

February 14, 2017 — VVCC Volunteer Gives and Receives

Verde Valley Caregivers volunteer Loretta Engelhardt interviews older adults in need of VVCC services. While enhancing the lives of others, she's able to enrich her own.

Engelhardt, who comes from a medical background, heard about VVCC's mission from another volunteer, and knew she could put her skills to good use. She describes herself as being a great listener and having a compassionate attitude. Both of which are very important when it comes to interviewing seniors who need assistance to stay living independently in their homes. She is the first person potential "neighbors" meet face-face.

Engelhardt explains no matter the situation or the story, "There is always hope and laughter in the interviews. These adults are brave to be able to reach out for the help they need." She says the key to getting the perfect interview is listening. VVCC home interviewers assess eligibility, home safety, health needs, and give advice on all the resources available for help including direct VVCC services such as transportation to medical and therapy appointments, the grocery store, providing Guardian Angel medical alert units, handy person help, business assistance, and more.

In addition to benefiting the lives of our neighbors, volunteers receive something in return. "Being a volunteer gives you an opportunity to enrich your own life," Englehardt explains. "Our neighbors offer a wealth of creativity and knowledge that lets you learn about history, professions, and people." And VVCC makes volunteering easy. Englehardt works a full time job in real estate and is still able to help by conducting four, 30-minute interviews a month.

"We are very thankful for Loretta Engelhardt and all our volunteers for the work they do to better the lives of our adults in need," said VVCC Executive Director Kent Ellsworth. "Because of their service, we're able to assist over 2,400 seniors when they need our help."

VVCC is celebrating 25 years serving older adults in need. There are many ways you can make a difference in a neighbor's life. Volunteer opportunities range from transporting neighbors to the grocery store and medical appointments, friendly visiting, interviewing new neighbors, and more. You decide when and how often. To volunteer contact Operations & Mobility Manager Kim Meller at (928) 204-1238 or email: kimmeller@vvcaregivers.org. Visit VVCC's website at www.vvcaregivers.org to see a full list of volunteer opportunities and how you can support neighbors in need.



Volunteer Loretta Engelhardt pictured above.