



- Aging, Weatherization and Human Services, Inc.
304 N. Kimball Ave.
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Making a difference because we care

CCOA ECHO PROGRAM

Barbara is the coordinator for CCOA's ECHO (Elderly Contact and Help Organization) program. On a daily basis she oversees 15 callers who provide daily telephone reassurance to 46 senior citizens to check on their well-being. Between Barbara and our volunteer callers, they make 66 telephone calls each day.

Mae is one of the volunteers who has been calling seniors since 2003. When Mae lost her husband in 2002, she realized how important it is to have someone to talk to. Mae talks to "really nice people." Even though they know each other only through their phone calls, Mae has formed strong bonds with those she calls. She holds fond memories of those friends she has lost over the years. Mae believes in what she does because "things can happen without anyone knowing in a timely manner. And it is important to seniors that someone is interested in them enough to call."

Lorraine is one of the seniors that receives a daily call from Mae. Lorraine is 88 years old, has lived in her home in Kuna for 58 years, and has been on the ECHO program since 2004.

Lorraine calls Mae her friend. Both of them were involved with farming with their husbands, so they have those experiences in common. They also send each other cards through the mail for special occasions and events. Friendships have been formed even though they have never met in person.

Lorraine gets a feeling of security knowing someone will call her regularly. If she were not able to function independently, she knows someone will contact her daughter and get help. She also added that her children have a sense of her well being knowing that their mother is being checked on when they are not close or able to call.

If a senior cannot be reached, emergency contacts are called to inquire about the clients' well-being. If verification cannot be made that a client is safe, then a wellness call is made to the Sheriff's Department for their follow-up. Clients' safety and well-being is the sole focus for the ECHO program.

If you would like to be an ECHO volunteer or know someone who might benefit from the service, please call Barbara at 459-1334. ECHO is a non-funded program, so if you would care to donate, you may do so on-line at our website or mail your contribution to CCOA, 304 N. Kimball, Caldwell, ID 83605.