**Where Should Nonprofits Use Older Volunteers? Everywhere!**

Older volunteers offer their communities a lifetime of experience and knowledge and can make an instant impact during their volunteer service. They act as invaluable resources to younger volunteers, and help meet some of the high-level skills that host countries request. Plus, volunteer service is a great way for older Americans to continue their careers in a non-traditional environment.

The {enter your organization’s name here} works on connecting the older volunteer with the right skills to the right project at the right time will allow getting a greater impact and building stronger relationships between volunteers and the nonprofit sector. Therefore, it means increasing the volunteer interest to do on-going projects for the already known organization.

Additionally, there are national programs that are enticing to older volunteers. If you are age 55 or above, you can be a part of the Senior Corps national service program and help to meet a wide range of community challenges. Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of more than 500,000 individuals each year through three programs: Senior Corps connects today’s 55+ with the people and organizations that need them most. We help them become mentors, coaches or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability. They include:

* **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** -- RSVP is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55 and over. You can use the skills and talents you’ve learned over the years, or develop new ones while serving in a variety of volunteer activities within your community. RSVP locally sponsors the AARP and IRS Tax Assistance Program.
* **Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)** -- Foster Grandparents arerole models**,** mentors**,** and friends to childrenwith exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities.
* **Senior Companion Program (SCP)** -- Senior Companions are volunteers age 55 and over who make a difference by providing assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks**,** such as shopping or paying bills. We help these adults remain independent in their homes instead of having to move to more costly institutional care. Senior Companions give families or professional caregivers a much needed time off from their duties, run errands, and often provide friendship for their clients.

Volunteerism throughout the state of Iowa is well documented. The Corporation for National and Community Serviceindicates that volunteers age 55 and over are involved. 33.9% of Iowans age 55+ volunteer while averaging 40 hours of volunteer time annually.

*Our thanks to Points of Light and CNCS for statistics.*