

Volunteer Fair Report

5/2024 to 5/2026

OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Across eight volunteer fairs from May 2024 through May 2026, fairs hosted in 55+ communities produced the strongest attendance and engagement, while volunteer follow-through remained difficult to measure consistently because agency reporting was incomplete.

- 8 fairs – 5 held in 55+ communities, 1 at the Senior Center, 1 at the National Automobile Museum, and 1 at the Sparks Library.
- 464 attendees across all fairs, with attendance declining by 48% year over year from FY 2025 to FY 2026 (306 attendees in FY 2025 and 158 attendees in FY 2026).
- 44 non-duplicated organizations participated.
- 746 volunteer sign-ups, with some individuals signing up with multiple agencies.
- 30 reported volunteers followed through on their commitments (4% of volunteer sign-ups), based on agency reports; not all agencies submitted follow-up data.
- Most comments were positive, even at events with low turnout; organizations especially valued the volunteer-focused audience and opportunities to network with other organizations.

Lessons Learned

Over the past two years and eight fairs, several clear patterns emerged. A maintained email list of participating organizations has become a useful recruitment tool, and the list continues to grow after each fair. Events held in 55+ communities generally produced stronger attendance because these sites offer suitable facilities, staff support, and direct outreach to residents.

Recommendations

Continue holding volunteer fairs quarterly, with priority given to 55+ communities because they have produced the most consistent attendance. Strengthen the evaluation process to better track volunteer recruitment and follow-through or adopt an alternative success measure if complete agency reporting is not feasible.

Individual Fairs

The table below summarizes each volunteer fair by location, participation, attendance, volunteer sign-ups, reported follow-through, and notable context. Overall, fairs held in 55+ communities generated the strongest attendance and engagement, while reported volunteer follow-through varied because not all agencies submitted complete post-event data.

Date	Location	Orgs.	Att.	Sign-Ups	Reported Volunteers	Key Note
May 7, 2024	Regency at Caramella Ranch	14	54	Not collected	Not collected	First fair; 61% residents and 39% non-residents.
September 13, 2024	Regency at Stonebrook	11	13	Not collected	Not collected	All attendees were community residents.
January 28, 2025	National Automobile Museum	26	132	178	7 (4%)	Highest attendance and broadest organization participation.
March 20, 2025	Regency at Caramella Ranch	15	107	152	3 (2%)	Strong attendance at a 55+ community.
May 13, 2025	Senior Center	15	30	8	1 (13%)	Some attendees were more interested in services than volunteering.
October 20, 2025	Sierra Canyon	20	57	68	9 (13%)	Strongest reported follow-through among tracked fairs.
April 23, 2026	Regency at Caramella Ranch	23	54	172	2 (1%)	High sign-up volume but limited reported follow-through.
May 19, 2026	Sparks Library	16	17	46	1 (2%)	Lowest attendance among tracked fairs.

COMMENTS

*I just wanted to let you know we have a wife and her husband who come every Monday. The wife signed up back at the event in January. She and her husband come to the guest house for about 3 to 4 hours to help do laundry every Monday. They are such a blessing to VGH. Also, we have a woman who was new to the area and came to the event in January. She comes every Tuesday and receives donations, answers the doors, checks guests into their rooms, does some filing, and waters plants. This event was a winner for VGH! Thank you so much for allowing us to join. – **Veterans Guest House***

*What a wonderful event. Thank you for allowing the VFW Auxiliary to participate. We didn't get any volunteers but did get the word out about us which is just as important. - **VFW Auxiliary***

*We had three people sign up and one person who has applied to join our board. One out of three is not bad. Thank you so much for all the Volunteer Fairs, this year. We had a blast! – **Habitat for Humanity***

*This event was not as successful as previous volunteer fairs. We tend to see that with events at the Senior Center, individuals are more interested in enrolling as clients than being a volunteer. It was true for this event, and we didn't have anyone sign up as a potential volunteer. We still appreciated the opportunity and look forward to the next one! – **Sanford Center***

*Thank you so much for having us at the Volunteer Event on Tuesday. We connected with a lot of enthusiastic people looking to volunteer! We had 7 folks fill out interest forms but talked to several more that seemed very interested in volunteering with one of our programs. I will make a list of folks that enroll into our programs that came from this event. I let our staff know how fabulous the event was and that we would absolutely attend in the future! - **Sanford Center***

*What a great event and turnout! My two volunteer coordinators staffed the booth today, and they had a great experience. They both said it was a different experience from other resource fairs we had attended, as the individuals who attended today were truly interested in volunteering. We had several people stop by our booth and about 20 individuals interested in volunteering with us. The two-hour timeframe was perfect as well. Overall, it was an incredible event, and I hope we are able to have more in the future. Thanks for setting this up! – **Seniors in Service***

Thank you so much for inviting us to attend the event! The turnout was fantastic, and we had the opportunity to speak with many people who expressed interest in volunteering. We were also able to share information about our time exchange program and received positive feedback and interest. While we weren't able to gather as many sign-ups for the newsletter due to the high volume of visitors at our booth, we did hand out

several brochures with our contact information and website. Sierra can confirm, but we likely spoke with at least 30 people who seemed interested in volunteering! – N-4

*Thanks for the opportunity to participate in the volunteer fair. We had about 30 people stop by our booth. We are right in the middle of a volunteer engagement campaign, so the timing was perfect! Of the 30 who stopped by, I believe that four or five will be joining us this evening to explore various ways they can volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association. - **Alzheimer's Association***