

VOLUNTEERISM IN DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA

A Multi-Year Report on A.V.I.D.

2005-2010

Active Volunteers in Douglas



Active Volunteers in Douglas (A.V.I.D.) represents nineteen organizations in Douglas County, Nevada, that use volunteers. From October 2009 through September 2010, 1,496 of their volunteers gave 102,554 hours of service to our communities. The Independent Sector values Nevada volunteer hours at \$19/hour yielding a contribution value of over \$1,948,526. Over fifty percent of this total is contributed to Douglas County government departments.

A.V.I.D. began in April, 2005, when the RSVP program left the county. A mailing address, phone access, a logo, By-laws, 501(c)3 status and WEB site development followed. Five years later, A.V.I.D has 19 member organizations.

**A.V.I.D.'s purpose guides its programs:
To promote, maintain and support volunteerism
in all county communities and provide avenues
for recognition and encouragement of volunteers.**

P. O. Box 1057, Minden, NV 89423-1057

775-783-6450

WEB: www.douglasvolunteers.org

501(c)3 Identification Number: 01-0887922

Programs

▪ **Volunteer-of-the-Month**

A.V.I.D. creates a 12-14 month list of all member organizations listing which month they are to submit an individual for recognition in *The Record-Courier* as “volunteer-of-the-month.” The A.V.I.D. Board interfaces with newspaper staff to accomplish this.

▪ **Annual County-wide Volunteer Picnic**

In September, the Board of A.V.I.D. plans and puts on a picnic at a local venue such as a park. Food, occasionally entertainment, and a recognition and awards program are included. Between one-hundred and one-hundred fifty volunteers participate and the Kiwanis Club of Carson Valley provides assistance with set up, cooking and clean up.

▪ **Volunteer Recognition and Promotion of the Use of Presidential Awards**

A.V.I.D. encourages all member organizations to have their own methods of volunteer recognition and to apply for and reward their volunteers with Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/index.cfm). If an organization has the need, they may apply to A.V.I.D. for a grant to offset the cost of these Awards.

▪ **A.V.I.D. Grants to Member Organizations**

A.V.I.D. awards member organizations grants to assist with volunteer management, volunteer recognition, and programs which use volunteers. To date, three grants have been awarded for a total of \$1,270.

▪ **Communications**

Member organizations’ characteristics and volunteer needs are part of the A.V.I.D. data base. A.V.I.D. also maintains a post office box and a phone number with a message machine. These tools help A.V.I.D. guide potential volunteers to the organizations that fit their stated needs. A WEB site was established in March 2009 and is updated monthly. The WEB site includes volunteer opportunities and needs of member organizations. In addition to Volunteer-of-the-Month entries in the local newspaper, a monthly Calendar in the paper lists A.V.I.D. as an organization seeking volunteers and the County Parks and Recreation semi-annual activities booklet includes information on A.V.I.D. Active Volunteers In Douglas collects annual data on the total number of volunteers in each member organization and the total hours contributed in the year. These data are used to promote volunteerism in Douglas County.

▪ **Mentoring**

A.V.I.D. board members have considerable experience working with and managing volunteers. They continue to offer mentoring and assistance to volunteer managers with issues and management strategies.

▪ **Interface with Regional, State and National Volunteer Organizations**

A.V.I.D. volunteer needs are picked up by nevadavolunteers.org. The total annual volunteer numbers and hours for Douglas County are submitted to The Corporation for National and Community Service.

▪ **Pending Issues**

A.V.I.D. is working with locally elected State Representatives to develop and adopt a Nevada Statute that provides Officers and Directors in non-profits with limited liability from law suits. This statute is modeled after similar ones in Wisconsin and Florida. A.V.I.D. is working with Douglas County staff on a method to address individual volunteer vetting and limited liability to the County.

Member Organizations

Service organizations, churches and corporate volunteer groups are not included in A.V.I.D. purview.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

CASA/Court Appointed Special Advocates

Carson Valley Arts Council
Carson Valley Community Food Closet
Carson Valley Medical Center
D.A.W.G./Douglas County Animal Shelter
Douglas County Historical Society
Douglas County Library
Douglas County Parks & Recreation
Douglas County Senior Center
Douglas County School District
Douglas Sheriff's Department/Search and Rescues
ESL Program/English as a Second Language
Family Support Council
Kids and Horses
Minden-Tahoe Airport
Partnership of Community Resources
Red Cross
SAFE/ Special Advocates for the Elderly

Board

The A.V.I.D. Board has three offices: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Meetings are held six times a year and minutes e-mailed to all member organizations. A representative of any and all member organizations is welcome to attend and participate in these meetings. The purpose of the meetings is for representatives of various organizations within A.V.I.D. to brief other A.V.I.D. members on what is occurring within their organizations, and to exchange ideas and information about recruitment, retention, needs and services for volunteers.

Funding and Expenditures

A.V.I.D.'s bank balance in the fourth quarter of 2010 is \$22,645. Ninety-six percent of the funding has come from three grants from the F2 Foundation. Three percent has been from Douglas County government while one percent has been from individuals and local businesses.

Annual expenses range from \$3,000 to 3,500. The expenses include the Annual Volunteer Picnic (\$1500-1675), WEB site maintenance (\$60), grants (\$1,000-1,500), administrative costs such as postage and bank checks (\$200). One-time expenses include purchase of a phone/recorder, WEB site development, and purchase of lapel pins with the logo.

FEEDBACK

Questions, suggestions and support regarding A.V.I.D. are welcome. Please write using the P. O. Box or contact the Chair, Sgt. Jim Halsey, 775-782-9931 (jhalsey@co.douglas.nv.us), or the Secretary, Dr. Mary Ellen Conaway 775-265-7651 (meconaway@charter.net).