



# Benevilla

## Cultivating Caring Communities

Presented by  
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# History

- Benevilla established as Sun Cities Interfaith Services, Inc., in 1981 from a grassroots effort to respond to community needs. Started with one man's dream, as well as congregational and service club support.
- Core Purpose: Benevilla exists to help people live independently
- Utilizing community resources to serve residents – generous neighbors helping neighbors and partnerships with numerous organizations through the years (government entities, other nonprofits and the business community).

# Volunteer Driver Programs

- Many volunteer driver programs are supplemental transportation, typically planned and implemented by local human service agencies.
- The involvement of volunteer drivers generally results in a low-cost alternative to traditional demand-response services. Benefits include:
  - ✓ *economical to operate*
  - ✓ *ability to provide assistance & support to riders*
  - ✓ *not as constrained by jurisdictional boundaries*
  - ✓ *offer passengers personalized socialization*

# Independence

- ***Accessible*** transportation is a key aspect of a healthy community, and transportation is a critical element for people who wish to live ***independent, healthy lives.***
- Transportation is a link to independence, quality of life and social interaction.
- Particularly true for older adults who no longer drive and rely on others for their transportation needs.
- Physical and/or cognitive challenges may impede ability to utilize public transit. Affordability may also be an issue.

# Community Needs

- Limited public transit available in outlying areas.
- Dial-a-Ride services limited within city limits.
- Calls from residents needing service; identified gaps in transit services, limited financial resources.
- Sun Cities unincorporated. No city taxes or government entities to fund transit services.
- Volunteer-based organization responding to needs:
  - Volunteer transportation escort program (\$)
  - Church service transportation for community members
  - Mall shopping transportation (social)

# Target Population

- Volunteer transportation program is designed for individuals who may be socially isolated, need assistance with IADL's, or need time-limited support as a result of a recent life event (medical issue, etc.) and have limited financial resources to afford fee-based transportation.
- Transportation is provided for clients when other resources are not available or applicable.

# Service Parameters

- Clients must have the ability to transfer in/ out of the vehicle independently.
- Volunteer drivers recruited and screened by the organization, escort the clients to/from their homes and their destinations, never leaving the clients at curbside. Volunteer escorts wait for the clients at the destination unless there is a medical procedure that will take a few hours. In this case, volunteer drivers leave and return for the clients prior to their discharge from Dr's office.

# Service Parameters

- Clients may contribute a “suggested amount” toward the cost of gasoline when transportation is provided by a volunteer outside the service area.
- Volunteers cannot accept payment, tips, monetary or material gifts in exchange for service.
- Volunteers cannot utilize client-owned vehicles.
- Only authorized individuals are permitted to ride with the volunteer and client.

# Volunteer Drivers

- Volunteer application, interview, reference checks, Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card, and national background check, which includes Motor Vehicle violations.
- Must utilize their own vehicle and provide copy of current Arizona Drivers License and auto insurance card.
- Drivers are strongly encouraged to enroll in RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program).

# Emerging Needs and Opportunities

- Increased need for transportation as community ages. A variety of modes must be available to address residents needs.
- Volunteer workforce must grow to meet the need.
- Find ways to reduce barriers for volunteers to serve (i.e., stipend for gasoline, address auto insurance issues).

# Emerging Needs and Opportunities

- Utilize Federal funds to assist with innovative ways to address transportation needs of the elderly and disabled individuals – (i.e., mobility management, reimbursement for cost of gasoline, trip vouchers).
- Community collaboration – engage groups such as merchant associations, homeowners associations, governments, for-profit providers, nonprofits, citizens working together to address the needs and develop solutions.

# Other Valley non-profit efforts

- About Care – (Chandler and Gilbert)
- Assistance for Independent Living (East Valley)
- Benevilla (Northwest Valley: Sun City, SCWest, El Mirage, Surprise, Peoria and Youngtown; Avondale & Goodyear – grocery shopping only)
- Duet – Partners in Health and Aging (Phoenix, Glendale, Fountain Hills, Paradise Valley, Peoria, Scottsdale)
- Foothills Caring Corps – (Scottsdale north of Bell, Carefree & Cave Creek)
- Neighbors Who Care – (Sun Lakes & south Chandler)
- Outreach Programs for Ahwatukee Seniors (OPAS)

# Other Models

## Beverly Foundation – Riverside, California

- **TRIP : Transportation Reimbursement and Information Prog.**
  - does not recruit drivers, schedule rides, own vehicles, or charge fees. Its three basic elements (sponsor, riders, and drivers) interact in a manner that results in administrative efficiency and cost effectiveness.
  - ✓ quick and inexpensive start-up
  - ✓ includes low cost customizable software to fully manage and administer service
  - ✓ riders recruit their own volunteer drivers
  - ✓ mileage reimbursement replaces vehicle ownership/maintenance

# Other Models

## Neighbor Ride – Columbia, Maryland

- “Volunteers Drive, Seniors Thrive” : enhances health and quality of life for seniors (60+)
- Identified transportation gaps by grassroots coalition of businesses, human services, transportation providers, local government, senior and environmental groups, consumers and interested citizens working to increase public awareness of transportation services and needs, and advocating for regional and local transportation.
- Rides for shopping, religious services, classes, volunteer activity, medical appts, social outings – limited to 12 rides/mo. Modest fee for outside of area.

# Questions



# Benevilla™

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