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Martin Gutierrez: Bringing in Buses, Resources and Smiles to the Fontana Senior Center



Fontana, Calif.- From bringing in new buses for the Senior Transportation Program to overseeing volunteers who staff Senior Programs, Community Services Coordinator and avid Dallas Cowboys fan, Martin Gutierrez strives to promote a healthy and active lifestyle for all at the Fontana Community Senior Center.

Martin may have joined the City of Fontana in May 2016, but he had his eye on working for the City since 2008 when he visited the Jessie Turner Center for an event. "I was blown away by the facility. I took that as a sign of a well-managed city that understood the importance of community services. From that point, I knew I wanted to be part of the Fontana team. Eight years later, here I am," shares Martin.

In his first year with the City, he helped secure funding for two brand-new 16-passenger shuttle buses for the Transportation Program. Martin has since switched over from supervising the Senior Transportation and Rentals to managing clubs/programs, volunteers and resources at the Senior

Center. "It is my responsibility to ensure we are providing quality and trustworthy resources to not just the seniors, but to the community of Fontana," explains Martin.

As for the programs and volunteers, the two go hand-in-hand. He assigns volunteers as "club leaders" to one of the 27 clubs that the Senior Center offers, and provides the support and guidance for volunteers to be successful.

Martin also oversees the Fontana Community Senior Center Advisory Board - seven individuals elected by members of the Senior Center who focus on matters that affect older adults' programs.

As a people-person, spending time with those at the Senior Center is the best and most important part of Martin's day. "There's many enjoyable aspects of my job, but for me, it's the people. I can't tell you how many smiles I see a day. It's usually the same people, but I never tire of it," states Martin.

Outside of the Senior Center, you can catch Martin at the theater watching the new releases or at thrift stores getting the best deals. When it comes to thrift stores, Martin says, "I get a thrill out of finding little-hidden treasures and I weirdly enjoy haggling with people." Martin can also be found spending time outside kayaking and taking trips to San Diego with his wife.

Martin has been selected as the City of Fontana Employee Spotlight for the month of December based on nominations from his peers who describe him as "a leader who not only inspires the Seniors with his work, but also inspires all of his staff."

In response to the nomination, Martin is grateful for the recognition: "Thank you to anyone who thought I was worthy of being recognized. It was a big surprise, but definitely a pleasant one that I am appreciative of. I love serving the Fontana community."

For more information about the resources available at the Fontana Community Senior Center, please visit www.fontana.org. Learn how to become a Senior Center volunteer [here](#).