified MDs, RNs, LVNs, EMTs are among those who are needed.

The Braille Institute currently needs drivers for those clients who can no longer drive themselves. This need exists throughout San Luis Obispo County.

Caring Callers, a warm and caring visiting service for seniors, is in need of volunteer visitors in various locations throughout the county. The commitment is one visit per week to the “senior friend” to whom you are assigned. Please consider this program as a rewarding way to help reach out to our frail, homebound elderly community.
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) once again seeks volunteers to mentor children in need. Volunteers become sworn officers of the juvenile court and generally spend 3 hours each week volunteering. Visit www.slocasa.org for more information.

Coalition for Low Income Housing, a newly-formed non-profit to assist low-income families, seeks volunteers with parenting skills to mentor homeless children. Help families fill out applications, make sure they keep appointments, get children into after-school homework assistance programs – basically teach these families how to use the social service programs that are available to them.

Community Counseling Centers, with offices in San Luis Obispo, Atascadero and South County, seeks licensed MFTs, LCSWS and psychologists willing to volunteer their services to agency clients, as they are able. Times are flexible. Therapists provide their own professional liability insurance

The Literacy Council for San Luis Obispo County has an ongoing and urgent need for volunteer tutors throughout the county. Free 2-part training workshops are held periodically at the Literacy Council’s office in SLO.

Senior Nutrition Program has an urgent, ongoing need for drivers, both regular and substitute, at locations throughout the county. Sites in special need presently are San Luis Obispo, Oceano and Nipomo. Please consider helping with this vital service to the frail, housebound elderly. Other tasks are also available; needs vary from site to site.

Now is the time to sign up to be a United Way 2011 VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Volunteer. Receive free instruction and all training and certification materials necessary to prepare basic income tax returns. Training and certification can be done in class or online.

The YMCA has volunteer opportunities available throughout San Luis Obispo county. Don’t forget this valuable community resource when looking for somewhere to spend a few hours a week.

Central County Opportunities
The Cayucos Senior Center is looking for volunteers to greet visitors to the Gift Shop, handle sales, stock shelves, etc. Must be a “people person.”

Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum needs docents to guide visitors through the museum and answer their questions. Training is provided. Need not be a vet to qualify; just an interest in history will suffice. This is an urgent need. Please help.

Coast Caregiver Resource Center is looking for someone (retired teacher or speech or occupational therapist) to tutor a 55 year-old, brain-injured man to re-learn/identify numbers, letters and colors. Is there anyone out there who can help?

Community Action Partnership (CAP) has a real need for a volunteer to work at Martha’s Place Children’s Assessment Center in San Luis Obispo. Tasks include various front office duties, including filing, light computer work and answering the telephone and providing child care while parents are meeting with therapists. The center is open M-F from 9am to 5pm.
Community Health Centers Specialty Clinics needs volunteer assistance with phoning patients to remind them of appointments, filing, faxing and data entry. Computer experience is helpful.

County Medical Services Program seeks volunteer assistance in busy office location. Answer phones, learn about and advise clients regarding medical options, handle multiple office duties; dependable people-person, computer knowledge desirable.

Del Mar Elementary School (SLCUSD) needs volunteers for their “after school program” to assist students grades K-6 with homework, etc.; many of these students fall below the poverty level; other schools within this District also need help; some training available.

Family Care Network has an ongoing need for volunteers to serve as mentors and assist with events and other tasks.

The Food Bank needs strong, able-bodied volunteers to help at the Morro Bay Farmers Market on Thursdays from 4-5pm. Distribute boxes to vendors, then pick them up after 5 and give to drivers. This is an on-going volunteer opportunity.

Garden House in Morro Bay would like volunteers who enjoy interacting with the elderly. Assist with craft projects, play games, etc. Can be a fun, rewarding experience. Try it and see!

Grizzly Youth Academy seeks role model/tutor volunteers to interact with Cadets and assist them with their studies. Orientation/fingerprinting at Academy – no cost to volunteer.

Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers for its build of 2 family homes on Phillips Lane; construction days are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday through February, beginning immediately. Contact RSVP to sign up. Also needed are volunteers to staff the ReStore outlets located in San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles.

If you are a cat lover, here’s a fun opportunity you won’t be able to resist!! The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) urgently needs volunteers to tend to their kitties (6 – 8) who are housed at the Pet Smart store in the Costco Shopping Center in San Luis Obispo. Pick your day of the week, anytime during store hours. Tasks include cleaning litter boxes, making sure food and water bowls are replenished and socializing with the “gang”. Takes about half an hour, but you can stay as long as you like! Hurry and sign up!!

History Center of SLO County is looking for history buffs to greet public, answer questions about museum and exhibits, and help in gift shop; volunteers usually work in pairs; learn as you go; flexible hours.

Hospice Partners needs volunteers to review patient records, conduct phone surveys, help with mailings, assemble packets for new patients – the list goes on and on. Perhaps you could find your niche here; your efforts would be greatly appreciated.

Hospice of San Luis Obispo County is looking for volunteers to assist in the office a couple hours a day, welcoming clients, answering phones and “other” tasks, as needed.

The Jack House in downtown San Luis Obispo needs volunteer docents to lead tours of this beautiful Victorian home. Must be able to climb stairs.

Morro Bay Senior Center needs volunteers to assist in the office; answer phones, greet visitors, handle money, filing and other office tasks, as needed. Must be neat and friendly. Shifts vary.
Morro Coast Audubon Society offers many volunteer opportunities at the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos. Both one-time and on-going opportunities exist. Help is needed on the 2nd Saturday of every month weeding, watering, planting, etc., etc. MCAS is also searching for a Fund Development Chair to complete its Board of Directors. This volunteer would be primarily responsible for all fundraising and “Bright Ideas” for the organization.

The Museum of Natural History at Morro Bay State Parks has many volunteer opportunities available, among them greeting visitors at the front and back desks, handling sales in the museum store, leading nature hikes for both the general public and groups of school children, leading walks and talks about local Native American history and beliefs; talks and retail sales at the Monarch Butterfly Grove (seasonal).

A new low-cost medical clinic for the uninsured/underinsured, SLO NOOR FOUNDATION, seeks volunteers for answering phones, charting, scheduling and cleaning and maintenance. Prior medical experience would be helpful.

One Cool Earth has many volunteer opportunities for the “green thumb” – planting, watering, weeding; need is on-going; sites and times vary.

Pacific Wildlife Care is looking for volunteers to work in half-day shifts and monitor incoming calls to their wildlife “hot line”. Volunteers will be trained to work from home while handling calls regarding the rescue/rehabilitation of local wildlife and referring them to the appropriate resource(s); training provided; volunteers should be resourceful, possess good phone skills and have some computer skills.

The Salvation Army in San Luis Obispo has an urgent need for an Intake Assistant two to three days a week. Some lifting is required.

SLO County Recorder’s Office is in need of several volunteers to perform civil marriage ceremonies to meet requirements under state law; must be able to put aside any religious, counseling or personal views; 1 ½ hours per day on Fridays or as needed to fill scheduled staff vacancies; bilingual preferred.

Diligent, reliable individuals are needed as greeters at the San Luis Obispo County Airport and the Amtrak Station. These are both fun places for anyone who loves people and knows the area. Interact with visitors by directing them to facilities, services, lodging, transportation, events, etc. Volunteers should be courteous, patient, with a calm, caring demeanor; some training provided.

San Luis Obispo Senior Center has an urgent need for volunteers on Thursday afternoons from 1-4:30pm. Also needed are Ambassadors to approach local grocers to request donations of past-date bread and bakery items to be picked up on a regular, weekly basis for distribution to seniors in need. Can you help with this ongoing project?

Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center Volunteer Auxiliary has several volunteer opportunities including Front Desk Reception and Gift Shop positions. Please call for specific days and times.

SLOBUNS seeks volunteers to help show bunnies for adoption at pet stores and WalMart. Must love animals, not be allergic to rabbits and enjoy talking with people.
United Voluntary Services Thrift Shop seeks volunteers to help with sorting and pricing merchandise and to clerk in the shop.

Women’s Community Center has a variety of volunteer needs to match anyone’s talents – must be warm, sympathetic and friendly. Answer phones, manage the office, be a court observer, help with the Women’s Press, organize and plan special events; also need Board members.

North County Volunteer Opportunities

The Atascadero Police Department is looking for helpful, community-minded volunteers to help with a variety of duties in the office as well as in the field. Must complete city application and background check prior to service.

Camp Roberts Historical Museum seeks volunteers for a variety of tasks, ranging from museum docent to mechanic, and including general handyperson and gardening duties. Shifts are available on Thursdays and Saturdays; call RSVP at 544-8740 for details.

Coast Caregiver Resource Center needs someone to assist the Family Consultant with a Support Group for persons with Huntington’s Disease. The group meets in the rural Templeton area. Preferred would be a person with a degree in the human services area. Can be a very rewarding opportunity for the person who is willing to learn.

Community Action Partnership’s Adult Day Services in Templeton needs volunteers to interact and visit with program participants. Must be patient and enjoy working with older adults who suffer from Alzheimer’s/dementia.

ECHO, the family homeless shelter in Atascadero, is looking for adult volunteers to meet and greet guests every night from 5-7pm; also need pairs of volunteers to serve as site monitors and stay the night from 7pm-7am to accommodate overnight guests. All guests are carefully screened, so this is a safe shelter.

Estrella Warbird Museum has volunteer opportunities for both docents and gift shop helpers. Call for details of tasks and responsibilities. An interest in people and history is helpful.

The Food Bank USDA distribution site at the Villa Paseo Senior Apts. in Paso Robles needs volunteer helpers on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am for 3 – 4 hours. Duties include sorting, packing, assisting clients with carrying bags, setting up, cleaning and breaking down site. Some lifting required.

Friends of the Rios-Caledonia Adobe, located in San Miguel, needs docents to greet visitors and offer information regarding history of the Adobe and grounds; some cleaning and maintenance chores, too.

Habitat for Humanity seeks volunteers to work in its ReStore North in Paso Robles. Is this your calling?

The North County Humane Society, a non-profit, no-kill cat shelter located in Atascadero, needs volunteer help answering phones, greeting and assisting visitors, socializing cats, assisting with outreach events and fundraising activities. Are you a cat lover? This might just be the spot for you!!
The Paso Robles City Library is currently recruiting volunteers for three important areas of their excellent library service. Volunteers are needed at various times to: Assist with the processing of materials; assist in the Children’s Library and at the Circulation Desk. Whether you’re the “up front and personal” or “behind the scenes” kind, fun and challenging opportunities await you at the Paso Robles Library. A few hours of your time and talent one day a week will give you the chance to meet new people and develop new skills.

The Paso Robles Police Department Community Volunteer Police Patrol is seeking new members. In addition to serving the community, members learn exactly how the Police Department operates and why things are done in certain ways. Duties include, but are not limited to, city patrol, traffic control, special events, business checks and home vacation checks. Volunteers must pass a background check and are required to complete a training course. CVPP members can work as often as they like, any time, day or night, seven days a week. Patrols are set to accommodate member’s schedules.

Peoples’Self-Help Housing Center, located in Paso Robles, has need for volunteers to read to and listen to students read from 3 to 4:30 Monday through Thursday weekly. Must have patience and enjoy children.

Pioneer Museum can always use docents to lead tours; other volunteer opportunities also exist.

The Wellness Community, located in Paso Robles, is looking for volunteers to represent the organization at various community outreach events. Must be comfortable meeting and talking with people and possess the stamina to transport and set up materials such as brochures, displays, etc. and spend 2 – 4 hours at each event.

South County Opportunities
The American Cancer Society, with offices in Arroyo Grande, welcomes volunteers for various positions. There are both short-term and ongoing opportunities available.

Amity House Adult Day Center would like volunteers who enjoy interacting with the elderly. Assist with craft projects, play games, etc. Can be a fun, rewarding experience. Try it and see!

Aspiranet, with offices in Grover Beach, has a volunteer opportunity for an Office Assistant; duties would include filing, answering phones, etc. for several hours a week. Your help would be invaluable and greatly appreciated. Also needed are tutors/mentors to work with families who wish to become foster parents.

California Welcome Center has volunteer openings for 2-6pm on Friday and Saturday and Sundays 10am-2pm.

Captive Hearts Recovery seeks compassionate people-person to greet at the front desk, answer phone, receive donations, etc.; some computer skills helpful

Clark Center Association is looking for new volunteers “to greet and seat” (usher) during their season performances. Should be able to stand for 45 minutes at a time and be able to walk up stairs; friendly and like people. Attend “new” volunteer class before starting and then annually thereafter. Volunteers are required to pay $25 annual association dues.
The Dana Adobe in Nipomo needs volunteers for a variety of positions, ranging from grant writing support to cleaning, building and moving things around the property. If you have an interest in local history and live in the area, please consider this site to give your volunteer time.

The Exploration Station in Grover Beach needs volunteers for its new Children’s Interactive Science Center. Must pass background check, enjoy children and be mobile. Training, including cashiering skills, will be provided. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday times available.

GenSpan has sites in elementary schools in Nipomo that need tutors; one hour per week can make a major difference in the life of a child.

Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce is looking for a volunteer with clerical and phone skills to help in the office, greet visitors, etc. Some computer knowledge would be helpful.

Grover Beach Police Department is looking for community-minded volunteers to help with a variety of office tasks, as well as in the field. Must complete city application and background check prior to service.

Lisa Ray’s Donation Group, a newly formed non-profit, needs volunteers to help sort and fold children’s clothing for distribution to needy children in the area. The group meets in Pismo Beach.

The Nipomo Food Basket is looking for volunteers to help with food distribution; must be able to lift small boxes; no special skills required; on-the-job training provided.

Nipomo Native Garden seeks volunteers for their regular workday the first Saturday of every month to do garden maintenance and cleanup; no experience necessary. Also needed is someone to help design a children’s education program and additional Board members.

The Pismo Beach Chamber of Commerce needs cheerful, out-going volunteers to greet visitors, answer phones and questions and handle miscellaneous front office duties.

The South County Historical Society, with six museums in the Arroyo Grande area, is always in need of willing volunteers. Be a docent, help with special events, serve on one of many committees, etc. – lots of opportunities await you; training provided.

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