

REACH OUT MORONGO BASIN

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement: The purpose of Reach Out Morongo Basin is to provide support, assistance, education, and referrals to those in need in the Morongo Basin.

Executive Summary: Reach Out saw some changes in 2016 with restructuring and a more active Board of Directors. New organizational goals being implemented have helped make the organization stronger than ever.

For the first time in several years' Reach Out Morongo Basin saw a drop of 3% in the number of unduplicated clients served. The passing of some of our aged clients or the placement of some in skilled nursing facilities accounts for much to the drop in clients however the number of actual requests for services has remained steady.

Services Provided:

* Friendly Visiting & Telephone Reassurance * Personal Business Assistance * Shopping & Errands *
* Yard Work * Minor Home Repairs * Information & Referrals * Transportation * Respite Care * Family Caregiver
Peer Counseling* Family Caregiver Supportive Services

- 1128 unduplicated clients were assisted with direct services throughout the Morongo Basin in 2015
 - 389 clients – Town of Yucca Valley
 - 458 clients – City of Twentynine Palms
 - 66 clients – Village of Joshua Tree
 - 215 clients – Wonder Valley, Yucca Mesa, Landers, Pioneertown and Morongo Valley

Board of Directors:

* Kurt Schappner, *President* *, *Olivia De Haulleville *Secretary* *, * Richard Lundine, *Treasurer* *
*Carlos Reyes * Alfreda Wright * James McCormick * Cheryl McCormick *

Staff:

*Robin Schlosser, *Executive Director* * Carrie Hendrickson, *Administrative Assistant* * Monica Aguilar,
Volunteer Coordinator-Yucca Valley * Coleen Tolth, *Volunteer Coordinator – 29 Palms/Yucca Valley* *
Sharee Hinson, *Volunteer Coordinator – 29* * Barbara Finnegan, *Transportation Coordinator*

Transportation Highlights:

- Reach Out's three vans drove 34,559 miles (2238 trips) to medical, dental, and other health-related appointments within the Morongo Basin and to the Coachella Valley and the San Bernardino areas. Transportation was also provided for grocery shopping, pickup and delivery of prescriptions and rides to social services appointments as needed. There was a 6.5% decrease in the number of miles driven over 2015 though there were 64 more "trips" logged due to an increase in requests for local transportation services.

Volunteer Highlights:

- 178 volunteers provided 8075 hours of service to neighbors in need and operational support in 2016. Of these service hours 6,460 hours were performed by community volunteers and 1615 hours were donated by staff for fundraising and community outreach events
- Moving into the 4th year of collaborations with the Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center volunteers from multiple battalions came out in coordinated service projects throughout the year to aid senior and disabled

homeowners. Volunteers from 1st Tanks Battalion and 3/7 Infantry Battalions as well as numerous single active duty Marine and Naval Personnel participated in multiple projects during the year. During these projects alone 59 senior and disabled homeowners were helped with repairs, painting and major yard work.

- Volunteers provided bi-monthly free haircuts, answered phones, drove clients to appointments, made reassuring phone calls, helped with filing and paperwork, assisted visitors to the senior center and helped at community outreach and fundraising events.

Twentynine Palms Senior Center Highlights

Reach Out Morongo Basin oversees the operations of the Twentynine Palms Senior Center for the the City of Twentynine Palms. This partnership allows seniors to access the facility Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm making it the only senior center in the Morongo Basin open full time. In addition, staff are on call in event of a community wide disaster or mass power outage as the Senior Center is an emergency contact point and a designated cooling center.

Here are some of the highlights of 2016:

- Center was open for 252 days in 2015 (excludes weekends and holidays)
- 2974 individuals were assisted with services and referrals
- Coordinated 2 Flu Shot Clinics with Walgreens Pharmacy for the community
- Coordinated and hosted 6 providers for Medicare Advantage Health Plans to keep seniors up to date on changes and coverage
- Provided bi-monthly free haircuts to seniors by a licensed beautician
- Coordinated with and hosted Dept. of Aging and Adult Services for monthly outreach to senior clients for assistance with bus passes, farmers market vouchers and utility assistance programs
- Coordinated with and hosted Family Service Association for monthly blood pressure and diabetes clinics
- Oversaw operations of and coordinated with staff from the Senior Nutrition Program which provides meals to seniors age 60 and over at the center with approximately

Public Relations Highlights:

Reach Out as a community organization worked very hard to not only provide outstanding services to our clients, we strived to raise awareness of the needs within our communities and the unique challenges faced in our rural area. Our efforts have allowed us to build a solid reputation within our community and to be recognized by local and national organizations.

- Attended the 2016 Community Transportation Association of America Expo in Portland, Oregon and was presented with the 2015 STAR Award for Quality for Outstanding Volunteer Transportation Program - presented by Toyota of North America and the National Volunteer Transportation Center
- Our Executive Director, Robin Schlosser, was invited by the White House to attend the United State of Women Summit in Washington, D.C. in June of 2016 where she attended the 12 hour summit with President Obama and the First Lady as well as many celebrities and activists to advance issues concerning women. In addition she attended sessions at the United States Dept of Health and Human Services on the effects of Domestic Violence on Elderly Minority Women and on Caregiving in the 21st Century.
- Staff member Barbara Finnegan was presented with the ‘Above and Beyond Award’ by the Basin Wide Foundation for her dedication to serving our senior and disabled neighbors and the community at large.

- Reach Out proudly holds current memberships in the following:
 - Basin- Wide Foundation
 - Faith in Action National Network
 - Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce
 - Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce
 - Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce
 - National Volunteer Caregiving Network
 - Academy of Grassroots Organizations of San Bernardino County
 - Alzheimer Foundation of America
 - California Association of Non Profits
 - Twentynine Palms Ministerial Association

Financial Highlights:

- Angel Donors contributed **\$9,981** of unrestricted funding for programs and services
- Local Churches donated **\$3,896** with monthly donations as well as in-kind volunteer support.
- Fundraising earned **\$18,113** from the sale of Stater scrip cards, reflective address signs, Van Fund contributions plus special events including:
 - 13th Annual Parade of Homes
 - Opening Night of Theatre 29
 - Community Clean Up Day
 - 4th Annual Art Auction
 - Street Fair and Car Show – Twentynine Palms
 - 3rd of July – Landers
 - 4th of July – Twentynine Palms
 - Morongo Basin Old Car Club Show – Yucca Valley
 - Pioneer Days – Twentynine Palms
 - Orchid Festival - Landers
 - Hwy 62 Art Tours – Simi Dabah
 - Holiday Craft Faire in November
- Grant income in the amount of **\$95,264** was received from the following:
 - Department of Aging & Adult Services - Title III B - Senior Supportive Services
 - Department of Aging & Adult Services- Title III E - Family Caregiver Support Services
 - Morongo Basin Transit Authority Transportation Assistance Grant (TAG) funding
 - Town of Yucca Valley Partnership Funds
 - City of Twentynine Palms Partnership Funds
 - Archdioceses of San Bernardino
 - Officers Spouses Club – Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms
 - Edison International
- In-kind support in the form of advertising and donations for events were received from Hi-Desert Publishing, Morongo Basin Broadcasting, The Sunner Runner and Tortoise Telegraph, Desert Moon Pictorial Real Estate, ArtFx & Furnishings, Yucca Valley Digital Media Services and the Park Rock Café
- In-kind support of office space from the City of Twentynine Palms and the Town of Yucca Valley