

**Office of the City Manager
News Release**

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CITY COUNCIL**

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Free Program Keeps Homebound Seniors Connected

BOULDER CITY – A free program, offered by the Boulder City Police Department, seeks to give peace of mind to elderly and home-bound Boulder City residents and their family and friends.

The You Are Not Alone (YANA) program provides a free check-in service, through telephone calls and in-person visits, to city residents who live alone. “We will do whatever works best for our clients, at a frequency that makes them feel the most safe and comfortable,” explained program supervisor Pat Richardson, the volunteer coordinator with the Boulder City Police Department.

He added that trained volunteers — there are currently three in the program — perform the welfare checks. Should a client not answer at the appointed time, the volunteer will reach out to the client’s emergency contacts. If they still are unable to verify their client’s status, the police will be asked to do a welfare check.

Richardson said the Boulder City Police Department began the program in March 2018 in conjunction with the Boulder City Senior Center and has had as many as 11 clients participating at a time. Because the numbers have dipped recently, he is hoping more people will take advantage of this opportunity.

According to Richardson, the program not only provides the immediate benefit of insuring the wellbeing of those without a social network, there are several important secondary benefits as well.

“This is a way for us to provide a connection to the community for those who don’t have one,” he noted. “It’s a way for us to identify needs they may have and to put them in touch with the appropriate service providers, whether it is Meals on Wheels, the Silver Rider or Adult Protective Services.”

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While the program is designed primarily for seniors, Richardson said he will not turn away anyone who could benefit. “We are in the business of helping people,” he added. “So we aren’t going to say no to someone just because they aren’t a senior.”

“It gives you a good feeling to do something for your community,” explained program volunteer Jill Canepa. “I moved here a couple of years ago and was a volunteer firefighter and EMT where I came from. I heard about the program and said ‘that’s something I can do.’”

She said one of the things she enjoys most about the program is hearing peoples’ stories. “They tell you things. They tell you about their past. It’s fascinating. You just never know where some people come from,” she explained. “It makes me feel like I’m doing my part. It makes me feel wanted and needed.”

Lee Wilbur has been a part of the program for a few months and said it is a relief for her to know someone is out there who cares. “I have friends, but it is just nice to know that if something happens there is someone out there who is a little more official. People fill different needs in your life.”

Anyone wanting more information about the program can contact Richardson at (702) 589-9603. A registration form and more information also can be found at <https://www.bcnv.org/591/You-Are-Not-Alone-YANA-Program>.

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