



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Lehde named runner-up for AmeriCorps Seniors-RSVP Volunteer of the Year

**WACO, Texas - May 15, 2022** – AmeriCorps Seniors-RSVP is announcing Mary Lou Lehde as the first runner-up for 2022 RSVP Volunteer of the Year Award, which she will soon be recognized at the Volunteer Recognition Event occurring June 11, 2022.

The RSVP Volunteer of the Year runner-up Award offers a unique opportunity to honor the individual that took action in their communities by volunteering through AmeriCorps Seniors-RSVP.

“This award makes me very humble,” Lehde said. “I started volunteering so I could make a difference in the lives of others. I want to be a blessing to each person I come in contact with.”

Volunteer Coordinator of Community Health Care of Texas, Sonya Wilson, nominated Lehde for the award as they have trained and worked together several years.

“She truly is a blessing to everyone who has the privilege of spending time with her,” Wilson said. “In my opinion, this remarkable lady is the epitome of the ‘perfect volunteer’: humble, unassuming, dedicated, faithful, compassionate, resourceful, kind, diligent and loyal.”

Since 2011, Lehde has volunteered a total of 8,940.12 hours serving hospice patients at Community Health Care of Texas. She contributes her time to visiting nursing homes and hospitals, represents a veterans program and attends a grief support group.

“I feel as if it is my calling ... I just get out there and do it,” Lehde said. “I have a heart for these people and I want to make a difference in their lives.”



*Photo courtesy of Sonya Wilson*

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*About AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP:*

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP is a national nonprofit organization sponsored by McLennan Community College that recruits, trains and manages volunteers 55 and older from the Heart of Texas region for other nonprofits.