

PASSENGER

COMMENTS

"I am so happy to find you." MB

"We are very satisfied with all that Neighbor Ride has served us with. The drivers are great people." JS

"I am never late on any appointments. Thank all the people for me!" MR

"This was my first experience with Neighbor Ride and it was an excellent one." MV

"The service is excellent and the drivers are helpful." MP

"Thank you so much for your service—it is making a huge difference in letting my Dad continue to live at home!!" SF

"Safe drivers-very caring towards passengers." AK

"So grateful for your help." CK

"Neighbor Ride is reliable and prompt. I am very grateful for their services." GS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Happy New Year! We're already talking about '09" at Neighbor Ride. We have just completed FY08 and have started on FY09 as our fiscal calendar matches the state and the county. In June, we provide end-of-year reports to our funding organizations and I thought you would be interested in some of the numbers. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the last year has been a good one for our passengers and the organization. We served 244 "unique" passengers during the year – up 10% from the previous year. Neighbor Ride continues to register new passengers. We currently have 760 registered passengers – even after removing many inactive passengers from the database. Recently, we adopted a universally recognized measure in the transit industry – trips – which is one passenger going one way. By this measure, you provided 5860 trips – an increase of 8% over FY07. One of the most significant statistics is the number of "unique" drivers – up 35% from the previous year to 166. This indicates that our flexible volunteer schedule will ensure that Neighbor Ride can continue to grow and serve Howard County seniors.

On the financial side, we finished the year at 87% of budgeted expenses and 110% of revenue which also helps ensure the future of Neighbor Ride.

It's a privilege to report great results. Thanks for all you do to make it happen.

-Brad

Important Driver Information

Please forward a copy of your updated auto insurance information and driver's license if you have not done so this year.



Our Mission

Neighbor Ride will decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents by providing a reasonably priced, reliable, supplemental transportation service which utilizes community volunteers and resources.

July Stats

Our volunteer Drivers accommodated 228 **rides**, driving 5,582 miles, while contributing 399 hours of their time.

Our dedicated volunteer Ride Coordinators logged **191 hours**.

July completion rate
95%

Orientation dates:

Call to set up an appointment in August

NEIGHBOR RIDE

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Visit us on the web:
www.neighborride.org

Coordinator's Corner...

Several important events are happening at Neighbor Ride but first a big thank you to Allison Lutz (and her family), Inge Hyder, Linda Stright, Dennis Boucher and his wife, Tim Smith (and his family) and Jean Berulis for representing Neighbor Ride in three local Independence Day parades. Thank you to other drivers who volunteered their time and vehicles. We're on the lookout for more parades!

We are excited to have new outreach materials available. Through the same grant that funded the name badges, we have been working with a local graphic design group to create palm cards and banners. The two-sided palm cards will replace the single information sheets we have been using. They are in full color and show several volunteers in action. Colleen and I will be visiting county destinations to distribute these new materials and encourage more volunteers and passengers to join Neighbor Ride.

This month we are welcoming Senator Jim Robey as a Neighbor Ride volunteer driver. Along with Delegate Guz Guzzone, who has been a driver since 2006, these busy legislators are using their driving time to stay in touch with the needs of Howard County seniors. They are demonstrating community service and the flexibility of being a Neighbor Ride volunteer. There are sometimes interesting responses from our passengers when the Ride Coordinator calls with the driver's name.

Look for Neighbor Ride at the Howard County Fair on Sunday, August 3. We will be an exhibitor with The Association of Community Services in the 4H Activities building. You can see one of our new banners, the new palm cards, and look for Gerry Tolson representing Neighbor Ride in the parade.

Thank you for returning the Volunteer Survey. Next month I will begin to share the findings. I appreciate your input in making this a meaningful volunteer experience while serving our Howard County seniors.

Rosemary

From Colleen.....

We all recognize the vital role Neighbor Ride's volunteer-based transportation service plays in the lives of its passengers. In an effort to ensure that Howard County's older residents continue to benefit from this invaluable service in the years ahead, we are officially introducing our Legacy Gift campaign this month. Active passengers and others who may be interested will receive letters providing information about making a Legacy Gift to Neighbor Ride and encouraging them to talk with family members and their professional advisors about the options available. In case you are interested in seeing the information that is being sent to passengers, we have included the Q & A section of the letter on page 3 of this newsletter.

COGS "Casino Night" - Proceeds to benefit the Vivian Reid Fund & Neighbor Ride

In order to make this year's event a huge success, COGS is searching for donation items for its silent auction, raffle and casino prizes. Items donated are tax deductible; a receipt will be issued to you or your organization. Gift certificates for services, restaurants, spas, weekend get-aways, etc. would be appreciated. Donors will also be given recognition on special signage at the auction table, listed in the event program and announced throughout the evening. Please contact Colleen at community@neighborride.org if you have items you would like to donate...

...and Remember to Purchase Your Casino Night Tickets Now!

Welcome to our newest volunteers:

Betty Noble, Jim Robey, Brenda Terry

(Excerpt from letter mailed to all active Neighbor Ride passengers August 1, 2008)

What is a Legacy Gift?

This is a way to make a financial contribution to the *future* of Neighbor Ride while perhaps gaining financial benefits for yourself and your family. It requires no money now, but a clear decision that is reflected in your will. No matter what your income level, you can plan a gift to Neighbor Ride.

Why should you plan a Legacy Gift?

We all leave a legacy...perhaps it is the values we instilled in our children or significant accomplishments made; maybe we have been treasured friends or community activists. A financial legacy ensures that the designated organization or service will be available to others in the future. Through your gift to Neighbor Ride, you are creating a legacy that will enable future Howard Countians to enjoy the independence its transportation service provides. Your contribution will be leveraged with other gifts to contribute to the long term financial health of Neighbor Ride.

What are the benefits of making a Legacy Gift?

You are making a contribution to a service that has made an invaluable difference in your life. Your gift will continue to benefit the community in the years to come. Your advisors will ensure that you receive the maximum legal and tax benefits for your gift.

What type of Legacy Gifts can you make?

- A **General Bequest** in your will. This designated amount or percentage of your estate would go into the operating funds of Neighbor Ride when your estate is settled.
- An **Honorary or Memorial Gift** is a bequest of a stated amount of money made "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone you admire or hold dear.
- An **Endowment Bequest** allows you to direct your contribution to the Neighbor Ride Endowment Fund, which is professionally managed by The Columbia Foundation. Your contribution would be held with other endowment funds which are invested for the perpetuity of Neighbor Ride, with Neighbor Ride receiving a percentage of the proceeds generated each year.