

Volunteer Voice

FALL 2021 Newsletter for Triton College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Serving West Suburban Cook and Southern DuPage Counties

Meet Our New Director

Mario Porras is the new director for RSVP. He started October 25 and is settling into the new job.

"I am excited to be here working with such an amazing staff and devoted volunteers," Porras said. "I look forward to working with everyone to continue making RSVP successful."

Porras is new to the area. He and his family moved to IL back in May, coming from Kansas and he is still adjusting to big city life.

"This traffic is going to kill me but I love having so many things to do and places to visit, plus all of these delicious food places to try."

Although new to Triton, Porras brings a wealth of experience working in higher education and in grant programs.

He is looking forward to meeting with the volunteers and community partners. Check the last page of this newsletter for contact information for Porras and the rest of the RSVP staff. Welcome to RSVP Mario!



Travel Reimbursements

Starting now, until December 2022, there are **NO** more caps on travel reimbursements. Previously, there was a cap of \$24 but because of the pandemic, fewer volunteers have traveled and now we have enough money to reimburse all travel.



We strongly encourage everyone to begin requesting travel reimbursement so that we don't lose this money for next year. Every year, Triton's RSVP renews the grant from AmeriCorps and if we can't show that we are using this money, they will take it away.

Next year we will look at the budget and decide if we can continue to offer full reimbursement or if we need to set another cap. The goal is to never have to set a cap amount. For questions about this new policy, please contact our office.

OFFICE CLOSED

The RSVP Office will be closed for the holidays starting Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021. We will return on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. If you need anything during this time, please e-mail us at: rsvp@triton.edu



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Volunteer Opportunities



RSVP's Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program

RSVP is looking for volunteers to help individuals who are 60 and older from low- to moderate-income households prepare their tax returns. Training is free and held on five consecutive Saturdays beginning Jan. 7 from 8:30am to 3pm. Once you complete the training and pass an IRS-approved test, RSVP asks that you volunteer four to five hours, once a week, for approx. 12 weeks, at any of our seven community locations.

Cook County Sherriff's Academy STARS Program

Calling all thespians! If you have the desire to act, here's the chance you've been waiting for. Three times a year, usually in March, July and October, RSVP volunteers role play as victims for the Cook county sheriff's police academy cadets. Following an hour of training, RSVP volunteers are interviewed by several cadets who ask about the crime scenario you will be assigned. At the end of the three or four-hour event, you will receive a certificate.

RSVP Troopons

Volunteers clip manufacturers' coupons from the Sunday newspapers or magazines to be used by military personnel and their families in commissaries in other countries. Once or twice a month in the morning we hold coupon clipping parties where volunteers can cut coupons at the office. Volunteers can also clip coupons in their own homes and just drop them off at our office. We also need someone to help tally all of the coupons that are cut.

Solutions for Care (Clerical)

Assist seniors or clients with disabilities. This assignment will assist the agency with administrative duties such as gathering documents and providing general office work to better service community members. Training provided by the agency.
Skills required: customer service
Days: Tuesdays & Fridays; Hours: 9am-1pm and/or 1pm-5pm

Solutions for Care (Outreach Associate)

Promote Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) programs and assist clients on learning the agency resources. Training provided by the agency.
Skills required: customer service skills, bilingual (Spanish), general knowledge of BAA applications
Days: Mondays & Thursdays; Hours: 9am-1pm

Solutions for Care (Caregiver Resource Center Assistant)

Assist the Caregiver Specialist with outreach/promotion of the CRC within the community. Also will assist with monthly follow-up calls and mass mailings. Training provided by the agency.
Skills required: customer service and must be bilingual (English/Spanish)
Days: Thursdays & Fridays; Hours: 9am-1pm, 1pm-5pm

Housing Forward

Serves people transitioning from homelessness to housing stability. Looking for someone to staff the welcome desk, answer questions, distribute meals, and possible light cleaning. Training provided by the agency.
Skills required: friendliness
Days: Sunday-Saturday; Hours: 30+

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, call the RSVP Office at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3835

RSVP Offers Tax Assistance

RSVP is once again offering the Internal Revenue Service’s Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE); a free program for individuals age 60 and older from low- to moderate-income households.

RSVP has provided this program for more than 20 years in partnership with the IRS. Volunteer tax assistors are specially trained to help people complete their taxes. The assistance includes helping participants complete federal and state income tax forms. All tax returns are submitted electronically once completed.

Assistance will be provided at various locations throughout the week and throughout the community. **RSVP will start taking appointments on Monday, January 24, 2022.**

The first day of tax preparation will be on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. This service will be offered through April 13, 2022.



Locations include:

- Triton College
- Elmwood Park Public Library (a new location this year)
- Eisenhower Public Library (Harwood Heights)
- Melrose Park Public Library
- Proviso Township Office
- Seniors Assistance Center (Norridge)
- Leyden Township Westdale Park District

To schedule an appointment or get more information, call the **RSVP Office tax line at (708) 456-0300, ext. 3895**, Mondays through Fridays, 9am to 3pm.

Recognition Event



Every year RSVP hosts a recognition event to thank our volunteers and community partners. Last year we did not have one because of the pandemic and this year we are still adjusting to a new way of living in a pandemic. But don't worry, we do plan on having some type of recognition for our volunteers sometime next May 2022. We're not sure yet what that will look like; it could be a traditional dinner or it might have to be several smaller celebratory events to

keep the crowds minimal. Our new director is working hard with Triton College administration to work out the details. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page and for an e-mail/flyer by mail, sometime in January to get the update.

*From everyone at Triton College and RSVP,
thank you for your contribution to our community.
Happy Holidays!*





Happy December, January, February Birthdays!

Happy birthday to the following RSVP volunteers who are celebrating another year younger:

ADY KAPLAN
 ALBERT J. IAMMARTINO
 ALEXANDRE DE JESUS
 ANNABEL REHLING-KING
 BARBARA BARTT
 BARBARA GARNER
 BARBARA GIANFRANCESCO
 BARBARA HUNT
 BARBARA TAYLOR
 CARL LITURE
 CAROL PESCE
 CAROLE A. BORG
 CECILIA VOGT
 CHRISTINE MAGGIO
 CONNIE HEALY
 CONNIE LILLY
 DANIEL GULICK
 DANIEL MADDEN
 DAVID SCHWEITZER
 DENISE TORIANI
 DIANE GRECO
 EDITH CONSTIEN
 EMIR HADZIC
 EUGENE PILTAVER
 GLORIA HENDERSON

JACOB SHUBAT
 JAIME SOLIS
 JAMES ASHBY
 JAMES P. OREILLY
 JAMES PARKER
 JAN MORGAN
 JEAN WYPYCHOWSKI
 JENNIFER JORDAN
 JOAN ANDERSON
 JORGE VELAZQUEZ
 JOSEFINA M. MONTVILLE
 JOYCE McGUINNESS
 KALYANI D PATEL
 KAREN L. BRESLIN
 KENNETH STOBART
 LARRY MITCHENER
 LESLIE HEINZ
 LILLIE ANDERSON
 LINDA RAY
 LUCILLE S. GORNEY
 MAGDALENA ZURAWSKA
 MANUELA REILLO
 MARIANN KAISER
 MARILYN ANZELMO
 MARILYN OXBY



MARILYN TARGOS
 MARY ANN TRAISER
 MARY BETH MALY
 MARY C. SIEBLER
 MATT BARNES
 NANCY STEWART
 NARANDAS MODY
 NICOLETTE LULLO
 ORLANDO VELASQUEZ
 PAT MAMOLA
 PAULA MURPHY
 PHILIP L. FORS
 RAYMOND G RUGE
 REDA S. MALLO
 ROBERT BERGMAN
 ROBERT F. DENNY
 ROBERT JONES
 ROSE MACZEK
 ROSE MARIE LAMBERT
 ROSEMARY MORAN
 SHARON DEMARCO
 SHARON R. KASPER
 SOPHIA WILLIAMS
 SYLVIA STACEY
 TAQUANA MARSHALL
 TERI SMARZEWSKI
 WILLIAM HOFFMAN

Find Us on Facebook

Like our facebook page to get the latest updates on volunteer opportunities and events happening at Triton College & the community.



Search for: Triton College RSVP *or* click on the Facebook logo above 

Holiday Word Search

A Z K Z F M V H V Z I V D B X R T
 X O V P S E P T A U Z R O L X A L
 T N R Q A N T O C N E C H J M K H
 Q U X F N O N A F I U S B A R K N
 P V R O T R S R D T W K L G K A R
 U L F K A A X E W T Q E K Z Q X J
 K C Z G E H L H W D S Z K A L E K
 V O S F K Y I X T Q S Z X N H N A
 D S F N E F P J X L U S B X B O G
 H F B M A R V A D U I Q S W U D P
 N K V S A M T S I R H C T H U F Z
 B I X Q V N H U X L C R N K O C R
 J U K C X T T Z T L Y G E C F D P
 K P D P A K W A N Z A A S L N L S
 N Y M E M Y L I M A F A E O B G U
 V M R S Q U Q V Q V Q V R N H O A
 H W S M W I P W L F X X P J J V V

Christmas
 Hanukkah
 Presents
 Tamales
 Dreidel
 Kwanzaa

Pumpkin
 Turkey
 Family
 Menorah
 Santa
 Wreath





Contact Us



**Triton College
Retired & Senior Volunteer
Program (RSVP)**
*Serving West Suburban Cook and
Southern DuPage Counties*
**2000 Fifth Ave., Building R,
Room 221; River Grove, IL 60171**

Phone: (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3835
Fax: (708) 583-3778
E-mail: rsvp@triton.edu

Visit us on Facebook at:
Triton College RSVP

Staff
Mario Porras, Director (ext. 3955)
Minerva McLaren, Volunteer Coordinator
Geraldine Lustro, Program Assistant



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**



ARCC

Active Retired Citizens Club

ARCC is a social club for people aged 55 and older that provides activities and networking opportunities.

To get more information or to join, contact Gerrie @ (708) 456-0300, ext. 3896

RSVP is updating our volunteer contact information. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions in our survey. Enter/ click the link below or scan the QR code. Thank you!



<https://forms.office.com/r/XFtPjwZdjg>

Annual Insurance Forms Due!!

Every year, our federal funder, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) requires that we have our volunteers complete an updated insurance form. Please complete the form and send it back to our office by **March 2, 2022**.



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The HUB is a free online directory that connects people to free and reduced-cost health and human service programs in Chicago, west suburban Cook County, and southeast DuPage County. It is funded and supported by: