

**COUNTY OF HIDALGO**

*Community Service Agency*



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Fax: 956-380-4324

January 30, 2018

Mr. Jorge Arcaute, City Manager  
City of Alton, Texas  
501 S. Alton Blvd.  
Alton, Texas 78573

Mr. Arcaute:

Please accept this letter as official acknowledgment of your City's check number 149567 in the amount of \$2,500 to be used for the benefit of volunteers enrolled in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) sponsored by the Hidalgo County Community Service Agency. On behalf of our program, I would like to thank you for your generous gift and more importantly your faith and confidence in the benefits our program offers your constituents and the overall betterment of Hidalgo County.


As you are aware, RSVP recruits, trains and retains persons 55 years of age and older and places them in important social service entities within Hidalgo, Willacy and Cameron Counties. These entities include schools, food pantries, veteran centers and even hospitals. In 2017, the City of Alton was home to five volunteers and they provided 1,054 hours of service to the Alton Senior Center. According to the website, Independent Sector, their time is valued at \$25.15 per hour for a total infusion of \$26,508.10 to the local community. A smart investment indeed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your City's leadership for once again recognizing the importance of this investment. We look forward to continued opportunities to improve the lives of those who live in our communities.

Sincerely,

Jaime Longoria  
Executive Director

# The Value of Volunteer Time

 May 31, 2016

**Full dataset for all  
states 2001-2016**

 **DOWNLOAD PDF**  
<<https://independentsector.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/value-of-volunteer-time-by-state-2001-2016.pdf>>

**\$24.14** per  
hour

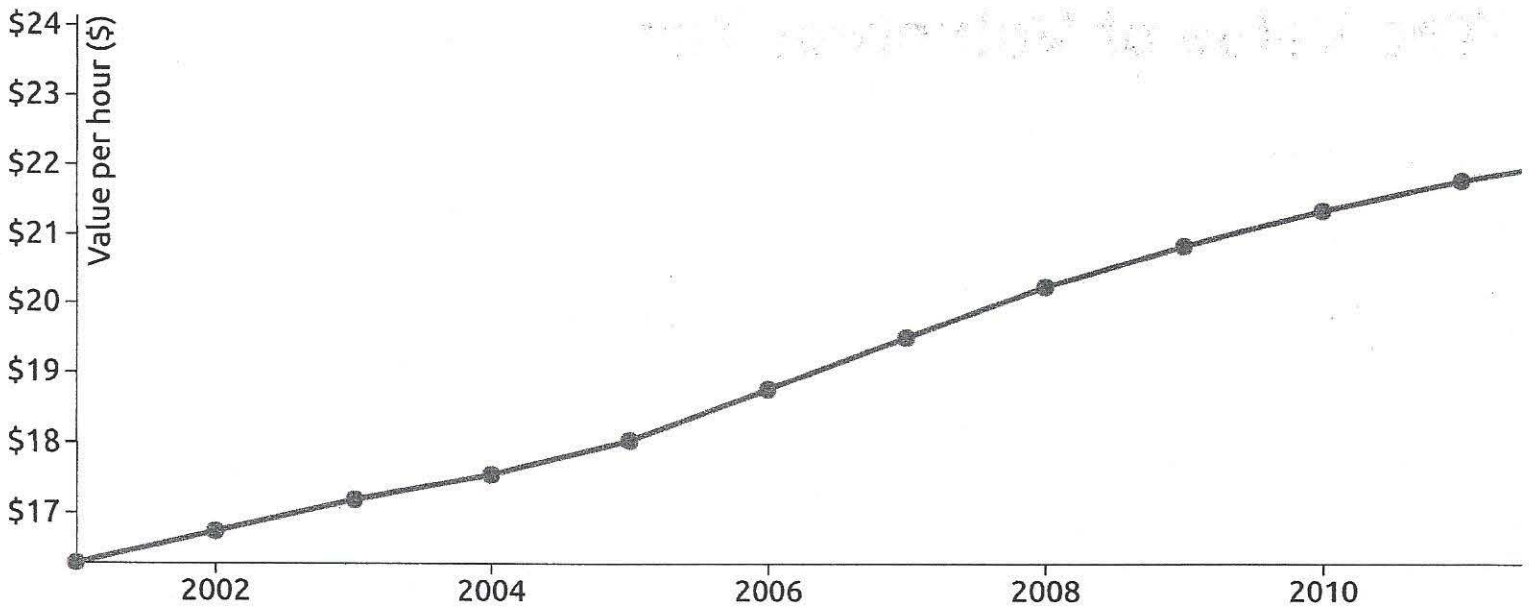
Estimated Value of Volunteer Time for 2016<sup>1</sup>

## National Value of Volunteer Time

The estimate helps acknowledge the millions of individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference. Charitable organizations can use this estimate to quantify the enormous value volunteers provide.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, about 63 million Americans gave 8 billion hours of volunteer service worth \$193 billion. For the latest information, please see [volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov) <<http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov>>.

## Historic Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour: 2002-2016



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District of Columbia	
Washington	
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Alaska	\$2
New Jersey	\$27
Virginia	\$26.9
Maryland	\$26.79
Minnesota	\$26.40
Colorado	\$25.97
Illinois	\$25.95
North Dakota	\$25.40
Texas	\$25.15
New Hampshire	\$24.90
Georgia	\$24.39
Rhode Island	\$24.34
Utah	\$24.27
Oregon	\$24.15
Pennsylvania	\$23.89
Hawaii	\$23.80
Michigan	\$23.67
Arizona	\$23.57
Indiana	\$23.38
Vermont	\$23.29
Delaware	\$23.20
Wisconsin	\$23.06
North Carolina	\$22.99
Ohio	\$22.99
Iowa	\$22.95
Louisiana	\$22.77
Florida	\$22.70
Alabama	\$22.28
Nebraska	\$22.25
Tennessee	\$22.16
Kansas	\$22.14
Wyoming	\$22.13
Oklahoma	\$22.08

Maine	\$21.61
Missouri	\$21.57
Nevada	\$21.51
Kentucky	\$21.38
Idaho	\$21.10
Montana	\$21.04
West Virginia	\$20.98
South Dakota	\$20.81
Mississippi	\$19.85
New Mexico	\$19.77
Arkansas	\$19.66

## How the Numbers are Calculated

The value of volunteer time is based on the hourly earnings (approximated from yearly values) of all production and non-supervisory workers on private non-farm payrolls average (based on yearly earnings provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) for the national average. Independent Sector indexes this figure to determine state values and increases it by 12 percent to estimate for fringe benefits.

Charitable organizations most frequently use the value of volunteer time for recognition events or communications to show the amount of community support an organization receives from its volunteers.

According to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), the value of volunteer services can also be used on financial statements — including statements for internal and external purposes, grant proposals, and annual reports — only if a volunteer is performing a specialized skill for a nonprofit. The general rule to follow when determining if contributed services meet the FASB criteria for financial forms is to determine whether the organization would have purchased the services if they had not been donated. Accounting specialists may visit FASB's website for regulations on use of the value of volunteer time on financial forms: <http://www.fasb.org/pdf/Fas116.pdf> <<http://www.fasb.org/pdf/Fas116.pdf>>.

It is very difficult to put a dollar value on volunteer time. Volunteers provide many intangibles that can not be easily quantified. For example, volunteers demonstrate the amount of support an organization has within a community, provide work for short periods of time, and provide support on a wide range of projects.

workers. This is only a tool and only one way to show the immense value volunteers provide to an organization. The Bureau of Labor Statistics does have hourly wages by occupation [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm) that can be used to determine the value of a specialized skill.

It is important to remember that when a doctor, lawyer, craftsman, or anyone with a specialized skill volunteers, the value of his or her work is based on his or her volunteer work, not his or her earning power. In other words, volunteers must be performing their special skill as volunteer work. If a doctor is painting a fence or a lawyer is sorting groceries, he or she is not performing his or her specialized skill for the nonprofit, and their volunteer hour value would not be higher.

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### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Latest figure from 2016 Bureau of Labor Statistics data, indexed by Independent Sector in April 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Corporation for National and Community Service: National Data Volunteering and Civic Engagement in the United States (2014).

## National Volunteer Week is April 23-29, 2017

National Volunteer Week <http://www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week>, April 23-29, 2017, is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals.

National Volunteer Week, a program of Independent Sector member Points of Light, was established in 1974 and has grown exponentially each year, with thousands of volunteer projects and special events scheduled throughout the week.

Visit Points of Light to learn how they're taking the lead during National Volunteer Week through their HandsOn Network <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/>.

**GLOBAL TOPICS:** Data [https://independentsector.org/super\\_topic/data](https://independentsector.org/super_topic/data)

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# RELATED RESOURCES

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 January 5, 2018

## FACT SHEET

**2017 Final Tax Reform Bill Dashboard** <<https://independentsector.org/resource/2017-final-tax-reform-dashboard/>>

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**Checklist for Accountability** <<https://independentsector.org/resource/checklist-for-accountability/>>

 January 2, 2018

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 December 15, 2017