Volunteer Clearinghouse Wins National Award

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By Ellen Sussman Special to the Green Valley News

Winners!
Bonna Cunningham (left), John Geiger and Diane Diamond at aFriends in Deed open house.

The Green Valley-Sahuarita Volunteer Clearinghouse recently won a $4,000 national award to carry on its work of linking volunteers with places to serve.

The competition was a project of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and its U.S. Administration for Community Living in Washington, D.C.

The clearinghouse is among of six national volunteer teams to receive the award out of 40 competing, and the only one west of the Mississippi. Other winning teams are from Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Michigan and Tennessee.

John Geiger, founder and organizer of the group, learned of the competition from Carolyn Cortesi, Community Initiatives Director for the Pima Council on Aging. Geiger is a former member of PCOA’s board.

Applications explained in detail how the Volunteer Clearinghouse contributed to the organization’s mission, how volunteers personally benefitted from their volunteer service involvements and how they made a noticeable difference in the community.
The Green Valley-Sahuarita Volunteer Clearinghouse team got its start 10 years ago, and has offices in Friends in Deed. It now places volunteers with 80 organizations.