



City of Cambridge

R-65.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 24, 2000

COUNCILLOR REEVES
 COUNCILLOR DECKER
 COUNCILLOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
 COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 MAYOR GALLUCCIO
 VICE MAYOR MAHER
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: In Cambridge, a wonderful organization called the Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse (CSVC) matches seniors interested in volunteering with Cambridge agencies that can utilize their skills and talents; and
- WHEREAS: The CSVC works with non-profit and public sector agencies to identify opportunities for mature volunteers, support the efforts of aging volunteer managers to recruit, train and successfully utilize mature volunteers, and maintains and distributes a list of Cambridge-based organizations that utilize mature volunteers; and
- WHEREAS: One of the least known and most valuable of Cambridge's many resources is the talent, expertise and experience of our senior citizens; and
- WHEREAS: The number of Americans over sixty is growing so fast that in the next couple of decades, 20% of the national populations will be over sixty; and
- WHEREAS: People spend thirty years growing up and getting settled in their lives, thirty years caring for families and working for a living, and then there are thirty years or so more productive years that can add so much to our community; and
- WHEREAS: The CSVC also works with Cambridge senior citizens to match them with the volunteer opportunities that best match the needs and interests of the mature volunteers; and
- WHEREAS: The invaluable work of Cambridge senior citizen volunteers will be recognized at an award ceremony on Wednesday, April 26, 2000 at 4:30 PM at the Citywide Senior Center; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record congratulating the Cambridge senior volunteers who will be recognized for their good service.

In City Council April 24, 2000.
 Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
 Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council 4-24, 2000

KR Susy to Intro Resoln on Senior Volunteers

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
✓				Ms. Kathleen L. Born
✓				Mr. James Braude
✓				Ms. Henrietta Davis
✓				Ms. Marjorie C. Decker
✓				Vice Mayor David P. Maher
✓				Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
✓				Mr. Michael A. Sullivan
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
✓				Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio

KR

Lake Order

R-65

W/A One of the ~~most~~ ~~not~~ least known and most valuable of Cambridge's many resources ~~is~~ ^{expertise and} the talent ~~and~~ experience of ~~Cam~~ our senior citizens; and

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W/A The CSVC also works with Cambridge senior citizens to match them with the volunteer opportunities that best match the needs and interests of the mature volunteers; and

W/A The invaluable work of Cambridge Senior Volunteer Cleanhouse is being recognized in the award that it will receive; now therefore we

R That the C C go on record congratulating the Cambridge Senior Volunteer Cleanhouse a 16 award and extending its appreciation for the important work of this worthwhile organization

How You Can Get Involved

If you'd like to volunteer, give us a call (or send us an e-mail, fax, or letter telling us the best way to contact you). We'll arrange a meeting at which we can discuss your interests, your strengths, and your availability. Then, we'll help you explore the volunteer opportunities that seem to best match your needs.

If you run a Cambridge-based agency that is interested in utilizing mature volunteers, give us a call or send us an e-mail, fax, or letter describing your agency, the anticipated need for volunteers and your history in working with volunteers. We're happy to work with you whether you have experience with volunteers or are exploring the idea for the first time.

Phone: 617-864-6688

Fax: 617-497-7532

Address: Cambridge Senior
Volunteer Clearinghouse
56 Brattle Street
P. O. Box 9113
Cambridge, MA 02238

E-mail: senvol@igc.org

Director: Carol Lieberman

Executive Committee:

Beverly B. Cassara, Co-Chair
Robert S. Hurlbut, Jr., Co-Chair
Rena Abelmann
Fred Berman
Philippa Bovet
Cynthia Browning
Eileen Ginnetty
Sandra Kahn
Herta Loeser
Carlos Maynard
Walter Milne
Theresa Romanoff
Rad Romeyn
Jim Smith
Robert Sutherland

Sponsors:

The Boston Foundation
Cambridge Center for Adult Education
Cambridge Community Foundation
Cambridge Council on Aging
Cambridge Rotary Club
Bushrod H. Campbell & Adah F. Hall
Charity Fund
The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc.
ELDERCORPS
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
Individual contributions
Memorial Church, Harvard University
Polaroid Foundation
A.C. Ratschesky Foundation
Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation
Frederick E. Weber Charities Corporation

The Clearinghouse appreciates the many generous donations of money and time by individuals who support our efforts.

What Seniors Say

Dorothy Vetter says, "Volunteering as a cook and shopper for the Tuesday Meals Program means a lot to me. There's satisfaction in helping provide a full meal to over 100 needy people every week, and camaraderie with the regular crew and with occasional volunteers like high school and college students."

Jim Dunn says, "As a youngster, I sang in the choir; in the Service, I sang in a chorus that entertained in military hospitals. When I attended a party at the North Cambridge Senior Center, I heard the JOYFUL SOUNDS, and now I sing with them, entertaining in nursing homes, hospitals, etc."

Julian Wimbush, a Cambridge School Volunteer says, "I leave the Tutoring Center with a spring to my stride, feeling that this is the most rewarding thing I do all week."

What Agencies Say

Phyllis Cohen of the American Friends Service Committee says, "Volunteers are the backbone of the AFSC. The scope and variety of their work is enormous: coordinating programs, serving on vital committees, helping with desktop publishing, answering phones, handling mail, managing data bases. We value and cordially welcome seniors."

Mary Lou Ward of Mount Auburn Hospital says, "Both the patients and our busy staff appreciate the quality service and extra measure of care provided by our senior volunteers each and every day."

Who We Are and What We Do

Founded in 1994, the Clearinghouse matches seniors interested in volunteering with Cambridge agencies that can utilize their skills and talents.

Convinced that the right match enriches the life of the volunteer and strengthens our community:

- ◆ we work with non-profit and public sector agencies to identify opportunities for mature volunteers
- ◆ we support the efforts of agency volunteer managers to recruit, train, and successfully utilize mature volunteers
- ◆ we maintain and distribute a list of Cambridge-based organizations that utilize mature volunteers

You are invited to visit our office at 56 Brattle Street (Blacksmith House of the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, in Harvard Square) to meet our Director and explore volunteering options.

We're open 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse
56 Brattle Street
P. O. Box 9113
Cambridge, MA 02238

Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse

617-864-6688

senvol@igc.org

Call Us!

... If you're age 55 or older and interested in volunteering your time in the Cambridge community.

... If you run a Cambridge-based agency that could benefit from the help of one or more mature volunteers with varied life experiences and talents.

The CSVC is a program of ELDERCORPS. We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit agency under the Cambridge Community Foundation, our fiscal agent. We are housed at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education.

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April 24, 2000

COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR DECKER

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Find room for seniors to volunteer

BY BEVERLY BENNER CASSARA, ED.D.

Guest Columnist

Recently, an older gentleman told me that as far as he was concerned, he was "just putting in time." True, the exigencies of his life have left him without family or close friends in the area, and his health is not the greatest, but he is very far from being homebound.

How many times have we heard older persons express similar sentiments? A news story I read several years ago burns in my memory. With a picture of an older woman sitting at the kitchen table with her middle-aged daughter, she is reported as saying, "My life should be over; there is no reason for me to be here anymore."

It is precisely these kinds of stories that moved a group of senior citizens to establish the Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse to help create a new opportunity for seniors to find a niche to give purpose to their lives. For example, one woman said she volunteers at two jobs to keep her busy all the time, "otherwise, life would be too grim."

Another case, a retired woman of some means, who was living on the Cape with her husband, enjoying a social life, drinking socially, started to take a drink in the afternoon. Why not, there was nothing she had to do. Then, the old story of one drink becoming two, but she controlled herself somehow and no one thought of her as an alcoholic.

Fortunately, she caught herself when driving her daughter and granddaughter to the airport. She suddenly realized that she did not have control of the car and asked her daughter to take over the wheel. She said she was alarmed that she could be in the position of smashing up these two precious people. Her husband started driving her for regular drug rehab counseling where she was confronted for the first time with the fact that she had not developed any sufficient purpose for living in later life.

Of course, we cannot generalize to the whole population of older people from these anecdotes. We all know older people with a lot of guts doing great things with their lives. What we don't know is how many persons there are who are just "putting in time," or, at least, passing the days with their greatest connection to society coming from the television soaps.

The moral of this story is that the number of those of us over 60 is growing so fast that in a couple of decades, 20 percent of the national population will join it. That amounts to around 60 million persons. It will be very demoralizing to society in general if many of them feel they are just putting in time.

Society has not adjusted to the change of longevity in our time. People spend 30 years growing up and getting settled in life, 30 years developing careers and caring for family, and then there are 30 years

or so more. Giving older people Social Security and Medicare is great, but then many are left to dwell on the margins of society.

Volunteering in nonprofit and government agencies is one answer, if these agencies understand seniors and are clever about putting their skills and expertise to work. Seniors who help little children to read, or help adults to learn to use the computer, or work for the homeless do have a purpose, a reason to get out of bed in the morning.

Nevertheless, the idea of senior volunteering has not yet been well enough developed. For instance, what if the 15,000 persons over 60 in Cambridge wanted to volunteer, there would be no place for them. Well, that will never happen, but really, agencies could do more.

What if every agency could develop at least one new slot to carry out some service beyond their current means, instead of thinking of little odd things a body could pick up now and then. This would give the senior self-esteem and creative purpose to carry out a project set aside for seniors. If every agency in the city could do this, suddenly the whole stereotype of helpless seniors would start to dissolve.

Volunteering is only one answer to the social challenge to engage seniors in vital and productive life, but it is a present answer for some.

Beverly B. Cassara is co-chair of the Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse.



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A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

459R

Resolution #65

The Cambridge Senior Volunteer
Clearinghouse will recognize
senior citizen volunteers at an
award ceremony on April 26, 2000
at the Citywide Senior Center.
**Councillors Reeves, Decker and
entire membership**

In City Council April 24, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED