

PASSENGERS' COMMENTS

"Extremely friendly and helpful group of people. Thank you!" CB

"Love talking to the Ride Coordinators. Having given up my driver's license, it's good to be able to go out, even to the market." RM

"I would be sitting home. Now I am independent. Friends get tired after a while when you depend on them." (unsigned)

"Wonderful service! Very much appreciated." BF

"We seniors really do rely on this organization and thank all of you for this service." (unsigned)

"I always have friendly and professional drivers that make my trip very pleasant." ID

"My driver was great, very courteous and polite." JB

From The Director....

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone took some well deserved time off over the holidays.

During December, our inclement weather policy was tested and passed with flying colors. While over 40 trips were canceled, almost all were handled between the driver and the passenger resulting in a smooth operation. Even with all the cancellations, you again provided over 600 trips—a 40% increase over last December.

Each year we are honored to have new Board members. As you probably know, the Board is responsible for the strategic direction and financial stability of Neighbor Ride. The new members are: Andy Carmer who is a Relationship Manager with Sun Trust Bank, Nancy Huggins who is the Manager of Corporate Affairs for Corridor Transportation Corporation, Mary McGraw who is the Publisher of Generations, Joseph Murray who is Director of Community Relations at AscendOne Corporation and Andy Wakshul who is a volunteer Ride Coordinator.



Congratulations to all the new members! These new members joined the 12 other members who work together to ensure that Neighbor Ride continues to grow and expand our service to the community. In October, the Board held a strategic planning session. The results of this meeting will guide Neighbor Ride as we enter our second five years.

Whether you say it "twenty-ten" or "two-thousand-ten", I hope it's a great year for you.

—Brad



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.

December Stats

606= Number trips

1= Canceled ride; no driver

198= Ride Coordinator hours

71= Admin vol office hours

4= Misc office hours

25= New passengers

Orientation dates:

January 8, 10am
January 13, 7pm

Welcome Our New Volunteers

Bob Depp

Art Gamzon

Jack Guerin

Kathy Guerin

Diana Lee

Jim Smith

Nancy Weber

Coordinators Corner.....

I hope your New Year is off to a good start. Have you resolved to make changes or to increase your adventures in 2010? At Neighbor Ride we resolve to enhance our service to Howard County seniors by expanding office hours to Saturdays for a trial period. Stay tuned for a start date. With Saturday office hours available, it will decrease the number of days needed to request a ride, something our passengers have been requesting for a long time.

Ms. Deringer sent this note dated Christmas Eve 2009. "I am taking the liberty to send you grateful words to thank you and the truly wonderful kindness of your staff and the good people who have taken me in their automobiles to allow me to attend doctors and necessary shopping needs. I am so grateful to you all at Neighbor Ride." Staff appreciation to each of you continues to grow as Neighbor Ride contributes to the health of Howard County residents.

Have you heard about Give a Day Get a Disney Day? Neighbor Ride is participating in this volunteer initiative which was launched on Friday, January 1, 2010. Please check the following website for details: <http://home.disney.go.com/parks/>.

For Neighbor Ride the "Day" is defined as three rides or two ride coordinator shifts. You will need to register on the website above and we will confirm your volunteer hours. Looking forward to stories of Disney adventures.

Now is the time to request partial fuel reimbursement if you so desire.] Please send Brad an email with your request director@neighborride.org.] You will receive a check in the mail for the final quarter of 2009.

Best wishes to each of you for a joyous New Year!

Rosemary

We just received the following letter dated January 5, 2010 from Helen Kerschner, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Beverly Foundation. It was addressed to the Board of Directors, Director, Staff, and Volunteers. Enjoy!

Thank you so very much for the Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the Beverly Foundation's contribution to Howard County's seniors. The recognition holds a special place in my heart and the beautifully framed certificate is hanging in my office.

I also want to express my thanks for your recognition of the Beverly Foundation's generosity on your website. We are always pleased to make an award to a deserving transportation service such as Neighbor Ride, and we are also pleased if the award is appreciated. At the same time, know that it is because of your good work that our Trustees conveyed your STAR Award for Excellence.

I wish you well as you continue to get seniors in Howard County where they need to go, and offer opportunities for residents of the County to volunteer their driving skills as well as their vehicles. Neighbor Ride is a wonderful example of the generosity of a community and its residents.

Very sincerely,

Helen K. Kerschner, Ph.D.
President and CEO