SeniorCorps-RSVP Larimer’s Vision & Mission:
With Core Beliefs and Goals

The Program:
SeniorCorps is a federal, national-service program (similar to PeaceCorps and AmeriCorps), aimed at mobilizing citizens for community service. SeniorCorps does this service on the local level, county by county, with those 55+ years of age. Its programs were instituted in 1973 through the Domestic Service Volunteer Act, and it became an official entity in 1993 through the National and Community Service Trust Act. SeniorCorps operates within the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), and CNCS is under the direct authority of the White House.

The RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is the largest program within SeniorCorps, and dates back to 1969 and the Older Americans Act, Title VI. RSVP acts as a network of nonprofits and hospitals within a given county, and as a volunteer matching and placement service for them. Prospective volunteers come to RSVP staff, are assessed, and then are placed in best-fitting roles with one or more of those nonprofit partner-agencies.

SeniorCorps has 330,000 volunteer-members nationwide, RSVP has 270,000, and RSVP in Larimer County has 750 active volunteers (2017).

The Vision:
The vision of SeniorCorps-RSVP Larimer County is to further realize a community where seniors actively participate in the life of their nonprofits, benefiting themselves as they benefit others. As more and more seniors volunteer, every human-service organization receives the volunteers they need, and the health of the community is maximized as volunteers, organizations, and program-participants reach their full potential.

The Mission:
1. To mobilize all seniors who come through our doors/network, into meaningful and fulfilling volunteer opportunities, through our existing network of nonprofits, and by means of our personal and efficient matching service.
2. To build and expand the network of Larimer-based and Larimer-serving human-service nonprofits, to provide more opportunities for right-fit volunteer placements therein.
3. Through its right-fit volunteer matching service, to provide the Larimer nonprofit community with the best volunteers for their positions. This means volunteers who work harder, with greater efficiency, and longer than volunteers who come through other avenues.
4. To mobilize more and more retired and senior volunteers through outreach and marketing efforts, working to meet the needs of the human-service based nonprofits.
5. Act as a resource for Larimer County nonprofits in helping to train their volunteer coordinators.
6. To advocate for the older adults of Larimer County, serving as a partner of organizations and networks which seek the betterment of that population.
7. To measure the impact of RSVP volunteers within Larimer County, passing on that information to the national/federal entities, so that they can continue to make informed decisions and pass strategic legislation for volunteering and national health.

Core Beliefs:
1. Every senior has gifts, talents, skills, and experience to offer through volunteer service.
2. Every senior will personally benefit from volunteering – physically, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and with overall life-satisfaction.
3. Larimer County needs a fully-mobilized senior adult population for the health of its citizens and its nonprofits.
4. All of RSVP-Larimer’s nonprofit partners provide valuable and necessary services to the community.
5. Volunteer placement-services are necessary for the health of a community. Volunteers placed in right-fit opportunities serve better, harder, and longer than others. Placement services are cost-effective and have fiscal value-add to communities because of these efficiencies.
6. National-service placement programs are necessary for the health of a nation. They shape the values of the citizens towards volunteering and beneficence; and they help in maintaining a big-picture view of the country, its needs, and the strategies necessary to promote national and individual health.

Goals:
- To continue to be the first place retirees think of when considering volunteer service (non-religious, and non-political service) in their community, so as to increase participation.
- To have every retired and senior person in Larimer County hear of the RSVP program and the opportunities for volunteer placement thereby.
- To have the best placement process for senior volunteers, in order to increase longevity, retention, and satisfaction of partners and volunteers.