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NEWS RELEASE

RSVP Announces Retirement of Executive Director & CEO

Susan Haas, Executive Director & C.E.O., will be retiring effective September 17, 2020. Ms. Haas was tasked with the overall strategic, fiscal and operational responsibility of RSVP's nonprofit organization. She provided leadership of staff and volunteers, a team culture, and comprehensive organization sustainability, expansion and execution of its mission and vision. During her 7 years as Executive Director & C.E.O., she has worked to create partnerships and colleagues in Nevada communities, the Aging and Disability community, the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Sanford Center for Aging. Susan served with RSVP for a total of 13 years.

Under her leadership and collaborative teamwork with RSVP staff, field representatives and other rural volunteers, Ms. Haas has provided programs which assist elders and persons living with a disability to remain independent and in their own homes with dignity. She provided volunteer and public training of R.E.S.T. (Respite Education Support Tools) and Dementia Friends training to support caregivers and their loved ones. These trainings helped to normalize respite and create awareness that those living with dementia and other disabilities are a vibrant part of the community and society.

The number of programs that were instituted during her tenure are numerous. RSVP's Homemaker Program was launched. The Respite and Transportation programs were expanded throughout rural Nevada. "Friends Day Out" was established using the innovative "Java Music Club". RSVP elder care services were expanded to include adults with disabilities who could use our respite and transportation services. Ms. Haas created the Veterans VIP Program to assist Veterans who could benefit from RSVP's independent living services and access essential veteran resources including suicide prevention, awareness and support.

RSVP received the Governor's Points of Light Award for Volunteer Program serving Veterans in 2017 for this program. With her leadership and the help of dedicated staff, RSVP received the prestigious Service Enterprise Initiative Accreditation.

Ms. Haas stated, "It has been a lifelong goal of mine to make difference in the world and to be a positive force for good. Working with RSVP has given me that opportunity. It has been an honor."

Susan's dedication and service will be greatly missed by staff, board, volunteers and nonprofit partners alike. We wish her the best of luck in her next chapter, including a well-deserved retirement.

Over the next several months, the Board will be conducting a thorough search to find Nevada Rural RSVP's next Executive Director & CEO. It is our priority to find a dynamic leader with a true passion for RSVP's mission: To provide Lifesaving Volunteer Programs that help Seniors Maintain their Dignity, Self-Respect & Independence. For questions about the search, please email Nick Marano, RSVP Board Member and Search Committee Chair, at: maranonf@gmail.com.