



COUNTY of VENTURA

Human Services Agency
Area Agency on Aging



Volunteer Impact Report 2023

The **Ventura County Area Agency on Aging** is pleased to present the Volunteer Impact Report, showcasing the **invaluable contributions** made by our dedicated volunteers. This report covers the 12-month period from January-December 2023. This report highlights the **significant impact** that volunteers have had on our mission to enhance the quality of life for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers in Ventura County.

IndependentSector.org valued a California volunteer at \$37.32 per hour in 2023. While the monetary value of volunteer hours provides a quantitative measure, the qualitative impact of volunteers is immeasurable. Their **passion, skills, commitment, and community-building efforts** contribute to the overall strength and effectiveness of our agency.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

86

Total Volunteers

4,446.15

Total Hours

\$37.32

Volunteer Value Per Hour in
the State of California

\$165,930.32

Value of Volunteer Hours

Senior Nutrition Farm

The Senior Nutrition Farm provides an opportunity for people of all ages to stay active through volunteerism.

Our organic farm helpers assist with different projects throughout the year, such as planting fruit trees, pruning squash and tomatillos, trellising cucumbers and tomatoes, preparing rows, planting peas and lettuce, and more.

The Farm's peak harvest has been 185,000 servings and 28,000 pounds

of produce in a year. Everything grown is distributed to older adults who otherwise do not have access to fresh produce.

"Volunteers are, and have always been, the lifeblood of the farm. From planting to harvest, they do everything it takes to make the farm run successfully, and do it all while building a vibrant community." — Christopher Fiorello, Farm Manager



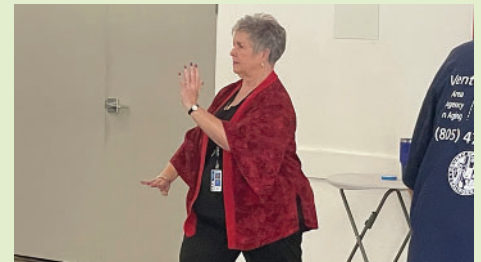
Fall Prevention Program

Falls are a leading cause of injury for older adults, often resulting in fractures and a decline in overall health. Our dedication to Fall Prevention involves empowering older adults with the knowledge and tools they need to stay steady on their feet.

Our dedicated Fall Prevention volunteers assist with administrative work, peer lead, and instruct several

evidence-based classes such as Tai Chi, Bingocize, Walk with Ease, A Matter of Balance, and Stepping On.

"I am so grateful for the work and dedication of our Fall Prevention Program volunteers. They help in all aspects of the program to provide critical education and are incredibly dedicated to their communities." — Julianna Eusanio, MSW, Fall Prevention Coordinator



Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is a community-based body of advocates that works to identify the needs of the older adult population and their caregivers, and to provide recommendations for improving services and resources.

Members represent the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, service providers, focused populations, and local cities.

The Council serves as a valuable resource for community members,

offering information and guidance on a range of topics related to aging and caregiving. By working together, the Advisory Council and the VCAA are able to create a brighter future for older adults in Ventura.

"We're so grateful that the Advisory Council helps us keep our finger on the pulse-point of what Ventura County needs. We're thankful for the time and guidance they provide." — Monique Nowlin, VCAA Division Manager



Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program

The Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) is crucial for older adults in several ways, particularly in navigating the complexities of the healthcare system and maximizing the benefits of their health insurance coverage.

Our certified counselor volunteers provide unbiased education, advocacy, and one-on-one detailed counseling in navigating the complex landscape of health insurance and Medicare. This, in turn, helps older

adults access the healthcare services they need and ensures they receive the full benefits of their insurance coverage.

“I am very fortunate to work alongside a group of selfless individuals who provide unwavering support and dedication to our community. Their dedication to the mission of HICAP is commendable and truly inspiring; their impact is immeasurable.” — Sonia Vaughn, HICAP Manager



Senior Nutrition Program

Our Senior Nutrition Program (SNP) gives the populations we serve access to nutritious meals and contributes to maintaining their health, safety, dignity and quality of life. All SNP meals are approved by our Registered Dietitian to meet U.S. dietary guidelines.

Our SNP volunteers help assemble and deliver food boxes to homebound older adults. Access to nutritious food, social interaction, and the sense of community support all contribute

to a positive and fulfilling daily life for older adults in our community.

“Our volunteers graciously donate their time on a weekly basis to assist our staff in delivering various supplies, shelf-stable foods, and fresh fruits and vegetables to our clients. Their efforts are not only greatly appreciated by our staff, but also by the clients who get to interact with them when they receive their deliveries.” — Mason Lewis, Project Manager



Information & Assistance

The Information & Assistance (I&A) Call Center takes incoming calls and helps connect the public with a variety of resources, which may be VCAA programs or ones offered by other agencies and organizations. They are on the front line for meeting the needs of our clients and helping them to significantly improve their quality of life, safety, and well-being.

I&A is the link to essential services, support, and human connection. Our

staff and volunteers refer all callers to the appropriate programs and services in their communities that can help address a variety of situations.

“Volunteer Joanne is a retired nurse case manager. Not only is she still serving the community with skill and heart, she also provides our busy team with valuable hours of client intake assistance.” — Jerrica Van Nest, HomeShare Social Worker



Behind every statistic lies a story of impact. Here are some heartening quotes from our volunteers about what inspires them to serve here at the VCAAA.

"I wanted to give back to my community."

"The people we meet are sincerely appreciative."

"I really enjoy seeing smiles from people."

"Volunteering with VCAAA enables me to contribute to an organization with a mission that resonates with me."

"Volunteering is the ability to learn new things that can benefit others."

"I felt that by learning as much as I could and sharing that expertise, then more seniors can learn important things critical to their health and well-being."

"How happy clients are to see us and how they appreciate us."



The LEGACY Awards are presented annually by the Advisory Council to recognize the contributions of Ventura County residents and organizations that are dedicated to helping older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers to live optimally.

This year, George Lopez, a volunteer for the VCAAA for the past 10 years, received a LEGACY Award! He serves as a registered counselor with the California Department of Aging, and provides Medicare counseling as part of the VCAAA's Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP).



Thank you to all of our volunteers

We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every volunteer that contributed to the success of the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging this past year. Your contributions are the cornerstone of our achievements, and we are immensely grateful for the positive energy and expertise you bring to our agency. Together, we can build on the successes of the past and create an even more impactful and compassionate future for the communities we serve.



Join our
volunteer
team!

We are always in need of dedicated individuals that are passionate about making a difference in the lives of others. As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to work on a variety of projects and initiatives.

Not only will you be making a positive impact on those around you, but you will also gain valuable skills and experiences that can benefit you in your personal and professional life.

Sign up today and become a part of something truly special!

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