

Senior volunteers make a difference

Andrew Good's article on San Clemente volunteer Jim Lusk was a great reminder of the enormous contribution that our senior volunteers make to the Orange County community ["Street worth valued," Local, May 17]. But RSVP volunteers are not only assisting law enforcement, they are also meeting community needs in the areas of hunger, literacy, the arts, health care and more.

As director of Volunteer Center Orange County's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, I have the great good fortune to work with over 1,000 great senior volunteers like Jim Lusk.

Twelve of these volunteers have been enrolled with RSVP for over 20 years and are still going strong. In 2005 over 1,200 Orange County RSVP volunteers contributed 219,190 hours of service, which equates to over \$4 million in monetary value (based on 2005 Independent Sector "Value of a Volunteer Hour" study).

Enrollment in RSVP is free, and we assist volunteers with finding the right assignment from over 60 approved sites throughout the county. RSVP volunteers receive benefits like supplemental secondary accident, personal liability and auto insurance while volunteering, partial mileage/transportation reimbursement to and from their volunteer site, an annual volunteer recognition event and more.

For more information visit our Web site at www.volunteercenter.org.

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