



Volunteers Touching Lives, Lifting Spirits

Caring

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Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott Valley and Dewey Community Programs

People Who Care's Newsletters have always been devoted to our remarkable Volunteers, and this one is too, but with a bit of a twist. We are embracing an electronic format for our newsletters.

FRITZI MEVIS RETIRED FROM PEOPLE WHO CARE

We started off 2020 leading up to Fritzi Mevis's Retirement party which took place on Leap Year at the Prescott Lakes Club. Their staff did a magnificent job of decorating the room for us, attending to all of our needs, and providing us with a delicious appetizer buffet. For those of you that attended, we thank you in sharing memories and acknowledgement of Fritzi and her twenty years at the helm of People Who Care.

For those of you who were unable to attend we hope you share our appreciation for the dedicated devotion Fritzi had for you and People Who Care.

Bill Towne sharing stories with Fritzi



The cities of Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley Mayors created Recognition Awards for Fritzi, and we want to share one of them with you:

Mayor's Recognition Award

Presented to:

FRITZI MEVIS

Executive Director, People Who Care

For Outstanding Service, Dedication and Inspiration

We present this with much appreciation for the support and dedication you have provided the citizens as you have served the past 20 years as the Executive Director for People Who Care. You saw the needs of Prescott Valley and expanded the program to encompass our town. Your leadership has enabled countless individuals to continue living independently in their own homes and communities by providing essential transportation through your volunteers to their medical appointments and so much more. You have been an inspiration and a great resource to our citizens. On behalf of the Town of Prescott Valley, I thank you for all you have done to enrich our community!

Most Sincerely,
MAYOR KELL PALGUTA



From the Desk of the Executive Director

With the increase of cases of COVID-19 since Memorial Day in Arizona, and in Yavapai County and the relaxation of the stay at home order the risks are rising for contracting this virus. I am compelled to remind you that by employing some personal cautionary behaviors we will have done all that we can to help lower the risk of contracting this virus for ourselves and our Neighbors.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Avoid Touching your face.
- Wear a mask when in the company of people, you do not share a residence with.
- Maintain social distance of six feet between you and others.
- When providing transportation to anybody other than those you live with invite them to ride in the back seat on the passenger side and to wear a mask.

A lot of our Volunteers, Neighbors and family members have pre-existing conditions that put them at greater risk of more severe cases of COVID-19 if they should contract this virus. By taking precautions we can help keep ourselves and others healthy.

One more concern is that if you travel down to the Valley, and/or out of state you are increasing your risk of contracting this virus. As a precaution we are asking that you do not transport for us or visit the offices of People Who Care for two weeks after your return from your time away. You mean so much to People Who Care and the lives of our Neighbors. We appreciate everything you are doing to assist our Neighbors and to keep them and yourself safe.

Kudos to PWC Volunteers



Marianne Compton

During this first response to the COVID-19 pandemic our volunteers quickly shifted from shopping with our client/neighbors to placing online grocery orders and picking up and delivering groceries for these individuals who have no other means of obtaining them. Arizona Serves worked with People Who Care to enlist the aid of additional volunteers to meet the need of picking up and delivering these grocery orders. Recognizing the importance of PWC, Mayor Greg L. Mengarelli of Prescott *proclaimed May 26 through May 31, 2020, People Who Care Week* to applaud the volunteers for their devoted services to those among us who are homebound or disabled. In addition to making sure all our neighbors got groceries, PWC is working on developing a “get one/give one” program to check on a neighbor

by telephone. "Isolation leads to loneliness and when you have little or no family around it is a comfort to know that somebody is checking in with you and cares enough to ask how things are going", said PWC Executive Director Cj Meldahl.

New Program

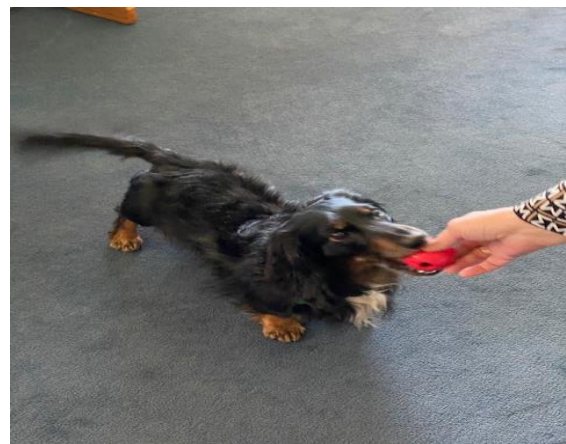
In the June AARP bulletin there was an article about “THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE IS HERE; The pandemic has turned telehealth from a ‘maybe, one day’ to a ‘right here, right now.’” We have noted this ourselves at People Who Care and thought you would be interested to learn that we are creating a Technology Assistance Program (TAP). One of the early issues we plan to assist with is teaching people how to receive a Telehealth visit with their care provider. In addition, we intend to assist people in managing on-line grocery ordering, because they found it worked so well for us to place these orders on their behalf they are now telling us they want to do it for themselves. In the months to come we will begin teaching our Neighbors how to master these tasks with their technology.

We are very grateful to the United Way for funding this program. And we are excited to welcome three AmeriCorps people to our staff in September to help us build this program to meet the needs not only of our Neighbors, but our Volunteers as well!

Hello - My name is Gunner

When my human rescued me, I was very scared. Feeling my fear, my human humbly took me to work at People Who Care with her, so I would feel safe. She provided me with a cool snuggly bed, Gunner continued...and I stay by her all of the time. I follow her from room to room, just to be near and feel safe.

Well, the best of the best happened, all the humans In the office really like me too. They have now dubbed me as the People Who Care Mascot. What FUN I have.



Did you know... Quarterly Reports and Mileage Reimbursements can now be done online by completing them through our website. Or you may print out the form and mail it in if you prefer. Even though the method has changed we still want to encourage you to send these reports in, because we are required to account for trips and mileage for both our ADOT and CDBG Grants. This has been a challenging year and we are forever grateful to all our Volunteers who were able to continue seeing our Neighbors to their essential appointments. Thank You.

To our most important attribute: Our Volunteers

People Who Care has not been able to celebrate you this year as we have historically done with the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. As COVID-19 has continued to impact our country and increasingly the residents of our state, we have chosen to not risk gathering in numbers that may increase the chance of you becoming exposed to this virus. We feel dreadful about this, because **YOU** are the **PEOPLE WHO CARE**. We identify and manage the coordination of those who truly need your assistance, and you so willingly and magnificently provide it. Since March a number of you have stepped forward to assist in new ways while stepping away from driving. And others have become very adept at placing grocery orders online after patiently taking those orders over the phone from our Neighbors. And others have found themselves sitting in grocery store lines to pick up an order and deliver it to our Neighbors. Regardless of how this time has impacted you or changed the way you serve **WE Thank You**. We hope you are well and remain so. We look forward to the time, and it will come, that we will be able to be together again.

The “New Normal”: A Drive-By Birthday Party and Social Distancing Happy Birthday, Shirley! This beautiful Neighbor celebrated her 95th birthday June 5th. Volunteers Chris and Shannon Malone recruited a caravan of family and friends to do a birthday "drive by" and surprise Shirley. It worked! *Sent in by Cheryl Phipps*



Shannon, Shirley & Chris



The Spanish Flu

A Family Story told to and written by Jena Klein

During this uncertain time of living with the coronavirus pandemic there's an utterance of surprise and bewilderment that many headlines express with a single word--"unprecedented."

However bleak things may seem—and *they are*—there are people who can remind us that this situation is not--in fact-- unprecedented as they point to recollections from almost a century ago.

One such person, a beloved neighbor at PWC named Carolyn, called us with--as she delightfully put it--"stories of resilience and courage", and a proposition. She proposed that we all should take the opportunity to preserve true stories from the past to teach us and comfort us, and remind our generation of the trials we as humans have already endured. She told me of times as a child when she looked up at the stars with her father, and he told her stories, creating an enduring bond between them. Later on in her life when her earthly relationship with her father was coming to an end, she had even more precious moments with him to learn her family's history.

Carolyn delighted in telling me a story that her grandfather, Mead, had lived through and passed down. It's a story her father, Howard,

Mead as a young man (circa 1907)

was born into--a dark stepping stone for their whole family that led to greater and brighter things down the road. This is Carolyn's story of the Spanish Flu.

October 1918: Mead works at his company, "Tile Works", in the village of South Amherst, Ohio with his foreman, Lincoln. He enjoys the art and variety of making products with tile and brick. When people can't afford to pay monetarily, he gladly accepts labor and farm produce in return. However, he is even more open-minded in this manner. The most unconventional form of payment he ever receives is a painting a customer did of the Tile Works.



He lives down the road with his wife, Ada Bell, and four-year-old daughter, Eleanor. One day, he comes down with the flu at work. He knows he can't go home. With his pregnant wife and four-year-old daughter at home, his life and living quarters must change instantly and drastically.

At twenty-nine years old, he's a prime target for an illness that most heavily affects even those that were healthy between the ages of 20-40 years old. This illness would eventually come to take six hundred and seventy-five thousand lives out of the, approximately, one hundred and three million Americans of the time.

Mead is taken by horse and buggy eight miles down the road to Oberlin, Ohio, to stay with his sister, Gladys. During that time, Carolyn tells us Mead most likely reads *Moby Dick*, *National Geographic*, and books that he had borrowed from the Oberlin College Library before the flu.

Mead's son Howard, Carolyn's father, is born during this time. However, outside his birth, life as they know it is still stopped in its tracks--Howard's birth certificate isn't filed for eight months. Jan Brooks, the current Genealogist and Historical Recorder of Elyria's County Courthouse (Elyria being just eight miles east of South Amherst) believes that is because there was little or no manpower left to staff the courthouse after the back-to-back onset of World War I and the Spanish Flu. If there was anyone left, the courthouse still would have remained closed because of the unsafe circumstances due to the flu.

Miraculously, Mead survived the Spanish Flu, his sister Gladys never got it, and his four-year-old daughter and pregnant wife never got it. News accounts stated that recovery from critical symptoms of the second (of three) waves would take about three days, and, like most, Mead's full recovery took about six months.

"I'm stunned to see how pandemics touched our family over three generations for more than 130 years!" Carolyn exclaimed, when she shared that even further back in history some of her family members had died from the Asiatic (Russian) Flu of 1890. One of her family's losses from that pandemic included Mead's grandfather, John—Carolyn's great grandfather—when Mead was only six months old.

As our recent circumstances have shown, history can, and often is, repeated. Carolyn suggests that the key to accepting and overcoming life's tests, and having better loss prevention, is often reflecting on our past. By reflecting on and sharing what we learned with our loved ones, and the community as a whole, we can be better prepared. Carolyn hopes that you follow her suggestion and share with others the experience of *your* family stories, too—helping to lessen the future impact of trials for you, your loved ones, and the community as a whole.



Beehive Kiln at Petty Tile Works (circa 1900). Grandpa would have been about 10



Petty Tile Works, circa 1915.

We are Sorry to announce that there will not be a GALA in 2020.

SPONSORS

All of us at People Who Care want to THANK the following Organizations for their additional support for us, and more importantly for the Community. We needed you and because of your assistance and support, our Volunteers and People Who Care met the need of our Neighbors during this time of the Stay-at-Home orders.

El Gato Azul – Barry and his staff provided food boxes to 100's of people in our community, and a number of them were our Neighbors for People Who Care. From all reports, and there were many not only were these food boxes welcome, but they were delicious too! Thanks Barry!

Jewish Community Foundation – allowed us to repurpose our Grant Application and utilize the funds to meet the rising need to shop for, order for, and deliver groceries to our Neighbors. We thank them for their support and are proud to say that our Volunteers rose to this occasion and made sure none of our Neighbors went hungry. Thank you.

Arizona Community Foundation – provided us with two grants entitled Arizona COVID-19 Community Response Fund which has helped us continue to meet all the needs of our Neighbors. Thank you for supporting us and the additional staff time that was involved during this pandemic and the resulting Stay at Home orders.

OneAZ Credit Union – OneAZ Credit Union was the first to reach out and encourage us to apply for a Community Grant and we are so very grateful to Miles for looking out for People Who Care. The funds helped us to change the focus of Shopping With our Neighbors to the Shopping For, Placing Orders For, Picking up and Delivering that resulted. Thank You.

Albertsons Nourishing Neighbors Community Relief – Thank you for your Community Support for all our Safeway Shoppers. We would like to give a nod to the Chino Valley Safeway store that worked so closely with our office there to meet the needs of our Neighbors.

United Way of Yavapai County- has a long history of support for People Who Care's programs, and we are excited that they have joined in our effort of creating a Technology Assistance Program. Shopping online has become a necessity for many and that will be one of the skills we will teach our Neighbors.

Arizona Serves/Americorp/Prescott College- We needed you. We needed more Volunteers. We were only able to meet the needs of our Neighbors because of our incredible Volunteers, and you found us the additional Volunteers we needed to meet the need. And meet the need we did.

People Who Care has many other **SPONSORS** and we are very grateful for their financial support:

100 Men Who Care
The Harold James Family Trust
MI Windows
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Allegra Marketing-Print-Mail
APS

DONORS:

Your recurrent or individual donations come and make up the bulk of the funding we get in a calendar year and for every dollar and for every person who supported us financially we say a BIG Thank You. In the future if you would like us to list you by name, please include a note with your next donation indicating this. We are sensitive to your right to privacy and are updating the signed releases to publish this information.

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