

## Meet VVCC Intern Elizabeth Taylor

Elizabeth Taylor is working on her master's degree in social work through the online program at Arizona State University. While the online program will take her longer to complete than the traditional class room course, she can complete her studies without travelling to Phoenix.

Her degree program requires 1,000 hours of internship, so Elizabeth was looking for potentials when she came to interview VVCC Call Center Specialist Jan Thompson for a research project. Elizabeth was really impressed by Jan and asked about a possible internship. VVCC was happy to develop an internship to fit her educational needs.

Starting in the Call Center, which matches volunteers to fulfill neighbor requests, Elizabeth is learning to coordinate services for neighbors. She is impressed with how "individuals work tirelessly to attend to neighbors." Executive Director Kent Ellsworth consistently reaffirms that service is most important. She is also scheduling time to learn about in-home assessment from VVCC Care Coordinator Laura Bambusch.

Elizabeth has been working in counselling for 15 years, and has experience with other human services. She contrasted VVCC with another service whose personnel seemed worn down and lacking enthusiasm. Here she finds "absolute dedication to neighbors."

Asked if her experience contradicts anything in her coursework, Elizabeth indicated that the experience really affirms the principles and theories at ASU. There is "no substitution for experience" so she feels that the internship compliments and completes her education.

Once she completes her degree, Elizabeth would like to do clinical work with women with trauma history. She has recently become aware of the problems of transgender people and how little resources exist, so this is becoming another area of interest.

