



## Why It Is Important to Collect Hours:

► **Hours and other data collection is federally mandated.** As a federally funded program RSVP must abide by the accountability and compliance guidelines and standards set for us. This data also represents a statistical snapshot of what we are accomplishing with regard to the mission of RSVP which is to engage volunteers in activities that will make a difference in our communities meeting the needs of non profits and the people they serve. The data we collect goes to our legislators and other funders and helps them to determine allocation amounts for our program.

► **It verifies that our RSVP registered volunteers have been active over the course of the fiscal year.** As you know, only those volunteers who are active in the current year are eligible to enjoy the benefits of RSVP for example the supplemental insurance coverage, recognition events, the newsletters, etc.

► **It keeps our RSVP volunteers insured.** The hours reported and signed by the volunteer and/or the volunteer supervisor are the ONLY documentation we have that an individual is serving at a site or participating in a volunteer activity. If we have no **written documentation**, our supplemental insurance policy does not cover that volunteer in the event of injury.

► **It helps local non profits to tell their story of service to the community and to funders.** Accurate records about the volunteers that serve at local sites, allows local non profits to highlight the fact that they are utilizing volunteers to help provide their services. This represents a cost savings to already tightly budgeted organizations and represents an in-kind match for their budgets. This leveraging of funds is critical and potential funders look very positively upon such wise and creative fiscal management.

► **RSVP, through our national efforts and marketing tools, promotes the true story of today's seniors as active contributing members of their communities.** This helps to dispel the myths held by some that people that older adults are a drain on society financially. We know that couldn't be farther from the truth but collecting hard data helps RSVP to tell the "true story" of today's seniors who contribute substantially to the health and welfare of their communities. RSVP, as a national network of over 500,000 volunteers and 750 projects, is positioned and viewed as an expert on and advocate for volunteerism in our country. The more we can track, on a local level and, by extension, a national level, the reality of the contributions of today's volunteers, the more we dispel the myths surrounding aging.

► **Tracking volunteer data is a valuable tool in detailing and highlighting how volunteers impact a community**, what they actually accomplish, and just how valuable they are to the operation of hundreds of non profit organizations, schools, and health care facilities in our towns and cities. Without the tracking done by RSVP, the efforts of volunteers remain unidentified in any comprehensive way. This leads to a total lack of knowledge as to the true impact of today's volunteers on the welfare of each and every citizen.