



AmeriCorps Seniors

On the peninsula

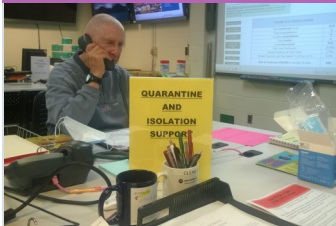


December 2020

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

OlyCAP Helping People- Changing Lives

Clallam & Jefferson Counties



Dave Shargel

New Volunteer Site Opens- Clallam County Office of Emergency Management Center (CCEOC) in Port Angeles:

has three new volunteers to answer the Covid-19 Hotline.

RSVP volunteers began supporting the sheriff's office with these endeavors during Thanksgiving week. They will answer the Covid-19 emergency support phone line to provide support referrals for individuals and family members who have been diagnosed with corona virus or have been exposed to someone testing positive for the virus. Each volunteer works 2-4

hours shifts each week day answering questions about how Covid-19 isolated or quarantined people can receive support services such as: help with shopping, picking up prescriptions, or getting laundry done. This is especially helpful for folks who do not have family or friends nearby or live in multiple dwelling environments such as apartments or independent senior living facilities.

When families or individuals suddenly hear that they must isolate to protect other people in the community, it can be quite a change in how they live their life for those two weeks. Appointments must be cancelled or accomplished virtually, pantries and refrigerators may need to be stocked, children will have to participate in on-line classes only, the sick dog or cat cannot be taken to the vet or be taken for a walk around the neighborhood- everything just stops abruptly. *Article continued - page 2



Focus on...

Recruiting Additional RSVP Volunteers

Urgent Current Needs:

Port Angeles Senior Nutrition - On-call substitute home-delivered meals drivers: Thursdays 9:30-noon (end time may vary).

Volunteer Services - Volunteer drivers to transport clients. Support of household tasks, yardwork, constructing grab bars and wheelchair ramps for low-income clients (schedule varies).

Clallam County Office of Emergency Management Center (CCEOC) - Volunteers to answer Covid-19 Hotline providing resource assistance: Tuesdays &/or Thursdays 9:00 - 4:30).

Tri Area Senior Nutrition - Volunteer drivers for the **Port Hadlock/Chimacum/Port Ludlow** area: Two Tuesdays per month 9:30-noon (end time may vary).

Quilcene Food Bank- Volunteers for two-hour outside food distribution shifts.



**Jane Covella-
RSVP Program Manager**

Such an amazing amount of work has been accomplished from January to November. ***In total: 62,596 hours of service donated by 337 RSVP volunteers and 149 NOVC volunteers*** (under 55 years of age). Congratulations to all of you for an outstanding job well done during a year of uncertainty!!!

I have provided a resource link to check numbers of active cases in your county. I hope that clients and volunteers alike fully understand that they remain responsible to protect others from getting sick or forced into quarantine. Do not gather in large groups with people outside of your immediate household. Please protect our important volunteers by not accessing services if you have broken present WA State restrictions. If you are a client ask someone to pick up food for you. If you are a volunteer stay away from your jobsite for 14 days from the day you first entertained visitors in your home. This simple rule may keep us healthy and safe. Happy Holidays!

Daily Cases by County: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard#reports>

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RSVP Volunteers serve as case navigators to provide immediate answers for accomplishing important and essential errands. The list of needs for each affected family can be long and varied. These volunteers underwent a two-hour training to learn how to answer the calls. They learned what type of questions they may be asked by caregivers and families, how to record important information to prepare referral support to other community services, and in some cases to purchase necessary supplies. The valuable assistance and listening ear of each volunteer will ultimately help worried and vulnerable people learn that immediate and essential needs will be taken care of with support from volunteers and community services. This support can feel very helpful to people who are also economically-disadvantaged, disabled, elderly and isolated. Dave mentioned, "The best thing about this work is there is plenty of back-up from staff (both paid and volunteer) in the office when I need help."

Please check out the open volunteer positions on the front page of this newsletter if this volunteer position sounds enjoyable, you have good listening skills and hearing, want to help others, and can take legible notes. No computer experience is necessary for this assignment. We are asking that if you are interested in volunteering at Clallam County Emergency Office Call Center that you apply only if you can commit to at least one regular 2-hour shift for the next 4 months. This will help the call center support process to be organized, smooth, and beneficial to those receiving services from well trained volunteers!

Anne Chastain is the CCEOC site director, scheduler, and trainer for this Port Angeles volunteer station. The mostly volunteer run Office of Emergency Management center, is a friendly and safe location to apply your valuable life skills to help your community. In addition, licensed and retired nurses who have passed training requirements for contact tracing would be gratefully accepted as volunteers.

2020, what a year!

For much of my life I've heard the warnings about the possibility of a global pandemic. However, it has always seemed so far off in the future. Little did we know that the future would be now. As we close out this year, our hearts go out to many in our communities who have suffered losses. The loss of a loved one, the loss of a job or of companionship. These losses are hard, and we must continue to hold each other up.

Those of you who have stepped up during these uncertain times, we can't tell you how much you are appreciated. Whether it is volunteering at the local food bank, delivering meals to seniors, or running errands for those affected by the pandemic, you are the lifeline that so many depend on. Your time and dedication to those in your community, is deeply appreciated. Thank you!

As we come to the end of this year and look forward to 2021, we are hopeful we will get back to normal soon. With several vaccines on the horizon, it is a real possibility. In the meantime, we must stay on task. Continue to practice physical distancing, wear our masks and refrain from large social gatherings. The end of this nightmare is in sight, we just need to hang on a little longer.

Take care and stay safe,
Becky



Becky Acevedo
RSVP Volunteer Coordinator

Join us at these **AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Sites:**

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

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE



“The reason I am doing this is because I feel so very blessed and want to give back to my community!”

Holiday gift baskets created by Cathy Siegel

Cathy called OlyCAP and expressed interest in working on a project she could do safely at home. She made beautiful gift packages for 27 housing clients as special surprise gifts!