

2024/2025 Impact Report

MISSION:

IMPROVING LIVES

THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM



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OUR TEAM

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER







Dear Friends, Volunteers, and Community Stakeholders,

In 2023 VCI continued our recovery from the pandemic. During COVID many of our volunteer programs suffered since many of our volunteers resigned from volunteering, and many stations were unable to engage volunteers in service due to restrictions and ongoing concerns about exposing people to health risks. We started the year with only 112 RSVP volunteers but finished strong with almost twice that number. Our RSVP volunteers continued to demonstrate the impact of VCI's volunteer programs by donating 15,236 hours last year. According to the Independent Sector this equates to an economic value of almost half a million dollars ($484,505) for the Central Florida economy.

Likewise, our FGP program had only 85 active volunteers, but we finished the year with 173 active volunteers. Even so, our FGP volunteers managed to serve 700 students last year with over 600 of them showing significant improvement due to having a caring FGP mentor assist them in them in their school work.

Our newest AmeriCorps Seniors program - The Senior Companion Program and began placing SCP volunteers into the homes of frail elders to help those elders remain living independently in their own homes. In 2023 we had 13 volunteers serving in Central Florida. active SCP volunteers, but we have already doubled that number and now have 25 SCP volunteers serving in Central Florida.

Our OTTER Program continued to grow and expand and assist more families with young children by providing literacy activities to young readers. Our OTTER program volunteers served almost 250 early readers in 2013.

We ended the year by being named a Walt Disney Social Responsibility Grant Recipient.

AmeriCorps Seniors

Looking forward to 2024 we will continue to grow and expand our programs - we are expanding our Foster Grandparent Program to more locations in East Orange County and South Osceola. We are expanding the number of Senior Companion volunteers and the number of families receiving respite and care services from our SCP program. We will continue to grow and expand our OTTER program with the hope that we can serve more schools and Kindergartens in more geographic areas. Our RSVP programs will be expanding our new intergenerational pen pal program - Friends with Pens to increase the number of students corresponding with senior citizen pen pals.

Please take a moment to review this impact report and consider helping VCI to continue making a difference for the Central Florida community. We are humbly asking you to consider volunteering with us, or to support us with a cash donation. Donations are completely tax deductible.



SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

AmeriCorps Seniors



The AmeriCorps Seniors - Senior Companion Program provides grants to organizations with a dual purpose: to engage persons 55 years and older, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical community needs; and to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers. The AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in this program provide supportive, individualized services to help older adults with special needs maintain their dignity and independence.

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers

- Grantees recruit individuals for this program who are 55 years and older
- Volunteers for this program serve as friends and companions to older neighbors, making sure they can live in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Volunteers are eligible to receive a stipend for their volunteering if they meet income eligibility requirements.





AmeriCorps Seniors

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Senior Companion Program	22/23	24/25
Volunteers	35	54
People Served	107	166
Hours Contributed	12,080	25,506
Financial Impact	$404,559	$887,353



FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

AmeriCorps Seniors

Foster Grandparent volunteers are limited income adults, ages 55+ who serve 15 hours or more per week and receive a small stipend to help defray the cost of volunteering. This stipend is not earned income and does not determine eligibility for services like social security, food stamps, housing. Grandparents also receive travel reimbursement, supplemental insurance covering their volunteer service, training, and annual recognition.

Foster Grandparents provide individual attention to children with special and/or exceptional needs that are identified by a professional who recommends interaction with a Foster Grandparent. Special needs include abuse, physical, social, emotional, or academic deficits.

Foster Grandparent volunteers serve Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia counties. Volunteers serve in schools, Headstarts, Boys and Girls Clubs, and community centers to support the needs of children.

Helping children succeed



AmeriCorps Seniors

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Foster Grandparent Program	22/23	24/25
Volunteers	212	199
Children Served	1,355	1,102
Hours Contributed	214,039	187,814
Financial Impact	$7,168,166	$6,534,049





OTTER PROGRAM

Inspiring Children to Love Reading

OTTER volunteers are trained in early literacy best practices and read aloud high quality, age-appropriate books while engaging early learners in activities that build phonemic awareness, vocabulary acquisition, reading comprehension, and a pure joy for reading.

The OTTER Program utilizes evidence-based reading strategies, including the Whole Book Approach, Visual Thinking Strategies, and Scholastic's REAL (Read, Excel, Achieve, Lead) mentor guides to achieve these objectives. Early, frequent, and pleasurable experiences with books and reading increase children's chances of developing the critical literacy skills that lead to academic success and a higher quality of life.









IMPACT IN NUMBERS

OTTER Program	22/23	24/25
Volunteers	12	28
Children Served	354	1,044
Hours Contributed	3,495	811
Financial Impact	$117,047	$28,214



OTTER

OUR MISSION

Improving lives through volunteerism.

AmeriCorps Seniors

OTTER program

EIN #59-1626348





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