



# AmeriCorps Seniors

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program + Foster Grandparent Program

April 12, 2022



**AmeriCorps**  
Seniors

# community + human development

Advance Equity

Reduce Poverty

Build Sustainability



## Civic Empowerment

- Equity + Access
- Climate Action
- Volunteerism + Engagement

## Human Services

- Homelessness
- Health+ Wellbeing
- Recreation + Lifestyle

## Neighborhood Development

- Housing
- Community Revitalization
- Quality of Life

**Our responsibility is to serve** as the catalyst for community partnerships, collaboration + change ensuring **equity, resilience + sustainability** for the most vulnerable El Pasoans by giving voice to the underrepresented, supporting a strong system of human services & investing in El Paso homes, families + neighborhoods.



# Strategic Alignment

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**Goal 2:** Set the standard for a safe and secure city

**Goal 4:** Enhance El Paso's quality of life through recreational, cultural and educational environments

**Goal 5:** Promote transparent and consistent communication amongst all members of the community

**Goal 6:** Set the standard for sound governance and fiscal management

**Goal 8:** Nurture and promote a healthy, sustainable community

**Resilience Strategy:** Empowered El Pasoans, Pillar 3, Action 3.1.1 and 3.3.3



Our Impact



**90+**  
Volunteer  
Stations

**800+**  
Volunteers

**181K+**  
Annual Volunteer  
Hours

# Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

*Providing enrichment to the lives of older adults through significant community service*

- One of the largest volunteer networks in the US for people 55 years of age and older.
- RSVP has served the El Paso community since 1974.
- El Paso has over **600 active** RSVP volunteers that serve at over **30 organizations and non-profits.**
- Encourages seniors to bring a lifetime of talent, experience, skills and hobbies to community projects that impact the quality of life in El Paso.
- RSVP has 4 focus areas: Food Security, Transportation, Respite Care, and Companionship

*RSVP volunteers contribute over 85,000 volunteer hours annually.*



# Nutrition/Food Security



- Food Distribution
- Nutrition Education classes
- Annual back to school supplies donation drive
- Assistance with SNAP/Food Stamps application
- Conduct bi-annual surveys on food security



**200k+**

Individuals served annually



**50+**

RSVP volunteers  
addressing Food Security  
needs



**80%+**

Survey respondents  
reported an increase in  
food security

# Transportation

- Allows for capacity for Independent Living
- Provides Companionship
- Transportation for seniors to medical appointments, pharmacy, groceries, personal errands
- Conduct Pre and Post independent living surveys



**60+**

Seniors served annually



**4k+**

Hours of  
companionship annually



**82%**

Report improved  
capacity for  
independent living

# Respite Care

- Relieves stress of caregiving
- Regular non-medical home visits
- Companionship & re-assurance for client reaching end of life
- Conduct respite surveys for caregivers



**3k+**

Hours of respite care  
a year



**1.5k+**

Families served  
annually



**74%**

of caregivers report  
increase in social support



# Companionship

- Telephone reassurance program (Calling All Seniors)
- Reestablished in response to the pandemic
- Wellness calls/Referral Service
- Socialize & form friendships
- Independent living and better quality of life
- Battle isolation and depression
- Pre and Post Life Satisfaction Survey



**30+**

RSVP Volunteers  
making calls



**2k+**

Calls made



**90%**

Report increased  
social ties



# FGP Performance Measures

FGP federal grant runs from April 1, 2019- March 31, 2023.



**Provide volunteer opportunities to low – income seniors 55 and older to serve young children with exceptional or special needs**

## **Performance Measures:**

- School Readiness
- K – 12 Success

## **Achieved by:**

- Number of children served
- Number of children demonstrating gains in school readiness
- Number of students with improved academic engagement or social-emotional skills

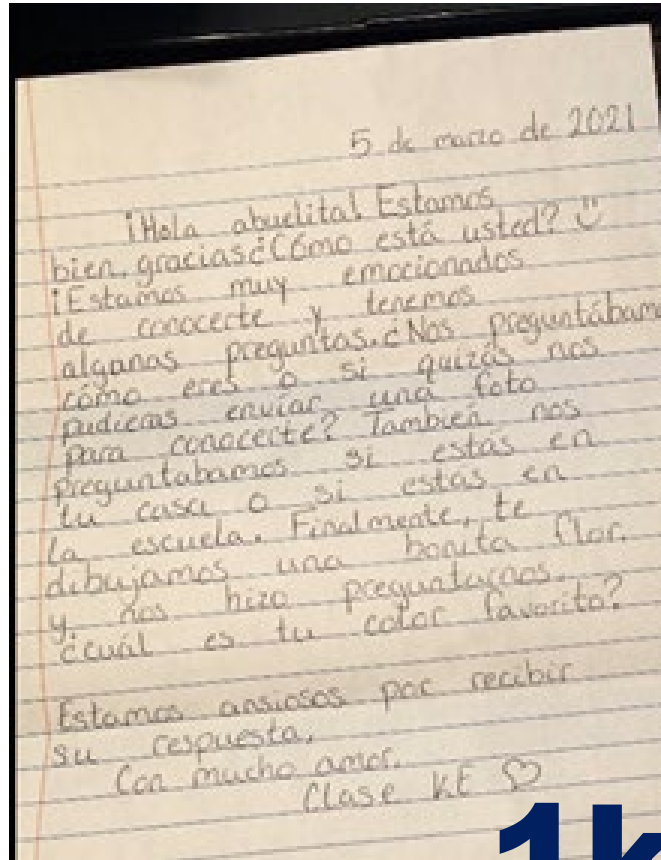
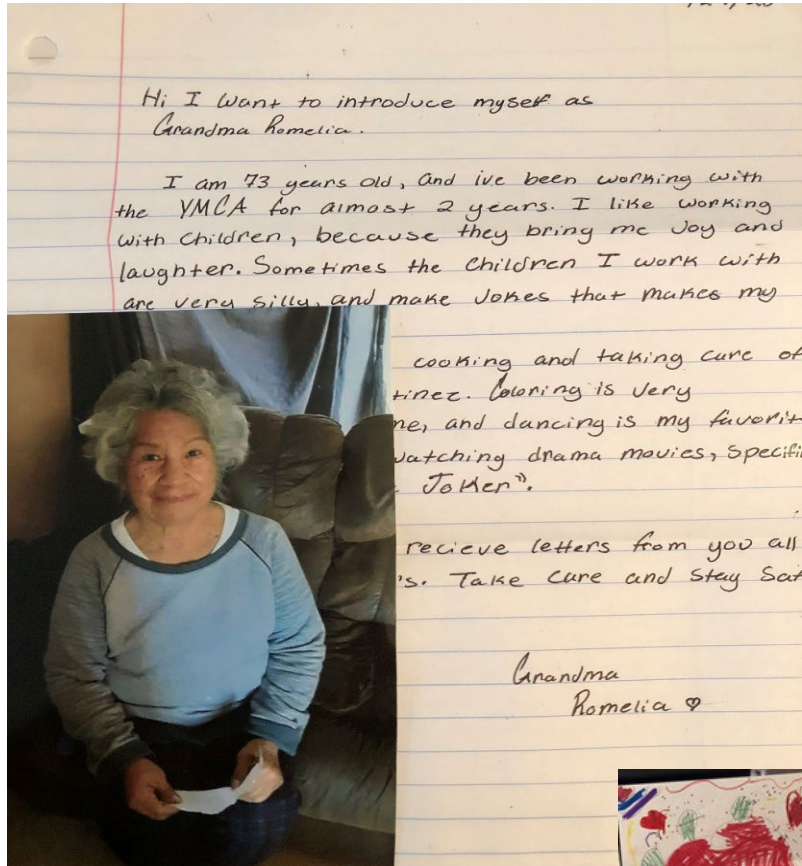
## **Serviceable activities:**

- Tutoring children
- Mentoring children
- Social and emotional support

# Program Spotlight: Pen Pal

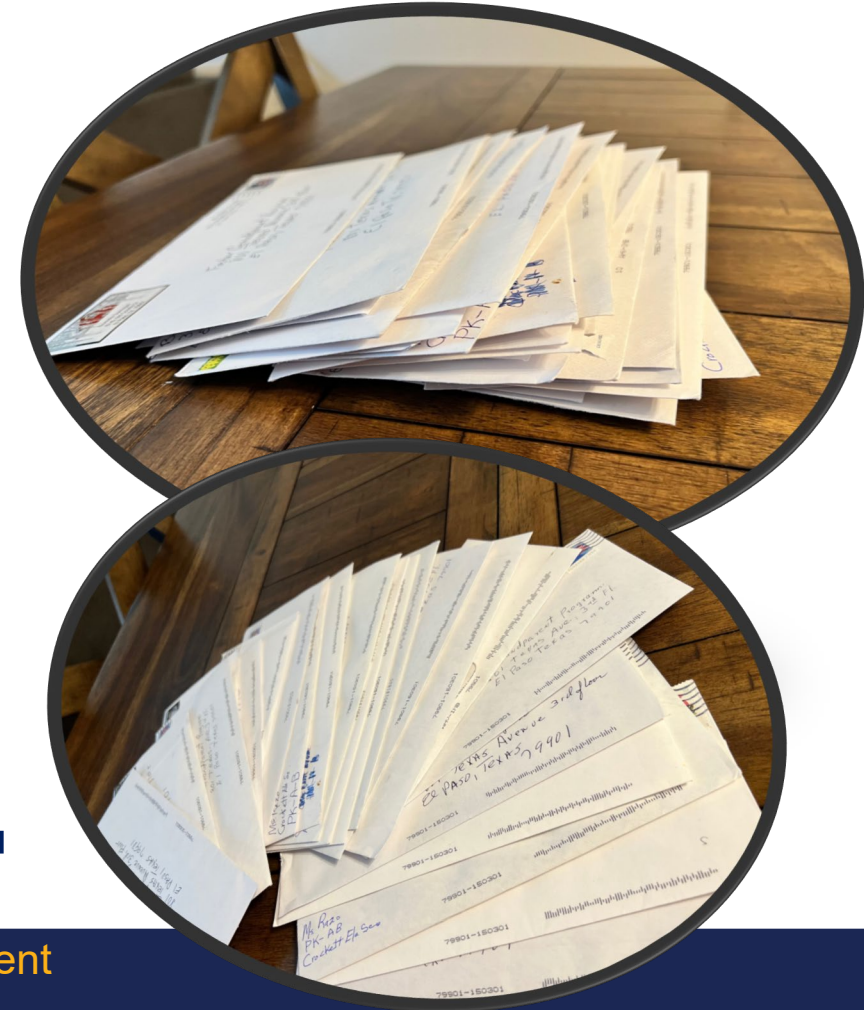
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Writing letters in creating connections for school aged children and our senior population through the ongoing stress, fear, grief, and uncertainty created by COVID – 19.



1k+

Pen pal letters sent





# Advisory Councils

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Advisory Council was formed in 1975, Ordinance 011469.

The Foster Grandparent Advisory Council was formed in 1987, Ordinance 011469.

## Responsibilities of Advisory Councils:

- Promote community support and involvement
- Conduct annual program evaluation
- Provide recognition for RSVP and FGP Volunteers
- Assists with fund raising efforts to continue recognition events
- Assist with recruitment of hard-to-reach prospective volunteers
- Develops key relationships and networks with agencies in the community

# Recommendation for Action

Merging of both the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Advisory Council and the Foster Grandparent Advisory Council to create one **AmeriCorps Seniors Advisory Council**

## Benefits of Merging the Advisory Councils

- Council members interested in serving on both councils
- Creating a stronger and more active council
- Network of council members advocating and recruiting for both volunteer programs
- Both programs already work closely on several community projects that include
  - MLK Day
  - Veteran's Day
  - National Service Recognition Day
  - 911 Day of Service
  - Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet
  - Gift Giving Tree





## Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community



## Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



## Values

Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People