

North Little Rock  
Senior Citizens  
And  
Office of Volunteer Program  
Annual Report  
2014



Joe A. Smith  
Mayor

North Little Rock City Council

Debi Ross  
Linda Robinson  
Steve Baxter  
Murry Witcher

*Charley Baxter*  
*Director*

Beth White  
Maurice Taylor  
Bruce Foutch  
Charlie Hight

*Susan Russell*  
*Assistant Director*

Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center  
&  
Office of Volunteer Services  
And Related Senior Programs  
Annual Report  
2014

The Senior Citizens Program for the City of North Little Rock is comprised of various activities and locations including the Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center. Also a part of the activities are the Volunteer Program for the City of North Little Rock as well as activity programs at Willow House, Heritage House, S.W. Bowker, and Campus Towers.

The Hays Center and the senior programs of North Little Rock are organized as a city department under the leadership of Mayor Joe A. Smith and the North Little Rock City Council.

In addition, the program is directed by the North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission. These outstanding Commissioners volunteer their time and energy in developing policy and procedure for the senior programs. They take the time to listen to members and work to assure programs are developed that are beneficial to our members. The Senior Citizens Commission meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 3PM at the Hays Center. Visitors are welcome.

The Senior Citizens Commission, a body appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City council, is made up as follows:

*North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission*

*Richard Blankenbeker - Chairman*

*Virginia Raum - Vice Chairman*

*Mary Ruth Morgan - Secretary Treasurer*

*Dorothy Romes*

*Belinda Snow*

*Dick Giddings*

*Eddie Powell*

*Murry Witcher - Alderman*

*Liz Sniff*

**Overview**

The Senior Programs in North Little Rock are a product of a community seeking its own destiny. After almost 20 years of providing senior program primarily thru the North Little Rock Housing Authority the decision was made in 2000 to create a new program. While the old vision and programming served us well we believed it was time for a change. The vision was to build a state of the art program with a building that would attract seniors and provide programs and services that met today's needs. A task force was appointed by Mayor Patrick H. Hays and the new vision was on its way.

Like so many other visions though this one took lots of hard work and determination as well as funding. Following a year of planning and a positive vote for a sales tax the vision began to be put on paper. Dreams became plans, plans became bid documents and construction documents saw a building grow out of the ground. In February 2003 the building was opened and a program was born.

Thru the years we have grown with our offerings of programs. We have had success and occasionally a set back or two but we could not be more proud of what our citizens have encouraged us to build which is what we believe to be an outstanding program.

During these 13 years we have grown from nothing at all to one of the most viable, fun, and personally rewarding programs in the country.

The breakdown of those members that joined in 2014 is as follows:

Total number of new members-female- 614

Total number of new members- male- 346

Broken down by race:

African American females -266- males 135

Asian females-5 males -1-

Caucasian females 311, males 187

Hispanic females 7, males -4-

Other females 16, males- 10

## **Weekly Activities**

Many of the activities at the Hays Center are carried over from previous years. Those are listed in the class schedule that is available at the front desk. Included in those activities are some of our standard offerings that our members continue to enjoy and that we consider our staple exercise.

Our pools are a perfect example of the continuation of programs our members enjoy. We offer an aerobic pool and a lap pool. On any given day in excess of 250 members use these pools. We provide daily aerobics classes 5 times per day with one of those classes having over 100 members with 50 or more in attendance on any given day. Other classes are very well attended as well. All of these classes are taught by volunteer instructors and they provide lots of exercise and fellowship for our members.

The Lap pool is equally successful. While we have far fewer lap swimmers than aerobics members our lap pool is used continuously on a daily basis. These lap swimmers help each other learn better swim methods and they too strike up friendships that keep them coming back to swim.

Our lap swimmers take an active part in our programming. They are always looking for ways to improve the program. Many times they purchase equipment and items to make their time in the pool better. Recently they purchased a digital clock to help with their swim times. Many of these members are training for the Senior Olympics and using the skills they gain in our programs to better compete for those medals they bring home with them. Our walls are full of displays to honor the work they have put in on their effort. We offer some “specialty” swim options as well. Twice per year we provide snorkeling lessons for those members heading to the tropics or going on cruises and we also have

swim lessons from time to time. It is so rewarding to see a senior learn to swim or learn to snorkel and fulfill lifelong ambitions to get over their fear of the water.



**Aerobics Pool**



**Lap Pool**



### **Fitness Area**

The Hays Center has a wide array of fitness equipment. We have 16 treadmills, 8 standing elliptical machine, 10 seated elliptical machines and a host of weight and strength building machines. In all we have over 60 pieces of equipment our members may use on a daily basis. Together with our indoor walking track we cater to seniors who want to have a fitness program that spans from simply increasing their cardiovascular work out to building strength and stamina for their daily routine. So, seniors can use a full array of work out features at the Hays Center.

### **Senior Olympics**

Our members continue to participate in the State Senior Olympics. This is a source of pride and bragging rights. Our members are encouraged to let us display their medals. To date 8 members have won 76 medals in the Arkansas Senior Olympics and our Bean Bag Baseball team also brought home the gold once. By competing in the State Senior Olympics our seniors are eligible to compete in the National Senior Olympics. While our members compete in swimming and bean bag baseball there are many other events to compete in, both in State and Nationally. As with so many of our programs, winning is great but competing and having the fun of going places and meeting new friends is even more important.

### **Bean Bag Baseball Team**

We continue to offer an array of group activities including table tennis, billiards, dance, chair volleyball, Zumba, yoga, tai chi and other interesting programs. Our staff is always looking for new and better ways to serve our membership. New programs are developed

all the time and old ideas are reinvented as well. One of our hall marks is that we change with the times.



**2014 Bean Bag Baseball Team**

Care Link is one of our partners who brings new programs such as Bean Bag Baseball, Peppi Bands, Zumba and many others to us. We also get ideas for new programs on television or in the newspapers. Our staff is always looking for new ways to include our members in new and interesting programs at the Hays Center.

Care Link has a number of events that our members participate in. “Senior Idol” and “You Think You Can Dance” contests are a couple of events they have sponsored that our members participate in. These are wonderful ways to make new friends and compete against other seniors at other senior centers.

This year we introduced a number of new “one day” events for our members to enjoy and participate in. In May and December we held a “Ladies Shopping Day” where we invited over 20 vendors to come in and sell items to our members. Vendors sold Tupperware; make up, jewelry, dresses, hats and purses, natural lotions, Scentsy pots and much more. With each event such as this we require vendors to turn in 10% to our fund raising account.

We also held a “Cake Decorating Class” for our members. This was an 8 week course that gave our members a look into how to decorate cakes and cookies. This class was a big hit with our members and we hope to repeat it again in 2015.



**Care Link – So You Think You Can Dance**

### **Meals and Events**

As with any senior program meals are a big part of what we do. On a weekly basis we have two lunch events that are provided each week. Care Link, one of our partners, provides a box lunch for approximately 50 members. These meals occur on Wednesday and Thursday. This is a time for folks to visit and socialize and enjoy a healthy lunch. For many of our members it is also a good excuse to stay here and enjoy the center more. We also have a number of other meals. In the winter Care Link provides soup & salad each Monday as well.



**4th of July Cookout**

In the spring and summer this event turns into a salad event.

Our Staff prepares a meal once a quarter that usually includes a show of some sort. The staff enjoys this time to do some “silly” or “funny” play or routine for our members. The members usually enjoy this quarterly event and many times they are included in the “show”. This is a fun way for our members to enjoy each other and a good way for the staff to get to know the members better.

This year we had a number of programs for this quarterly event.

In March we hosted the Mardi Gras theme luncheon. The staff cooked chicken and rice gumbo, garlic bread and bread pudding for the occasion. The staff provided entertainment with skits. We had approximately 50 members enjoy the event.

In April we held our Easter Parade and luncheon. This time the staff prepared and served baked ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and Easter eggs, rolls and pie. The staff had games for the members to play. Approximately 65 attended.

Our annual Fourth of July event was held on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. As tradition dictates, the staff cooked hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill outside. We had the traditional baked beans, chips drinks and desert. We had approximately 75 members at this event. In addition to food we provided games and a patriotic program.

In August we had a Barbecue Luncheon. We served all the fixings including BBQ, potato salad, slaw, chips and desert. We had a short program with games.

Also on August 29<sup>th</sup> we held a birthday party for Elizabeth Macklin who turned 101. The event was provided by family and friends. Approximately 50 members joined in on the event.

For Christmas this year we held two events. Our first event was a Friday night party with lots of food, gifts, and a live band. Chera Sbait from our staff made the table decorations and the staff decorated the room, prepared the food, set up the tables and made the room look very festive. The event was a big success with approximately 125 members and guests in attendance. We played games and gave prizes and danced the night away.

For our second Christmas event we had a member’s pot luck during the day. The Hays Center provided the room set up tables and chairs and provided drinks. The members provided pot luck items. Everyone was dressed in Christmas attire and following the meal the group sang Christmas Carols and welcomed in the Christmas season.

And last but not least, we have our pot luck events. A benefit of our programs is that a number of our members get the opportunity to make new friends here. As classes organize and members interact it is natural that they will decide to have a pot luck. These events usually are around holidays but can happen any time during the year. These pot luck events have the added benefit of making the group or class closer and in turn have members invite more members to come and join in on the fun.



**Easter Event- Franks Finer Diner**

### **Special Events & City Functions**

The Hays Center is always a leader in providing special events in our city. 2014 was no exception.

In addition to the normal every day functions the Hays Center always stand ready to assist with other city functions.

These event included retirement parties for city employees, pot luck events for classes and groups of the Hays Center. Some of these events are well planned while others are more spur of the moment events.

Once again this year we held our Farmers Market on Wednesdays during the growing season. This fun event is a way for members to get home grown vegetables and for the growers to make a little money.

This year we held a “Glow Party” in conjunction with Zumba class. Many of the zumba participants dressed in all white and painted themselves in fluorescent colors, wore glowing bracelets, necklaces and anything else that would glow. They danced for 2 hours with a break in the middle munching on goodies everyone brought to share. An estimated 100 people showed up for the event.

The Hays Center again this year is the quarterly home of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Senior Activities. This group has met quarterly at the Hays Center for the

entire time we have been open. Lamar Cole, a former NLR Senior Citizens Commission member has served on this Council and makes the arrangements.

In May the Hays Center hosted the annual Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services luncheon. This event in 2014 was held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event honors the volunteer service of folks who volunteer throughout the city. Details are listed later in this report.



**Zumba Glow Party**

### **Arts and Art Classes**

Since our opening the Hays Center has promoted art and art classes. During 2014 we had various displays in our gallery including The North Little Rock Woman's art show in November and December featured the Arkansas League of Artists. These events had a number of nice pieces of art.

We were honored to display various artists' work during the year. This year we had our own Hays Center Members Art show on display as well.

We also displayed quilts from our Hays Center Quilting Class in the gallery in January. Periodically we also teach a glass fusing class. This year we held 4 glass classes. The members made some wonderful items to either wear themselves or give as gifts.

### **Zumba**

Zumba continues to be a popular program with our membership. This upbeat dance/exercise program lets individuals exercise at their own pace. This is a real active program so the addition of classes made the activity even more popular. Our members can work up a sweat and enjoy it. Susan Russell attended classes and became certified as Zumba instructor. At times other staff persons are involved in the fun. This is important

to keep the programs going strong. When the volunteer instructor cannot attend we can augment classes with our staff and assure that our members always have an array of classes to attend.

We continued these popular classes in 2014 and our members still enjoy this activity.

### **Book Club**

Our Hays Center Book club led by Alice Wycliff continues to be a good outlet for our members who share the fun of reading. The group meets, picks out a book to read and then has a lively discussion as to the likes and dislikes of the particular book. We continue to promote this activity and hope to grow it even bigger in the future.

### **Chair Volleyball**

Chair volleyball is one of our programs which continues to be popular. Five times per week we have games where our members choose up teams and play to their hearts content. This is another one of our programs that surprised us with that “senior need to win” component that we were not expecting. The games are very competitive and at times tempers flare. Being a referee at these games has its challenges. Our members get a number of benefits from Chair volleyball. It is surprising how much exercise you can get and not run the risk of falling. Members make friends and get plenty of socialization. And they get the added benefit of feeling competitive again.



**Chair Volley Ball**

## Out of State Trips:

Our out of state trips remain popular. Assistant Director Susan Russell was the chaperone for the out of state trips. At the end of April Susan took 40 seniors on a trip to Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The group was provided with a guided tour of Beaufort, South Carolina which included a visit to Parris Island. There some of the group went on a horse carriage ride around the island while others shopped the stores and dined. Upon arriving in Savannah, Georgia the group visited its historic River Street where some dined on fresh oysters, shopped the open air markets and got a good look at one of the “small” yachts on the river. Also in Savannah, the group toured the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, who started the Girl Scouts of America. The group enjoyed a tour of St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island which was once known as the private “Millionaire’s Club”. The group left Georgia and headed to Nashville, Tennessee where they visited the Parthenon, Old Downtown Nashville, and the Opry Mills Mall. That evening many in the group went to the Grand Ole Opry to see Jim Ed Brown, Vince Gill, Bill Anderson and others.

In early December a group of 14 headed for San Antonio, Texas for the weekend and stayed at a hotel on the River Walk. The group visited the LBJ Ranch, Lukenback, SAS Shoe and the Japanese Tea Garden. Once back in San Antonio, the group toured the Alamo, Spanish Governor’s Palace and more. The group enjoyed double deck bus rides, river boat rides and the Mexican Market. These were a hit along with being in the middle of all the action on the River walk which was all decorated for Christmas. The group enjoyed authentic Mexican food. On the way home the group made a stop at the famous Collins Street Bakery and local pecan stand.



## **Savannah, Georgia**

### **Local Trips**

Ann Marie Leblanc schedules trips and excursions for our day trips. They include local central Arkansas trips as well as trips reaching into the corners of our state. These day trips are an excellent way for our members to see parts of the state they could not otherwise see. These trips include such locations at the Clinton Library, Judge Parkers Court in Fort Smith, seeing the trumpeter swans, visiting Crystal Bridges, Toad Suck Days, The Hope watermelon festival, peach picking, senior centers in Conway, Bryant, Searcy and other locations around Arkansas.

In partnership with the North Little Rock Housing Authority we also provide transportation to local Doctor's Offices and to local grocery stores.

Our largest single event was a trip to our local minor league ball park, Dickey Stephens Park. The Travelers held their annual "Senior Day" and our members took full advantage of the occasion. All the High Rise Housing Authority buildings had good participation as well as the Hays Center. The day included food and games.

### **Growing programs**

The key to program success is in changing with the times. The Hays Center has always changed to meet expectations of its members. Our standard line is that "we introduce new programs all the time.. if they work we keep them going, if they don't work we drop them for new programs". This has worked well for us.

We introduce new programs and change existing programs all the time. Our goal is to provide our members with the opportunity to exercise both their bodies and their minds and make it so they have fun along the way.

New programs, new trips, fun event along with the opportunity to enjoy our standard programs is the hallmark of the Hays Center.

We continue to have success with a number of standard classes. Pool aerobics, chair volley ball, bean bag baseball, knitting, quilting, art classes, and our book club are but a few of the weekly classes and events that continue to be well attended. The varied choices of opportunities for our members to remain active make us a fun place for seniors to spend some time.

Zumba, pool aerobics, table tennis and billiards are all growing with additional numbers in each. These activities are easy to join and the participants welcome new comers all the time. This is one of the best features of the Hays Center; that interest our members have in welcoming others into their group.



**Quilters Display**



**Card Games**

## **Peppi Bands**

One of these “improved” classes is our Peppi band class. This stretching class has become more popular and the numbers attending the class have increased. Our staff rotates teaching this important class. As those in the industry know the body must stay flexible to assure that we get the most out of it. This class focuses on the use of rubber “stretch” bands in different degrees of intensity to allow class members to get the most out of the exercise program. Ideally this stretching process should be implemented two to three times per week to help the member get the most out of the exercises. This is another class presented to us by Care Link which in turn simply strengthens our partnership with this outstanding organization. We continue to see benefit from this program and our members see this as a great addition for us.

## **Healthy Living**

Robert Barnes, one of our outstanding volunteers, participates in a number of ways. Robert is currently teaching a “weight loss and control” class. This class jointly discusses life style, diet, choices of food groups, exercise and other pieces of the health and wellness puzzle that go toward a healthy regimen for a person as they age. Robert’s class gives our members a chance to learn the latest in weight loss and control and Robert leads by example as is one of our most active members as well. Robert participates in many activities and he has won medals at the last three senior Olympics. Robert’s attitude is infectious as many members strive to “keep up with Robert” and try to improve their health.

With respect to Robert he continues to be instrumental in a number of areas. He volunteers to educate our membership in the Affordable Care Act.

## **Yoga**

We have had an ongoing Yoga class since we opened in 2003. Classes continue as we move forward and in many respects they increase with the number of participants. Yoga is an outstanding way to keep your body in shape and to keep your emotions in check as well. Our volunteer instructors do an outstanding job keeping the classes interesting.

## **Tai chi**

We have also had Tai Chi classes since we opened as well. Tai Chi is similar to yoga and is also an outstanding way to remain flexible and fit as we age. We currently have two Tai Chi classes and our members continue to utilize these programs.



**Tai Chi**

### **Computer Classes**

One of our outstanding programs at the Hays Center is our computer program. We provide a number of ways for our members to get more proficient in their computer skills.

We provide classes in our computer lab. These classes range from the basics in computer skills to advanced classes such as photo shop and how to utilize EBay.

Our volunteer coordinator Holly Nolan and a number of volunteer instructors provide classes at no expense to our members. We have served thousands of members with this program.

In addition, we have computers in our library for individual use.

### **Volunteers at the Hays Center**

We love our volunteers at the Hays Center. They are our life blood as a senior program. Since our opening day, February 3, 2003 we have built our programs on volunteer service. In large part all our programs are taught by volunteers. Volunteers man our front desk; they give tours of the building. We say often that we would not be what we are without our volunteers.

Volunteers do much more than just occupy space or handle a specific task. They are our best advertisement. Our volunteers recruit members. They see someone at the mall or at church and they talk about how much the Hays Center means to them and in no time at all the folks they are talking to decide to give us a try. It is much more effective for a volunteer to recruit new members or new volunteers than it is for paid staff. After all they

are giving of themselves and their time and talent to make the Hays Center a success. They have credibility. Volunteers are essential to what we do and how we do it.

In 2014 our Hays Center volunteers provided over 10,000 hours of volunteer service to our programs. They are the equivalent of 5 full time employees but more than that they provide a service paid employees cannot provide. Their service is a testament to their love for our community and the Hays Center programs. Many of our volunteers have been with us the whole time the Hays Center has been open. Week after week they man the front desk or teach a class. Not only are we, the staff, indebted to them but our members come to expect to see them here for their “job”. This service is truly something that money cannot buy.

We take pride in recognizing our volunteers for the service they provide. Our program includes quarterly recognition events where we give small tokens of our appreciation to our volunteers as they reach milestones in their service. The shirts, pins, jackets, or other mementoes we provide do not compensate them for their service but rather they show that we appreciate them. During 2014 we recognized 12 of our members as volunteers of the month. We honor them by placing their names on a plaque in our lobby, by taking them to a luncheon, and we provide them with a certificate that marks their accomplishments. While this does not reward them for what they do it does show our appreciation and let our membership know that these folks are special.

### **2014 Volunteer of the Month**

January	Barbara Koros
February	Virginia Driver
March	Shirley Ouzts
April	Pat Jackson
May	William Driver
June	Janice Thurow
July	Rita Billingsley
August	Rick Loftis
September	Sharon Brumfield
October	Liz Swinton
November	Hawatha Lewis
December	Valeria Smith

These folks were recognized for their dedication and hard work and their spirit of giving to our program. Others were recognized for their service and we thank each and every person who volunteers for us but, these folks provided extra service to set themselves apart.

### **2,000 Hour Club**

We had 3 inductees into the 2000 hour club. This is a listing of all members who have given at least 2,000 hours of volunteer service to the Hays Center since we opened in 2003. Those attaining that level of service in 2014 are:

Grover Irving  
Milly Murphy  
Esther Swindell

### **Income**

While the Hays Center depends on funding from the City of North Little Rock General Fund we are quite proud of the income we generate that helps make our program a success. During 2014 the following are sources and amounts:

Housing Authority PILOT	\$101,298.00
New Membership dues	\$41,257.00
Membership Renewal	\$129,526.00
Rentals	\$35,380.00

Total income                      \$331,957.31

The City General fund made up the remainder of funds necessary to complete our budget. This amount is approximately \$600,000.

During 2014 we had a total of 38 rentals of our ballroom and meeting room and 11 co-sponsored uses of our facility.

### **Partners**

As with our previous years we cannot overemphasize the roll partners play in our programs. Of course the City of North Little Rock and Mayor Smith are outstanding in funding a major portion of our program. In addition, we have various other partners that help to make us who we are.

The Senior Citizens Commission and North Little Rock Senior Citizens Outreach both serve to assist us and guide us in our mission. The Commission sets policy and gives direction to our program and Outreach serves as a fundraising body for us.

The North Little Rock Housing Authority is a big partner in our program. Ours is a two way street. The Housing Authority contracts with us to provide services to their senior residents and provide funding for that endeavor. A large portion of our travel is dedicated to residents of the housing authority.

Care Link is an outstanding partner of our program. In January thru April Care Link provides a soup and salad lunch for our members each Monday. A tossed salad and a different soup are served by our volunteers each week.

Care Link also held sign up seminars for eligible members in the SNAP program two times at the Hays Center. We opened our computer lab to Care Link for those needing help with their Medicare options. This is a great service as these decisions can be difficult.

This year Care Link was able to get a blood pressure/heart rate chair for our facility. This chair is used by our members on average more than 3,000 times per month. Care Link celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Hays Center Ballroom was the site they choose for the event. Care Link staff decorated and set up the room for the event. The Hays Center participated in Care Link events such as bean bag baseball tournaments and other contests. At the Care Link talent contest the Hays Center won the group dance contest and Mable Sain won first place in the soul dance category.

The North Little Rock Woman's Club is another of our partners. They do community projects and make donations to the Hays Center. This group of ladies continues to work to improve our community in many areas. They are active in the North Little Rock School System as well as the North Little Rock Housing Authority high rise buildings.

Baptist Health continues to be a great partner of the Hays Center. Each Tuesday nurses from Baptist Health provide a wellness center at the Hays Center seeing approximately 50 members each Tuesday. Their services include blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, review of medications and assistance on medical issues.

We are indebted to our partners for all they do for us.

## **Staff**

In addition to the outstanding group of volunteers the Hays Center and its related programs has an outstanding staff. The following is a listing of all paid staff.

Director- Charley Baxter  
Assistant Director- Susan Russell  
Administrative Assistant/Rental Coordinator- Angela Wirt  
Administrative Assistant- Cherihan Sbeit  
Administrative Assistant- Connie Fowler  
Custodians- Lincoln Martin, Nadia Johnson, Solomon Kimbell  
Part time:  
Weekend Program Director- Lawrence Green  
Weekend Receptionist- Tammy Clark  
Part Time Custodian-Herman Barnes  
Night Building Attendants- Albert Horton, Beverly Williams-Pelton

Activity Directors  
Willow House- Bobby Bryant & Barbara Bonner  
Campus Towers- Erma Wilbert & Regina Buie-Gaines  
Heritage House/ Bowker- Nita Armstrong and Gloria Dunning

## **Office of Volunteer Services**

In 1980 Fritz Friedl developed North Little Rock's Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services. For 20 years Fritz gave of his talents and time and developed a program that has been a model for programs all across the state. In 2008 Fritz decided to "retire" from his volunteer job and the program was folded in to the Hays Center programs. We remain in debt to Fritz for his leadership and his work in making the program so vital to the City of North Little Rock and the services our city provides.

We once again administered the Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services program for the City of North Little Rock. 2014 was another great year for the program. We had 31 new volunteer applications in 2014. We are proud to continue to add volunteers to our program.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation program was held on May 22<sup>rd</sup>. We had a great crowd and a good program.

We had a total of over 33,131 hours of Volunteer Service city wide in 2014. 167 volunteers served in 35 different departments during the year. These volunteers serve in our city and their value to us cannot be overstated. They provide their work without compensation and they serve as ambassadors for our city. Whether they are volunteering at the Razorback Submarine or in assistance at the City Engineers Office, their skills and talents are so important to our success. Not only do they save us financially they are a wealth of knowledge and they share this with us but they also provide us with insight into how the community at large views city services and programs.

Across our city these volunteers participate in Police and Fire training programs, city wide clean up, boards and commissions, youth programs, and a whole host of other programs that add to the livability of our community. We have said many times, "we could not have done it without them" and we continue to mean that in the best of ways.

We are grateful and happy to honor these individuals and thank all our great volunteers.

Our city wide volunteer of the year in 2014 was Morris Petty. Mr. Petty is a volunteer in Judge Jim Hamilton's Court. Mr. Petty is always early for his work at the court and does his job in an outstanding fashion. He serves as Judge Hamilton's Court Bailiff. Morris had given 5688 hours of service to the city in over 20 years. Judge Hamilton said of Mr. Petty, "He is such a gentleman, and does work above and beyond what is expected".

We were honored to bestow the award on Mr. Morris Petty as our Fritz Friedl Volunteer of the Year.

Our Volunteer Program remains one of our city's strengths. From volunteers cleaning up our city to volunteers helping with sports programs we remain a strong and viable community because of what our citizens are willing to give back to our community.

We will remain proud of our volunteers and committed to this outstanding program.

Prepared by: The Hays Center Staff



