Inspiring individuals 50+ to explore their interests and strengthen communities through civic engagement

Coming of Age Timeline

For the past 40 years, Travis County has demonstrated the value of volunteer service among older adults through the RSVP program and now Coming of Age. Throughout the years, Travis County expanded the scope of our services to address the evolving needs of our changing community.

In 1972, Travis County established the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), a federally-legislated grant program, to engage older adults (the 60+ population) in our community by providing them with volunteer opportunities. RSVP’s original philosophy of “People Helping People” endured and ensured its success.

In 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service was established to connect Americans to volunteer opportunities through three programs; Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. RSVP became part of the Senior Corps initiative. At this time, the age requirement to join RSVP was lowered from 60 to 55 years.

In 1997, the program evolved to focus on meeting community needs by connecting the experience of volunteers with rewarding opportunities to serve.

In 2006, the name was changed to simply “RSVP” to eliminate the language reference to aging that may serve as a barrier to participation, especially among the Baby Boomer population.

In 2010, Travis County’s RSVP significantly broadened its scope of service and re-invented itself as Coming of Age. The change was implemented in response to Baby Boomers’ vision and approach towards living a fulfilling, rewarding, and engaged life beyond full-time employment.

Today, Coming of Age has two major focuses:

- **Help people 50+** explore their futures, become community leaders, pursue lifelong learning, and engage in meaningful volunteer service.
- **Help nonprofits** more effectively market volunteer opportunities to recruit and retain skilled, passionate, resourceful volunteers age 50+

The Coming of Age program addresses the needs of the community and older adults by recruiting and placing adults ages 50+ in volunteer assignments throughout Travis County. They are drawn from all economic, educational and social backgrounds to serve on a regular basis in public, non-profit and faith-based organizations. Through volunteerism, older adults in the Coming of Age program gain leadership positions, learning experiences and positively enhance their communities. Coming of Age is a program of Travis County Health & Human Services and Veterans Service and is sponsored by the Corporation for National & Community Service.