



AmeriCorps Seniors

On the peninsula



July 2021

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

OlyCAP Helping People– Building Community

Clallam & Jefferson Counties

Volunteers Perspectives:

Job Duties throughout Covid-19

In 2018, Mary Lou retired as Director of the Childcare Program at Peninsula College in Port Angeles. She began volunteering with the Port Angeles Food Bank in 2019. “I always planned on volunteering when I retired. I wanted to do something meaningful for people who need food and shelter.”

I started volunteering at the Port Angeles Food Bank on South Valley Street. I also volunteered pre-covid with the Boys & Girls Club. I really enjoy working with both adults and children. I volunteer on Thursdays, at the new location: 632 North Oakridge Drive.



Mary Lou Melly
Port Angeles Food Bank Volunteer

I didn't know about the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program when I first began volunteer work. I learned about it from Mary Patterson (another volunteer) who suggested I apply. I needed a schedule to feel involved and wanted to make life more enjoyable for others.

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Focus on...

Wanted additional RSVP Volunteers !

Urgent Current Needs:

Port Angeles Food Bank

Drivers for food pickups and food box deliveries. Stocking shelves, clean-up and food distribution. Available shifts Mondays-Saturdays.

ECHHO & Volunteer Services:

Volunteer drivers to transport elderly clients to medical and personal appointments. Volunteer needed to support yardwork and in-home chores, and construction of grab bars ramps.

Clallam County Law Library

Needs receptionists.



Jane Covella
RSVP Program Manager

Thank you for all that you have done this past year serving 18,622 people throughout the Covid pandemic!!!

Your volunteer services display the 'Best of America in action.' The value of this work to our communities was \$1,533,677.
Happy 4th of July!



Becky Acevedo
RSVP Volunteer Coordinator

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP

Sites:

- ECHHO
- Food Banks:
 - Brinnon, Quilcene, Tri-Area,
 - Port Townsend, & Port Angeles
- OlyCAP Services
- Senior Nutrition:
 - Tri Area, Port Angeles, Sequim
 - Port Townsend, & Brinnon
- School Readiness & Tutoring
- VetConnect
- Volunteer Services

Contact

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My first volunteer position consisted of checking off amounts of items people selected while shopping. During the past months I helped with the Saturday Covid Relief program. Ten people provided support for families from 10 am-1 pm. Volunteers also participated from the Skallam tribe. This group of volunteers was very gracious. Drive thru service was provided for families to pick-up food items. It is very similar to the shopping experience previously offered indoors- but is accomplished from a vehicle.

Currently, I deliver boxes with my husband and help to distribute Farm to Table veggies and fruits and other food items. Food box deliveries are done on Tuesdays and Thursdays for people who cannot drive to the food bank. Several volunteers deliver boxes to people who ordered them. More volunteers are always needed.

I love the volunteers and people I meet. I feel I have gained more from volunteerism than clients gain from my support. The endorphins while serving others is really great!!! I enjoy bringing dog biscuits for the dogs too. One dog recognizes me on these weekly jaunts and barks in greeting. This client brought thank-you notes to three of our Saturday volunteers.

The staff here are wonderful people and I enjoy working with them as well!



Doris Muir
Brinnon Food Bank Volunteer

I have volunteered for 13 years (since 2008). I am now 85. My husband Ernie started working at the Brinnon Food Bank a year before. He mentioned how much he enjoyed volunteering and motivated me to help. Now I enjoy volunteerism. It is a great way to continue a routine during retired life and to continue contributing to the community.

Things changed drastically in January 2020 with Covid-19. It was big for Ernie and me. We quit volunteering to avoid face to face contact with others. In the past, Eloise and Mike Langenbach emergency filled weekly operations for a former director. This year it became our turn to provide emergency support for operations when Mike Langenbach became disabled in February.

Ernie and I temporarily managed the food bank. Younger volunteer members also picked up a lot of slack to greet customers and handle the heavier lifting. I work in the back of the food bank to repackage food items. What I appreciate most with this volunteer position is how people wave or say hello. I like talking with them and enjoy learning what everyone is doing. I enjoy making friends. We are like one large family.

My husband also became disabled soon after we took over managerial duties. We continued to pick up food donations from QFC through the end of August. Then Ernie could no longer sit or drive. He passed away several months later.

Ernie's favorite part of volunteering was talking with volunteers and trying to achieve 10,000 to 12,000 steps per day. I feel fortunate to have volunteer team mates as friends!

OlyCAP– RSVP Program
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE



**Quilcene Food Bank Volunteers
Prep Bags and Boxes for Weekly Food Distribution**