

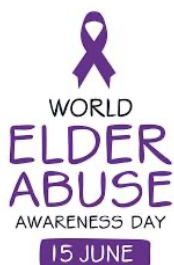


Volunteer Voices

Thank you for all that you do!

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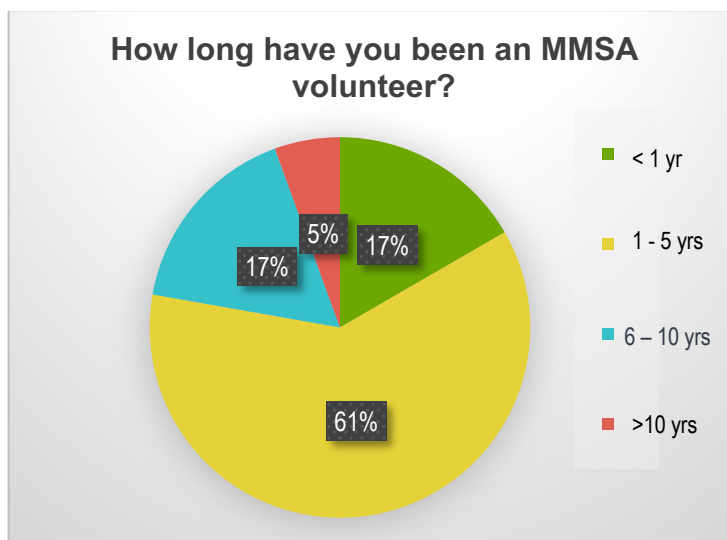
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About MMSA's Volunteers

Data collected from the volunteer surveys done this winter

The surveys are in! Most of you who were volunteers as of February, 2026 completed the Neighbors Care Alliance volunteers survey. Here's a taste of what we learned when the data was compiled. We've shared in Volunteer Zoom calls, and will publish more in future Newsletters, too.



You've Got Questions.... MMSA Staff Have Answers

Q: Can you tell me why my client has stopped getting meals/dropped-off my delivery route?

A: Please call the MMSA Volunteer Coordinator, Tara McCarthy. We don't always know why a client has dropped-off (they don't always tell us), but if we have information that we can share with you, we'd be happy to.

Upcoming Holidays

No Meal Deliveries:

- Memorial Day
May 25, 2026
- Independence Day
July 3, 2026 (observed)

Program these Numbers into Your Phone:



When you run into questions or issues, here's who to call:

General Operations

Blanca Payne: (520)620-9133

Our newest addition! We'll publish more about Blanca in the next issue. In the meantime, come to the Volunteer Breakfast on April 23 and meet her, other staff and fellow volunteers!



Client Concerns, Volunteer Policies and Documentation:

Tara McCarthy: (520)622-1600

Volunteer Hotline (text or call):
(520)222-9878

Kitchen Scheduling:

Annette Pena (please text):
(520)336-4245

Everything Else:

MMSA Main #: (520)622-1600

**Office Hours are 8am-3pm*

Way Beyond Meal Delivery...

learning first-hand what—and why—we deliver daily

“Have you seen my wife?” Mr. B. said with panic in his voice as I walked toward the house, “I can’t find her. I looked everywhere inside and in the yard. She likes to go up that way,” he pointed up the street.

I walked up a few houses and back, then in the other direction. I didn’t see anyone. I told him that we should call the police to help find her, and he refused, “No. That would make her angry. I’ll call my son. I can’t keep track of her—she keeps wandering off.” I handed him the two meal bags, and asked him to bring those inside, saying that I’d be back after taking a drive around the neighborhood to look for Mrs. B.

As I was getting into the car to start the search, I saw a woman coming through the gate beside the house. I felt incredible relief as I turned and walked to her, introducing myself. She was kind and sweet, thanking me and asking how I liked delivering for Mobile Meals. As I told her that being a part of Mobile Meals was truly wonderful, she reached out her hand, and I took it, telling her that her husband was very worried about her, and guiding her inside. After I got them settled with their lunch, I headed back to my car, dialing their emergency contact as I walked. It popped to voicemail. I didn’t want to leave a message about this, so didn’t, but called [Tara](#), explaining the event, including Mr. B.’s refusal to call 9-1-1, my discomfort with that, and my concern that it would likely happen again. She promised to follow-up.

Shortly after my husband and I returned home from our deliveries, my phone rang. It was Mr. B.’s son. He’d seen my number on caller ID. I explained who I was and why I had called, emphasizing my deep concern about his father’s reluctance to call 9-1-1.

Expressing deep gratitude for the call, for the extra help we gave his parents that day, and for all that Mobile Meals has done for his parents, he choked-up at times as he told me how the meals have been a lifesaver and the help we’ve brought his parents exceeded his expectations. He also shared that he was having a difficult time—something to which many of us who’ve cared for aging parents can relate. I suggested that he call the office for follow-up, and also that he contact [Pima Council on Aging](#) for resources that may be able to help him, as they had helped with my father when I had caregiver issues with him.

Nourishing Tucson & Southern Arizona

In Touch

Keeping in Touch with Staff and Fellow Volunteers



Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona CEO, L'Don Sawyer

Office Hours

Monthly Volunteer Chat with CEO, L'Don Sawyer

Join the Zoom Meeting on the last Friday of each month at 2:00 MST.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87876027466?pwd=udUBCyWW6XUS6OqXgNotAHF2OI6u5u.1>

Meeting ID: 878 7602 7466
Passcode: 728262

MMSA Staff Contact:
520-622-1600

L'Don Sawyer, CEO
ldon@mobilemealssoaz.org

Blanca Payne, Operations Director
director@mobilemealssoaz.org

Henry Gorton, Program Coord
henry@mobilemealssoaz.org

Tara McCarthy, Volunteer Coord
tara@mobilemealssoaz.org

Stella Montante, Assistant (pt):
admin@mobilemealssoaz.org

After-hours Volunteer cell:
520-222-9878

Celebrating Volunteers April 23 & 24

Start the day on April 23rd with fellow Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona Volunteers at the Volunteers' Breakfast, then wind down with volunteers from all over Tucson at the Reid Park Zoo!



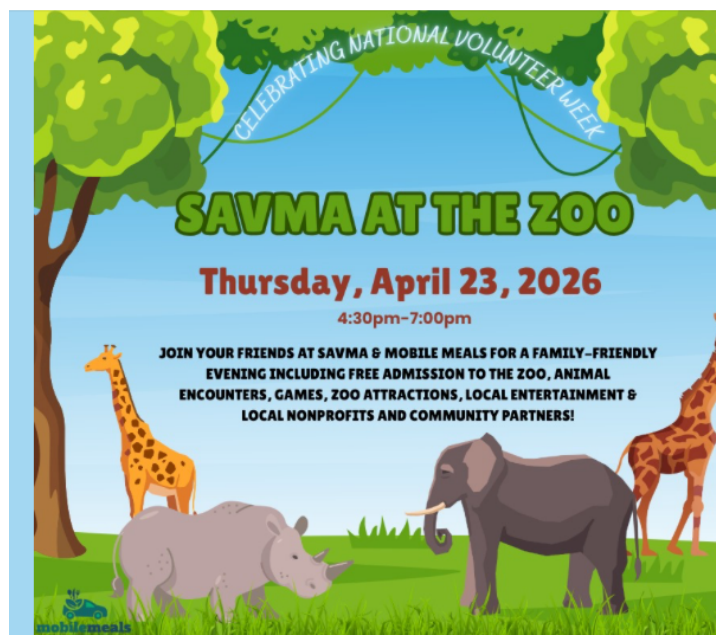
Green Valley Volunteer?

Breakfast with us on Friday morning, April 24th 7:30-8:30

The Arizona Family Restaurant

80 W Esperanza Blvd, Green Valley

Breakfast RSVP's to Tara McCarthy: tara@mobilemealssoaz.org.



What Volunteer Opportunities are Available?

See the up-to-date list of volunteer needs at <https://mobilemealssoaz.org/volunteer-mobile-meals>