



## County's Senior Services receives national Aging Achievement Award

by Bob **BALLEW**  
DCHD Public Information Officer

Davis County Health Department's Senior Services is one of two northern Utah aging services organizations to receive a combined award for their Vouchers, Volunteers, and Vehicles: A Multi-Agency Collaboration transportation program. The 2019 Aging Achievement Award was presented by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). The collaborative partnership of the county's Senior Services and Weber Human Services was among 48 local aging programs to receive honors at the n4a Annual Conference & Tradeshow, July 27 - 31, New Orleans.

The 2019 n4a Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards recognizes Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American aging programs that develop and implement cutting-edge approaches to support older adults, people with disabilities and their family caregivers.

According to Kristy Cottrell, Davis County Health Department Deputy Director, "The best solutions to mobility transportation challenges require collaboration. A unique partnership with two local AAAs - Davis County Senior Services and Weber Human Services - along with Roads to Independence, a center for independent living, and the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) established a voucher program using volunteer drivers."

Both Davis and Weber County agencies receive frequent requests to provide transportation, primarily medical appointments, to areas outside of our service area boundaries, said Cottrell. "We provide medical transportation for older adults, but due to time and funding

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PHOTO BY BOB BALLEW, DCHD

**SUSAN CALL CLOSES THE** car door for her mom, Alvin David, as they prepare for their trip to the adult day program in Layton. Alvin uses the Davis County Senior Services voucher transportation program when Susan drives her to various appointments.



## Treasured memories from school

by Viki **BOWMAN**  
Davis County Senior Services

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Davis County RSVP volunteers create treasured memories with children at school by becoming reading mentors. It has a tremendous impact on children when adults from outside the school participate in their educational experience. Even the child who won't sit to read at home has been known to clamor for the opportunity to read with a school volunteer. Children who receive personalized attention from volunteers have shown an increase in

reading scores, improved classroom behavior, increased social skills, and have developed a love of reading. Become a classroom superhero by listening to children read one - two hours per week. Most reading mentors start in September and October. If you are interested in being a school volunteer or would like information on any of our other volunteer opportunities, contact Davis County RSVP at (801) 525-5094. RSVP specializes in pairing individuals aged 55 and better with result-oriented volunteer opportunities.

## AWARD

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constraints, we only provide rides within our county.”

The majority of medical specialty care is in Salt Lake County, located 15-30 miles each way for the majority of our clientele, she said. Additionally, increasing demand for this critical service, both within and outside of county boundaries, outpaces our capacity.

Cottrell said, “Our older adults and their caregivers struggle to find other transportation options. Fares for cabs and ride-sharing remain cost prohibitive for most of our population, especially since many rides are 15-30 miles each way.” Also, most have limited mobility or live a considerable distance from public transit locations. They also hesitate to ask others to transport them without the ability to compensate them for fuel costs, she said.

The solution was to provide vouchers for mileage reimbursement for drivers identified by eligible clients, seniors, and people with disabilities. Rides to health appointments or work are eligible for the program.

The awards nomination package outlined the previous barriers and the advantages of the new program. “The voucher program addresses access needs by not requiring transferring, walking to transportation, long waiting times, or navigating complicated transit schedules. Environmental needs are addressed since the rider no longer navigates inaccessible paths, stops, or obstructed walkways to get to transportation. Also, this door-to-door service limits the interference of snow, rain, and ice. Lastly, the agencies experience long-term cost savings as a need for new vehicles, additional drivers, or scheduling/dispatch equipment are decreased.”

A federal grant of \$10,000 for 50 percent of the funding needed for the program was applied for and received with the remaining match of \$10,000 evenly split among the four local agencies.

As an example of average savings incurred, “Davis County reimbursements through vouchers for 1,116 one-way trips equate to \$3.96 per trip which is far less expensive than other options,” said Cottrell.

The tasks to implement the program were divided up according to expertise. UTA’s

Coordinated Mobility Department provides administrative support issuing voucher payments. The three service agencies oversee client eligibility/enrollment, voucher distribution, and support. “This unique, collaborative, and person-centered program allows choice and an increased feeling of independence for those who no longer drive,” she said.

Cottrell is quick to praise the willingness of the four agencies to come together for a shared solution. “The success of the program allows each of the participating agencies to offer alternative forms of transportation to clients who do not meet our criteria for trips or who need to go outside of the county for medical care,” she said. “We’re now able to offer a solution where there is no cost to the eligible rider, no cost for new vehicles or maintenance, and no cost for additional drivers and operations.”

“n4a is thrilled to present the Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards to a diverse and talented group of Area Agencies on Aging,” said Sandy Markwood, Chief Executive Officer of n4a. “We are happy to say that every corner of the country is represented in the 2019 awards this year.”

# Events in October

### Central Davis Senior Activity Center

81 East Center Street, Kaysville (801-444-2290)

<b>M/W/F</b> - EnhanceFitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>10</b> - Food pantry 12 p.m.
<b>W/F</b> - Qigong class 12 p.m.	<b>25</b> - Birthday party lunch 11:30 a.m.
<b>Th</b> - Tap Dance Class 4 p.m.	<b>31</b> - Halloween costume party 11 a.m.
<b>7</b> - Fall foliage trip 10 a.m. (sign-up required)	

### South Davis Senior Activity Center

726 South 100 East, Bountiful (801-451-3660)

<b>M/W/F</b> - EnhanceFitness 8 a.m.	<b>10</b> - Foot clinic 9:30 a.m.
<b>M/W</b> - Bingo 12:30 p.m.	<b>22</b> - Book club 12:30 p.m.
<b>T</b> - Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention 9:30 a.m.	<b>29</b> - South Davis Jr High orchestra 11:45 a.m.
<b>Th</b> - Waffles 8:30 a.m.	<b>31</b> - Halloween costume party 11 a.m.
<b>7</b> - Fall foliage trip (sign-up required)	

### North Davis Senior Activity Center

42 South State Street, Clearfield (801-525-5080)

<b>M/W/F</b> - Bingo 12:30 p.m.	(sign-up required)
- Texas Hold'Em poker 12 p.m.	<b>8</b> - Book club 10:15
<b>T/Th</b> - Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention 10:15 a.m.	<b>22</b> - AARP Smart Driver Course (sign-up required)
<b>2</b> - Flu shot clinic 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<b>31</b> - Halloween costume party 11 a.m.
<b>7</b> - Fall foliage trip	

See more at [daviscountyutah.gov/seniors](http://daviscountyutah.gov/seniors)

## Dementia education for caregivers

by Sheryl **KNIGHT**

*Davis County Senior Services*

Dementia Dialogues is a course that provides information and other skills to help individuals better care for those suffering from dementia or other related diseases.

The topics include the basic facts, communication skills, keeping the environment safe, addressing challenging behaviors, and creative problem solving. The course is offered at no cost but seating is limited. Dementia Dialogues will be held on Nov. 5, 12, and 19 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Petersen Farms Assisted Living (6980 S. 475 E., South Weber).

Call Davis County Senior Services at 801-525-5127 for more information and to reserve your seat.



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