



Volunteer Steve Schliebs gets ready to take Alice to the grocery store.

June 13, 2014- Volunteer Driver Enjoys Helping Others **By Katie Layne**

Steve Schliebs, a Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition volunteer since April 2012, provides transportation to older adults in the Sedona area. He receives multiple transportation requests each week because he is admired by all of the neighbors he serves. His requests range from trips to the grocery store to visits to the doctors' offices.

Schliebs heard about VVCC at a community church presentation given by VVCC's Executive Director Kent Ellsworth. Schliebs felt VVCC's goals were very straight forward. He said that he was "...looking for some type of community service opportunity."

There were many reasons why he was inspired to get involved. Prior to volunteering with VVCC, Schliebs's friend whom he was caring for passed away from cancer. This was one of the contributing factors that motivated him to become a volunteer. He said he is also "semi-retired" and has extra time to donate to the cause. He also mentioned that it "feels good to give" and added that he hopes his volunteerism will provide him with "good karma" as he ages.

Most of the neighbors Schliebs serves are in their 80s and have varying degrees of age limitations. The common characteristic many neighbors have is loneliness. Schliebs enjoys befriending the neighbors and gaining a connection with them.

"Volunteers make a huge difference in the lives of the neighbors they serve," Ellsworth

said. "And in turn, these volunteers are rewarded with an immediate feeling of fulfillment in helping others."

Schliebs feels there are obvious ways that volunteers make a difference. These include taking neighbors where they need to go, getting them out of the house, and helping them with their day to day needs. When asked what he would say to encourage more people to volunteer, he replied with the following: "Look into your heart. Imagine being in their position."

VVCC is in its 22nd year of service for over 2,000 older adults in throughout the Verde Valley who need assistance to live independently in their homes. In addition to transportation, volunteers provide the following services: friendly phoning, sorting mail & bill paying, handy person assistance, respite assistance, patient scribe, and pet assistance.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, contact Operations and Mobility Manager, Kim Meller at (928) 204-1238 or email: kimmeller@vvcaregivers.org. Because of summer vacations, volunteers are especially needed right now.