

March 13, 2017 — Making a Difference One Smile at a Time

For John Wozniak, it's a normal day. He is on his way to pick up Miriam, a Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition neighbor, to take her to her doctor's appointment. He knocks on the door and hears a faint, "Come in." John walks in and finds Miriam face down on the floor –she had just fallen. These experiences can be scary for adults in need, but volunteers like John make staying in their own homes possible.

John is the type of person who can brighten up a room with just his presence. His smile is contagious and his jokes will make your entire day. John is a driver for VVCC and it's not hard to see why he is requested by so many neighbors. John had to watch his mother struggle through daily activities when she got older. She relied on family for the same services VVCC offers. After learning about VVCC, John knew he could help make a difference for others.

VVCC's services help older adults in need continue to live independently, with transportation as the biggest service. Neighbor Miriam explains, "If it weren't for the services of the caregivers, many neighbors would never leave their home. It can get lonely at times and VVCC makes it possible for us to socialize."

John takes neighbors to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, and even to church for social events. Many would say John is much more than a driver. John offers a warm smile and a helping hand. After he found Miriam on the floor, he helped fix the grating that had tripped her up.

VVCC will celebrate its 25th Anniversary throughout 2017. "It's volunteers like John that enable us to fulfill our mission," said VVCC Executive Director Kent Ellsworth. "Our neighbors know they can count on us to be there to help."

VVCC provides volunteers, programs, and services to support adults in need of assistance in maintaining their independence and quality of life at home. Many of the seniors VVCC helps are living alone without family or friends to help assist them with activities crucial to their independence. VVCC's services are provided at no cost by dedicated volunteers throughout the Verde Valley. About 375 volunteers provide assistive services that include: transportation to medical and other appointments, rides to the grocery store, shopping, and other errands, business assistance such as bill paying and sorting, and handy person help. For more information about volunteering please go to www.vvcaregivers.org.



Volunteer John Wozniak