

RSVP

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program



On the peninsula



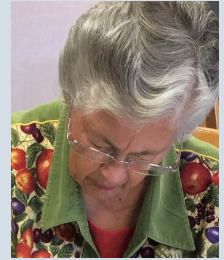
OlyCAP Helping People- Changing Lives

August 2020

Clallam & Jefferson Counties

Our Volunteers Impact their Communities:

Esther Alward, is a valued member of our Port Angeles volunteer team. Like many of our volunteers, she stays mostly at home these days with many of her usual activities are on pause. She is not fazed by pandemic restrictions and finds much to keep her busy both in her home and garden.



Esther Alward

At 81, Esther has spent most of her life in this area. She grew up in the home built by her grandfather which is now the Wild Bird Store in Gardiner. She graduated in Port Townsend and became a member of the first Nursing class to graduate from Peninsula College. Along the way she found time to marry and raise three boys. She spent 24 years in nursing eventually moving to Port Angeles. There she went back to school obtaining a degree in Social Work and embarked on another 24 year career with Child Protective Services. Esther is also a very skilled quilter and is qualified as a national instructor and judge. She has had opportunity to travel extensively to quilting events and competitions around the U.S. During this period of shutdown, she drew on these skills and began to make masks for friends and family. When asked where her materials came from, she chuckled, "Well, I have three rooms full of material here at home!" She often personalizes masks with material or details that she hopes will bring a smile to folks, "It's just these little things, that help us smile, and keep us connected during times like these."

Recently, Esther completed 124 masks, and donated them to First Responders in Port Angeles. She says it was just a small gesture of thanks for all the help and support they gave to her during the last two years of her late husband's life. She was married to Don Alward for 37 years. He passed away about a year ago and she is forever grateful for the kindness of EMTs from the fire department who supported her during the difficult time of caretaking. The masks are just a small expression of gratitude for everything they do every single day.



Focus on...

Covid-19 Emergency Response from OlyCAP volunteers March 17 through June 30th:

- **186 RSVP Volunteers earned a total of 11,041 hours of service and 45 NOVC Volunteers responded with 5,475 hours** as they continued to work at assigned duty stations helping people to receive food boxes and meals
- Wellness checks were made through **89** phone calls
- **7,958 people** received emergency distribution of food and/or meals and hygiene supplies
- **10,807** meals were served through volunteer efforts
- **12 RSVP Volunteer Placement Sites** supported food distribution and other services to community members
- **49** Customers received commodity boxes, hygiene supplies, and were referred to prescription services, tax preparation and prescription delivery.



**Jane Covella-
RSVP Program Manager**

Dear Volunteers:
Our program has done remarkably good work despite huge hurdles- thanks to all of you!

From March 17th through the present our non-profit agency OlyCAP offices have been closed because of the health crisis posed by the Covid-19 infection rate. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the North Olympic Program Volunteers (NOVC) have continued to do their job throughout high demand for services, obstacles to personal safety with service to clients, and telecommunicating barriers. Of our total volunteers (405) 270 still active volunteers continue to serve fellow citizens and local communities while observing safety protocols.

I am proud of each individual volunteer who has proved that we can make a difference to people in need when they are socially isolated, baffled by how to access changing resources, and supporting families who needed food but had trouble accessing resources due to health and transportation issues. ***Please read the following comments from your fellow volunteers:***

“Normally, I would be tutoring in the local elementary schools during the academic year and volunteering at the Dungeness Spit Wildlife Refuge during the summer. COVID has cancelled those options however. Fortunately, I was able to shift to new activities by delivering meals to shut-ins in Sequim on Thursday mornings. I have found this most gratifying as the seniors are most appreciative of the service. My mother always made sure that I promptly sent a note of thanks for every gift I received, so writing thank-you notes to many of the generous donors to the COVID relief fund was second nature to me.” ***Mike Barton with SNP- Home Delivered Meals Driver***

‘Volunteering with RSVP & OlyCAP is so rewarding. In these dark times, it is wonderful to see the appreciation on the faces of the people who greet us so warmly when we deliver food to them. It is also truly touching to witness the generosity of so many people in our community who donated to the COVID-19 Relief Fund.’ ***Terri Toennesen with SNP- Home Delivered Meals Driver***



“The individuals and families who received food during an unpredictable time were very grateful.

I was glad to be a part of a process to help keep their lives as stable as possible.”

***Patrick Kane with SNP-
Home Delivered Meals Driver***

“I was glad when OlyCAP gave me an opportunity to help directly in my community during this COVID -19 pandemic. It was easy and rewarding for me to mask up, drive through the Sequim Food Bank line and deliver to the doorstep a supply of food for a family in need. I never saw the family but do know I helped and they were thankful.” ***Liam Antrim with Volunteer Services Program***

“On a gloomy, rainy day in April, I had the opportunity to deliver groceries to an OlyCAP client. The client and I smiled at each other over our masks and shared a conversation from a safe distance. I left with a lightened spirit, reflecting on the joy of even the briefest of encounters. These connections are so important during this time of anxiety and forced isolation!”

Phyllis Barnes with Volunteer Services Program

So much has happened since our last newsletter! In March, just before the Covid shut-down, we were able to celebrate the efforts of our volunteers with our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. The event was held at the Sequim Prairie Grange. We were fortunate to have a special presentation from Chris Barton, a member of the local Master Gardener's group in Sequim. We were happy to see all those who made the trip to be with us that day. We understand that many felt they couldn't attend due to the developing pandemic and we fully understand those concerns. I hope everyone knows how special your volunteer efforts are to those of us you work with, as well as to those in the community you serve. Thank you for EVERYTHING you do!



Becky Acevedo
RSVP Volunteer Coordinator

**Join us at these
open RSVP Sites:**

- **ECHHO**
- **Food Banks:**
**Brinnon, Quilcene, Tri-Area,
Port Townsend, &
Port Angeles**
- **OlyCAP Emergency Services**
- **Senior Nutrition:**
**Tri Area & Port Angeles, &
Brinnon**
- **Vet Connect**
- **Volunteer Services**

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**Welcome to Phyllis Barnes our newest
serving RSVP Advisory Board Member:**

I recently retired from a 20 career in healthcare administration. It is wonderful to finally move to Port Townsend permanently after several years of traveling from Seattle for weekends and vacations. I was seeking a way to give back to my new community and took a look at many great local organizations, and was impressed with the scope and mission of Olycap: both in the number of programs it supports, and the wide range of volunteer opportunities it affords. During my many years in Seattle, I was privileged to be a high school teacher of history and language arts, and had the opportunity to work as a volunteer in many different settings, including as a GED tutor, and at First Place- Seattle's school for homeless children. It is my hope that these past experiences have helped prepare me to contribute something of value to Olycap, the RSVP Advisory Board, and to communities nurturing all of us.





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THANK
YOU FOR YOUR
VOLUNTEER
SERVICE!



Quilcene Food Bank Volunteer-

Tommy passed away his serving fellow community members on July 23rd. In a recent tribute co-workers gave President's Volunteer Service Award pins to family members who were present and observing functions at the food bank on Wednesday, July 29th.