



### **April 18, 2014 - Verde Valley Caregivers Recognizes Volunteers**

Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon April 10 at Redstone at the Oakcreek Country Club in the Village of Oak Creek, where over 100 volunteers were recognized for their service.

Volunteers were given special recognition for their serving the longest, driving the most miles transporting our seniors and the volunteer who has done the most across the organization.

Guest speaker, City of Sedona Councilor and former VVCC Executive Director, Barbara Litrell, provided words of inspiration and thanked our volunteers for the services they have provided. "The year that I spent as VVCC's Executive Director was an absolute highlight. Witnessing how many services you all have provided and the thousands of older adults lives you've helped improve, truly made this an experience I will hold on to for the rest of my life."

VVCC is in its 22nd year of providing services for older adults throughout the Verde Valley who can no longer drive, are disabled and/or live alone and wish to live independently in their own homes. Over 300 VVCC volunteers are helping older adults with transportation, grocery shopping, friendly visits, hospital to home assistance, handy person assistance, and more.

The following volunteers have received the Years of Service Award: Millie Adamo, Isabel Blanton, Merle Blanton, Dave Draves, Betty Henderson, Diane Janusch, Dave Johnson, Ed Lajala, Mary Lajala, Charles Loughed, Dee Markle, George Markwardt, Jessie Nelson, Lorraine Plaunt, Aida Popp, Jan Tanis, and Doris West.

Elaine Boyer, Rimrock, received the Cross Country Award for driving over 9,000 miles in one year, and Sherry Young, Camp Verde, received the Jack of All Trades Award for

providing multiple services to our older adults including transitional care (hospital to home).

"We extend our sincere gratitude towards our volunteers who have made extensive contributions to improve the lives of the older adults in our community. I'm in awe of all that they do. Their caring truly makes the Verde Valley a great place to grow older," said Executive Director, Kent Ellsworth.

Special thanks to the following businesses for donating gift certificates and prizes for our volunteers: Arizona Cardinals, Arizona Car Wash, Avon (Chris Carlyon), Chocolate Tree, Curves, Dominos Pizza (Sedona), Famous Pizza Beer, Golden Peach Tree, Java Love, Jazz Bouquet Floral and Tea Cafe, Oscher Lifelong Learning, Jay's Bird Barn, The Sedona Knit Wits, Massage Matters, My Dobro, Namti Massage, Nancy's Hair and Nails, Nicks West Side, Olde Sedona Inn, Randalls Restaurant, Sedona Cake Couture, Sedona Fudge Co. Sedona Lavendar Farm, and the Well Read Coyote.

If you would like to join our volunteer family and help older adults in need, contact Operations and Mobility Manager, Kim Meller, at (928) 204-1238 or email [kimmeller@vvcaregivers.org](mailto:kimmeller@vvcaregivers.org).