

PART I - FACE SHEET

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction														
Modified Standard Form 424 (Rev.02/07 to confirm to the Corporation's eGrants System)																
2a. DATE SUBMITTED TO CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS): 10/18/12	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE:	STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER:														
2b. APPLICATION ID: 13SR144502	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY: 10/18/12	FEDERAL IDENTIFIER:														
5. APPLICATION INFORMATION																
LEGAL NAME: Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans, Inc. DUNS NUMBER: 150970259	NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes): NAME: Dee Wild															
ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county): 4152 Canal St New Orleans LA 70119 - 5941 County: Orleans	TELEPHONE NUMBER: (985) 674-0488 FAX NUMBER: (985) 674-0336 INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: dwild@voagno.org															
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 720709750	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: 7a. Non-Profit 7b. Faith-based organization Local Affiliate of National Organization Volunteer Management Organization															
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION (Check appropriate box). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> NEW/PREVIOUS GRANTEE <input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUATION <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT If Amendment, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es): <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> A. AUGMENTATION B. BUDGET REVISION C. NO COST EXTENSION D. OTHER (specify below):	9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service															
10a. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 94.002 10b. TITLE: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: St Tammany Parish RSVP															
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc): Louisiana Oppy #2, St. Tammany Parish - Cities - Abita Springs, Bush, Covington, Folsom, Lacombe, Madisonville, Mandeville, Pearl River, Slidell	11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):															
13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 07/01/13 END DATE: 06/30/16	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant <input type="text" value="LA 002"/> b.Program <input type="text" value="LA 001"/>															
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: Year #: 1	16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO. PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><td style="width: 20%;">a. FEDERAL</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 90,883.00</td></tr> <tr><td>b. APPLICANT</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 38,950.00</td></tr> <tr><td>c. STATE</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td></tr> <tr><td>d. LOCAL</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td></tr> <tr><td>e. OTHER</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 38,950.00</td></tr> <tr><td>f. PROGRAM INCOME</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td></tr> <tr><td>g. TOTAL</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 129,833.00</td></tr> </table>	a. FEDERAL	\$ 90,883.00	b. APPLICANT	\$ 38,950.00	c. STATE	\$ 0.00	d. LOCAL	\$ 0.00	e. OTHER	\$ 38,950.00	f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00	g. TOTAL	\$ 129,833.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES if "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
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g. TOTAL	\$ 129,833.00															
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.																
a. TYPED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: James M. Leblanc	b. TITLE: President/CEO	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER: -504-482-2130														
d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:		e. DATE SIGNED: 10/17/12														

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Executive Summary

* Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans * For over 100 years, our mission has been to touch lives and build community through service. * 340 volunteers - \$90,883 * Primary Focus Area -- Healthy Futures -- 94 Volunteers -- Fifty seniors in St. Tammany Parish will remain independent thanks to food delivery, transportation, companionship, financial literacy training, and the prevention of elder abuse. The RSVP Project will also help the community through food bank services. According to St. Tammany Parish Needs Assessment Plan, seniors often miss doctor's visits due to lack of transportation. Volunteers will take seniors and people with disabilities to and from doctor's appointments using their personal cars. Outcome -- 90% of survey respondents will report they were able to remain independent due to RSVP volunteer transportation. * Other Community Need Priorities -- 70 Volunteers -- Volunteers will serve 24,000 hours at three hospitals in St. Tammany Parish. They will greet patients at a front desk, visit patients to provide comfort, and escort patients to their rooms. * Other Focus Areas and Capacity Building -- 176 Volunteers -- Volunteers will serve in the areas of Education, Veterans and Military Families, Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, and Capacity Building. In the area of Education, volunteers will tutor children one-on-one through Lyon Elementary's Helping One Student to Succeed (HOSTS) program. Outcome -- After one school year, 75% of students will show reading improvement through a test of their teacher's choosing.

Strengthening Communities

The St. Tammany RSVP program serves the citizens of St. Tammany "Parish", in Southeast Louisiana; bordering Tangipahoa Parish, Lake Pontchartrain, Washington Parish, and Mississippi state. It is a bedroom community to New Orleans, separated by Lake Pontchartrain. The total population of St. Tammany Parish is 233,740. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the senior population has doubled since 2000, from 18% to 26% as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Over a quarter of the current senior population lives alone. St. Tammany Parish is an affluent area. 88% of the

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residents are high school graduates and 30% have a bachelor's degree or higher. The median household income is \$60,866. The population is 84% white, 11% black, and 5% Hispanic or Latino. To determine which needs are unmet in the targeted community, Volunteers of America reviewed the 2005 St. Tammany Parish Needs Assessment Report, compiled by the Parish Government and local organizations. The Assessment identified the following community concerns in the RSVP Project Primary Focus Area, Health; many people do not avail themselves of wellness services (including prenatal care), some people see a doctor only in emergency rooms because they do not have access to health insurance or transportation, it is difficult for the elderly to negotiate the healthcare system, families caring for seriously ill persons in their home have little assistance or respite opportunities, and poor nutrition and obesity are on the rise. RSVP will address these community concerns in Health by providing transportation to the doctor or grocery store to seniors and persons with disabilities, delivering food to homebound persons, providing companionship to homebound persons, and providing financial literacy training and preventing elder abuse to homebound persons. The RSVP Project will also assist with respite services, distribute food and provide food pantry support, and lead Bone Builders classes. St. Tammany RSVP program ensures an effective plan and infrastructure to manage RSVP volunteers and their stations as a highly effective means to solve local health problems. This is done with the review of many community stakeholders, including our own Advisory Council. On a quarterly basis, the RSVP Director meets with a Council consisting of a range of stakeholders from the fields of healthcare, education, and volunteerism. The group reviews program design elements, suggests changes, gives advice, and procures resources. They participate in an annual survey assessing the program's impact on the community. The RSVP Director uses this input to schedule program events or make changes such as adding new stations. Our program has an active relationship with the St. Tammany community. The RSVP Director selects community partners who enhance the program in areas which might be faltering. For example, the RSVP Director recognizes

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that we need a more diverse range of volunteers. This led to a partnership with the City of Covington to put on a Martin Luther King program in a majority black neighborhood. Likewise, we recently recognized a need for more volunteers from the City of Slidell. To solve this problem, we added two Slidell community members to our Advisory Council. Thanks to the aid of community members, problems are addressed and solved, allowing the RSVP Project to carry out service activities in Health which lead to National Performance Measure outputs or outcomes. Fifty seniors and persons with disabilities will be helped to live independently. Volunteers will deliver food to seniors daily, drive care recipients to doctor's appointments and the grocery store, provide companionship by visiting care recipients at home, give lessons on financial literacy training, and lessons to prevent elder abuse. An outcome will be reported in the area of transportation. Of sixty homebound seniors and persons with disabilities, 90% will respond to a survey that they have increased social ties and perceived social support because volunteers were able to help them get to doctors appointments or the grocery store. As mentioned above, the Needs Assessment identified respite service assistance as a concern in St. Tammany Parish. Three volunteers will serve in St. Tammany Parish Hospital's home respite program by providing respite care to homebound adults. To address the Needs Assessment concern of nutrition and obesity, RSVP Volunteers will ensure community members have access to healthy food. They will distribute food and provide pantry support at three area food banks in Mandeville, Covington, and Slidell. Finally, the Needs Assessment expressed concern for citizens not taking advantage of wellness services. This will be addressed by having 12 RSVP Volunteers lead Bone Builders classes that encourage fitness through dancing at local senior residential communities. In addition to the great amount of attention given to Health, volunteers will assist Active Duty Military members. Ninety volunteers who live at residential senior living communities will help make care packages to be sent to military troops overseas as part of Operation We Care. This will be part of "Other Focus Areas." The program design of RSVP, allows for a great deal of community awareness and support. Local

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newspaper media have enhanced public knowledge of our program. They alert the public about volunteer needs and cover our community events. The RSVP Director speaks to groups in the community to build awareness; including the Kiwanis Club, Active and Retired Federal Workers Association, Daughters of the American Revolution, Women of Infinite Possibilities and others. The Director and volunteers staff community health fairs and National Night Out Against Crime. The RSVP Program attempts to bring together people of diverse backgrounds. Recently we had retired US Military Veterans talk to elementary students sharing with them their experiences in serving in the military. We have volunteers working with special needs adults and children to ride horses to provide muscular movement. We mobilize community resources by providing each new volunteer with a large senior resource guide. We partner with a local van transportation system to take in referrals of people who need rides to the doctor but are not able to take alternate transportation. Our volunteers pick them up and wait with them at the doctor before taking them home. Volunteers participate in community activities by signing up as "special event" volunteers. Volunteers staff events like the Madisonville Boat Festival, Mandeville Seafood Festival, disability job fairs, health fairs, conferences and others. Area organizations serving as volunteer stations have the ability to provide additional services as a direct result of our volunteers' service. Our volunteers are filling gaps in services across the social service arena, disaster recovery, and education. This is vital as government cuts increase and private donations decrease. We integrate senior service into the activities of programs like the Kiwanis Club and the West St. Tammany Business Alliance. Most recently, the Kiwanis club helped renovate a care recipient's yard. The West St. Tammany Business Alliance participates in quarterly RSVP projects like lighthouse restorations or clothing drives for homeless students.

Recruitment and Development

Many seniors see volunteering as a way to build new skills or develop "encore" careers. They spend their lives working in one field and choose to learn something new when they retire. For example, a

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retired teacher might choose to become a volunteer receptionist for the American Red Cross. Likewise, a retired accountant might prefer something more adventurous, like giving canoe tours with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The possibilities are limitless. The RSVP Director talks to volunteers during their initial orientation to see what their strong suits might be. Occasionally volunteers want to develop their leadership potential. We have a corps of volunteers who serve as "RSVP Ambassadors". They share experiences, abilities, and skills with others to improve their communities and themselves through service in their community. These Ambassadors work with staff to identify training opportunities for volunteers, station supervisors and community participation groups. Recently, we held seminars on emergency preparedness, personal security, and elder abuse. Several of our RSVP Volunteers lead their own organizations or serve on non-profit boards. The RSVP Volunteers reflect on the meaning of service to the community by sharing their personal stories about why they volunteer. Occasionally we share these stories in newsletters or during guided office tours. We also highlight a station in every RSVP newsletter to share how volunteering benefits that organization. Providing high quality training to volunteers is an important part of the RSVP Project. Volunteers are given an orientation when they arrive at the RSVP office, and another orientation at their work station. They are encouraged to call us with questions. As mentioned, we strive to offer free seminars to volunteers taught by organizational experts. Some volunteers provide training to each other on topics such as bookkeeping and computer skills. Each station leader meets with the RSVP Director when they sign on with the program, and annually after that. The director trains supervisors on volunteer expectations and management. They are encouraged to submit articles for our quarterly newsletter. The director makes herself available for advice to the community as she attends meetings with supervisors, community participation groups, and coalition organizations throughout the year. She serves on the board of the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together organization. RSVP strives for diversity of volunteers and representation from veterans. It is stated in the volunteer handbook and

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made into practice that volunteers of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientation, and degrees of English proficiency will be accepted. Thirty veterans and Military Service Members serve as RSVP Volunteers. This is accomplished through recruitment talks at VFW Halls and National Association for Retired and Federal Workers meetings. A wide variety of volunteers with disabilities, especially age-related disabilities serve with RSVP. Many of these volunteers are recruited at residential communities where volunteers can serve from home if they are unable to serve directly at a station. In general, diversity of volunteers is achieved through spanning a wide breath of recruitment events. We recruit volunteers in a variety of ways including local media, open houses, health fairs, presentations, by hosting recruitment events and through word of mouth. Our Ambassador volunteers are asked to help recruit by working health fairs and giving talks to senior organizations. Recognition and communication are key to retaining volunteers. We publish a volunteer newsletter to keep them informed of events, volunteer opportunities, and activities. We send birthday, get well and thank you cards. Most importantly, we build relationships with volunteers and call them as often as possible. In the summer, a volunteer-only recognition event pays tribute to each volunteer's contribution to our community. This is a highlight of many of our volunteers' year. They all leave with gifts branded with the RSVP logo.

Program Management

A great deal of work goes into ensuring proper management of volunteer stations in compliance with RSVP Program regulations. Initially, the RSVP Director meets with a new station, has them sign a Memorandum of Understanding for a three year term, and explains program regulations including the prevention or identification of prohibited activities. These guidelines are also outlined on the signed MOU. The Director continues to communicate with stations through phone calls, quarterly newsletters, and annual site visits. We work to ensure that our volunteers receive a meaningful placement at all stations including those outside the Primary Focus Area of Health. Every placement

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comes with a job description. We select only positions which our seniors can physically handle, and will also provide the most impact to the community. The RSVP Director visits each station annually to discuss which volunteer positions are most needed. Station managers also report special events on a quarterly basis. Positions and events are advertised in the RSVP newsletter and during orientations to ensure that the most-needed positions are fulfilled. Being in a needed position provides meaning and value to the volunteer's work. Seven stations will be graduated in 2013 to ensure compliance with Recompensation guidelines. These stations were carefully selected because there were very few to no volunteers currently serving in each location. Volunteers who are affected will be sent a letter and invited to participate in active 2013 stations. Each volunteer will receive a follow up call. This information will be repeated in RSVP's quarterly newsletter. Additionally, graduated stations will receive a letter and personal call explaining the need for this change. They will be offered on-site orientations for volunteers to find other CNCS opportunities, if necessary. To assess project performance, a survey is sent to every active volunteer, station manager, advisory council member, and care recipients annually. Survey respondents express their satisfaction with the project and its impact on the community. An annual assessment is done by the Advisory Council to determine if community needs are being met and make changes if necessary. The group assesses a variety of objectives such as community partnerships, funding, marketing, media impact, outreach, community leadership, and much more. To assure that national performance measure outcomes and outputs are measured and collected, data is tracked in our volunteer software program, Volunteer Reporter. This program tracks volunteer hours, performance measures, station information, jobs and placements. All data is backed up weekly to an external hard drive for protection. Monthly reports based on this data are then sent to the North Shore Director of Volunteers of America to assess how well the program is achieving its performance goals and objectives. On a quarterly basis, the program provides upper management with reports on grant goals and objectives as well as program perception. The RSVP

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Director secures cash and in-kind contributions exceeding the 30% match requirement through a strong relationship with churches, non-profits and businesses. Several hospitals provide volunteers a meal for every four hours they work. Area businesses provide door prizes, decorations and refreshments for our events. Several non-profits and churches provide food, beverages and meeting space for meetings. An In-Kind Contribution Receipt is completed with a copy provided to our Accounting Department for tracking and documentation purposes. Financial resources are also secured through community partnerships such as Winn-Dixie's Community Pals program, Belk's charity sale and Barnes and Noble Christmas Wrapping benefit. The positive change this program has on our community is reflected by the community's willingness to support it.

Organizational Capability

Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans began offering services in 1896 when volunteers went out into the streets of New Orleans helping indigent women and children. Our volunteer services have developed into a program that guides locals interested in volunteering to find the right volunteer opportunity, and helps place "volun-tourists" who visit New Orleans. In 1998, our agency applied for and was awarded the St. Tammany RSVP program, extending volunteer services to St. Tammany Parish. Our program has been recognized on several occasions for providing high quality volunteer opportunities to our seniors while enhancing their quality of life. Former St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis has issued proclamations encouraging seniors in our community to volunteer their time through our RSVP program. Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal recognized our program for the work our volunteers provided to keep our community moving forward in the years following Hurricane Katrina. The Capital Area Agency on Aging also recognized our RSVP volunteers for their efforts in providing outreach, education and enrollment for seniors into the Louisiana SenioRx Program. U.S. Sen. David Vitter recently gave our highest performing volunteers a certificate of recognition. U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu also sent a staff member to speak at our Volunteer Recognition.

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Sound fiscal management and programmatic oversight, day to day operational support, data collection, and clearly defined internal policies are achieved through a competent staff and accreditation from CARF, which demands many additional requirements in excellence. Our organization is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), assuring adequate facilities, equipment, supplies, and purchasing procedures. Programs are administered following adherence to stringent written policies and procedures including those for travel, finance, data management and personnel. Continuous improvement is achieved through quarterly agency quality assurance reports (QA) which protect staffs' health, safety, welfare, security and rights. QA ensures ongoing achievement of each program's designed intent and purposes. Quality Improvement reports (QI) focus on achievement of volunteer outcomes, satisfaction with services and attaining ever-increasing levels of service efficiency and effectiveness. RSVP Director, Kristine Breithaupt has six years of volunteer management, public outreach, and communications experience. In past roles, she served as a statewide outreach coordinator bringing together broad coalitions of people while recruiting as many as 1,500 volunteers. Ms. Breithaupt received a BA in Mass Communications from Louisiana State University. An Administrative Assistant is responsible for maintaining program data and assisting with volunteer events. Wanda Bonnett has been in the position since July 2, 2012. She has over fifteen years administrative experience to contribute. She spent time working as an Executive Assistant for a residential community. Mrs. Bonnett brings a friendly and professional attitude to the position and enjoys working with the volunteers. The program is immediately supervised by Dee Wild, Assistant Director of North Shore Services. She has been with the agency since 2001. Ty Bartel, LCSW is responsible for oversight of all North shore services programs and the daily operation of the office. He directly supervises Mrs. Wild. They work together in the development and implementation of the individual budgets that operate in the various programs housed in the North Shore Services office. Neither Mrs. Wild nor Mr. Bartel is funded through CNCS.

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Currently, there are no plans to add additional paid staff to this program. VOAGNO has extensive experience in grants/contracts management, and has been awarded over \$20 million annually in federal, state, parish and city awards and public/private grants and enterprise income. Some of our awarders include the Office of Public Health, HUD, FEMA and SAMHSA. All VOAGNO programs have a component of evaluation and needs assessment so that we continue to develop programming to fill the gap in services in our community. Volunteers of America Greater New Orleans has a reputation for developing and implementing impact-based programs, especially in the primary focus area, Health. The RSVP Project has been providing rides to seniors who need to go to the doctor or grocery store for over a decade. VOAGNO helps provide health care services for veteran families, mental health services to a wide variety of community residents, and manage a food bank for residents living with HIV. We also manage several programs for seniors, including Repairs on Wheels, Senior Housing and Elderly Protective Services. Performance Measures have been tracked in the RSVP Program's transportation program for homebound seniors and persons with disabilities since its inception. At least 60 care recipients are sent an annual survey asking if they feel more connected to the community. This survey continues to receive over 90% positive responses each year. Strong Organization Infrastructure is important to Volunteers of America. As mentioned above, adequate facilities, equipment and supplies is ensured through our CARF accreditation. Each program maintains a policies and procedures manual, outlining internal policies, purchasing procedures, and personnel management. VOAGNO also has a strict personnel management policy using written and verbal warning before an employee can be terminated. Employees are also given bi annual performance evaluations. An RSVP Advisory Council gives oversight to the project. The Council meets on a quarterly basis and reviews all RSVP activities. A discussion is led in the council to determine where gaps in services are needed and ensure that community needs are met. The RSVP Advisory Council also completes an annual survey assessment of the project. Our program demonstrates sound

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fiscal management, and provides the required match for relevant programming in response to national initiatives. We meet monthly with our accountant to review the program budget, and compare project expenses with the budget line items. Our program is backed by an Accounting Department that follows generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP). Our agency has a multi-layered approach to grants and contract management that assigns each separate funding document to a degreed accountant who is responsible for reconciling the grant funds and all cash and in-kind donations on a monthly basis and providing the resulting report to the agency's internal audit group. These reports are then provided to the certified public accountants who conduct an independent audit of the agency's financial reports every year. A detailed reconciliation is prepared by the agency accountants to ensure compliance with the approved grant budget. . We save costs by using a bulk-mail permit and sharing space with other agency programs. Volunteers of America has a great deal of federal grant management experience. Currently, Volunteers of America Greater New Orleans holds grants from HUD, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and many others. Proposed required non-federal share of cash and in-kind resources has always been stable due to our continuing partnerships with the community. Volunteers of America goes to great lengths to attend community organization meetings, such as Commission on Families and Social Services Network. The Agency also maintains a strong relationship with local hospitals who consistently contribute large amounts of cash and in-kind donations.

Other

Below is a detailed description of special projects undertaken by RSVP of St. Tammany Parish.

Disaster Services: Our RSVP Program recently offered a free seminar to all volunteers on how to prepare for emergencies. The training was conducted by the American Red Cross and showed volunteers how to prepare their home for a natural disaster and to have an evacuation plan. When care recipients sign up to be part of our volunteer-run transportation program, we ask them if they

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have an evacuation plan and for a contact who can check on them in case of a disaster. This allows us to check on care recipients in an emergency. A disaster supply kit list is sent out to volunteers annually to remind them what supplies to prepare before Hurricane Season. Economic Opportunity: Several RSVP Volunteers tutor community members on computer skills, bookkeeping skills, resume building, or preparing for a GED exam. Volunteers also serve hours at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, which funds the construction of four homes in St. Tammany Parish annually. Other volunteers stock shelves, price items, and serve customers at two thrift stores and a food bank. Volunteers at the food bank also assist customers in paying their electricity bill. Volunteer receptionists who serve at Volunteers of America link callers to a wide range of social services. Education: Volunteers of America RSVP program partners with Scholastic Books to bring age appropriate books to children in St. Tammany Parish. For several years, thousands of books have been donated to our program. Books are distributed to children at schools, day cares, special events and hospitals. An effort is made to get the books into the hands of children from lower socio-economic areas. RSVP volunteers assist with sorting and distributing the books. Volunteers also work to improve 50 students' reading skills at three local schools, as detailed in the RSVP Work Plan. Environmental Stewardship: RSVP Volunteers who live at home or in senior living centers can volunteer from home through the "Paper Posse" program. They do projects for several non-profits, including two organizations which function to better the environment. At Keep Mandeville Beautiful, paper posse volunteers make litter-grabbers. This organization strives to educate the public on environmental awareness, recycling, and reducing litter. The paper posse also makes craft pieces for children who attend classes at Teaching Responsible Earth Education (TREE). These craft pieces to educate children and adults about the life science processes that govern our planet, to inspire them to appreciate the natural world, and to motivate them to protect it. Healthy Futures: Older St. Tammany residents who are not able to drive or take public transportation to doctor's appointments are driven by RSVP Volunteers. This allows them to live at

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home and remain independent. It also gives them access to doctors who they might not otherwise be able to see. Volunteers further ensure their health by taking them to the grocery store, where seniors can make healthy choices.

PNS Amendment (if applicable)

Not Applicable