

Second Mobility Van Awarded to Verde Valley Caregivers

As our aging population throughout the Verde Valley increases, so are service requests from neighbors helped by Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition. A new, second mobility van, which can handle wheelchairs and walkers, helps VVCC to meet the growing need, especially for trips to specialty care in Phoenix and Flagstaff. In the next year it will provide 3,500 to 4,000 trips.

The van, a Dodge Grand Caravan, was awarded to VVCC by Arizona Department of Transportation, is a Class 5310 (type of vehicle & type of service) to serve older adults and adults with disabilities who are unable to drive. To qualify to receive the van, VVCC needed to provide 20% of van costs and operating costs. That 20% was provided by individual donors who support VVCC's mission to help people continue to live independently in their community of choice.

The van will continue to be funded by grants, including an ADOT operating grant, and by generous individual donors. In addition to ADOT, VVCC received transportation grant funds from the City of Sedona, Arizona Community Foundation and May & Stanly Smith Charitable Trust.

VVCC's first mobility van, awarded by Toyota in 2016, when VVCC was named The Best Volunteer Transportation Organization in the nation, has travelled 90,000 miles since it got on the road in August of 2017. While the new van will help VVCC meet the current needs, VVCC Executive Director Kent Ellsworth projects VVCC will need a third mobility van by the end of the year to keep up with the growing need. "Last year, the one van and volunteers provided over 30,000 trips. The two current vans, along with about 200 volunteer drivers, who use their own vehicles, will provide about 35,000 individual trips throughout this year and drive over 400,000 miles."



Van driver, Miller, assists a neighbor.