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**For Immediate Release**

**VVCC launches Virtual Care Assistance Program**

**November 18, 2022**--Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition has launched a Virtual Care Assistance Program to provide support to its older adult clients who wish to meet with their healthcare providers in the comfort of their homes.

The program provides the equipment, software, and staff/volunteer assistance so clients can have a telehealth appointment with their healthcare providers.

VVCC Executive Director Kent Ellsworth said the program ensures people with the greatest needs have access to healthcare resources. "This service helps make sure the people we serve can access their healthcare providers even when they cannot travel," he adds.

The vision for the program happened during the pandemic, when VVCC clients were isolating at home and receiving smart phones, tablets, and other devices sent to them by family members so they could stay in touch. However, most could not set them up. In response, VVCC launched its Tech Coaching Program so clients could learn how to use their devices to interact with their families and eventually healthcare providers.

"Our service will help healthcare providers stay in contact with their older adult patients and patients with mobility challenges. We also anticipate providers experiencing fewer appointment cancellations," Ellsworth said. "We look forward to partnering with healthcare providers throughout the Verde Valley to ensure our clients stay connected to them."

VVCC also provides support services and care options necessary to keep older adults in their Verde Valley communities of choice including transportation to and from healthcare providers, physical therapy, dialysis, the grocery store, medication pickup, shopping for homebound clients, and food box deliveries.

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VVCC also provides handy person help, business assistance, respite assistance, pet assistance, tech coaching, and loaning of emergency alert units for adults at risk for falling.

VVCC is a 501 (c) (3), in its 30th year, with approximately 1,900 older adults enrolled throughout the Verde Valley to receive services. Most of VVCC's services are provided by volunteers at no cost to eligible clients. For information about services and/or volunteering please call (928) 204-1238.

You may also visit our website <https://vvcaregivers.org/> to donate and for a full list of client services and volunteer opportunities. VVCC is especially in need of volunteers for Tech Help, Virtual Assistance, and driving clients to medical appointments. You decide when and how often you can volunteer. There's no set schedule. Full support and training provided. Equipment also provided for the virtual assistance service.

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