

Ready Rides Program Volunteer Driver Newsletter

SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES:

- Testimony from rider
- Helpful hints
- 10 Reasons to Volunteer
- New volunteers
- Up-coming luncheon
- Fund raiser

Volunteers are

Seldom paid

Not because

They are

Worthless

But because

They are

Priceless!!!

FIRST NEWS PRINT

Testimonial from one of our riders

Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community, gain new experiences and make a difference in the lives of people, which brings me to a very moving story from one of our riders.

"Carol was just wonderful, arriving at my house exactly on time and providing some pleasant conversation during our ride to Dover and back.

The people at the hospital got a kick out of my response when they asked me who was driving me home, and I pointed to Carol and said 'that angel over there'.

Thanks again! I don't know what I would have done if not for Ready Rides".

We hear stories like that all the time. I just wanted to let you know what you mean to so many people

that you have helped.

If you would like to share an experience with us please let me know.



Helpful Hints

Inclement weather:

Because our drivers know that they have precious cargo on board, Ready Rides leaves the decision of cancellation due to weather up to the Driver. They know their car and their own driving ability. However, with last years snowfall, the Riders were the first one to cancel. Thank you Riders!

Shopping requests:

Ready Rides is strictly for medical related appointments. Please refer to Lamprey Health Care 603-883-1626 for other services.

No Show Policy:

Delays are inevitable! When Driver pulls up to Riders home and no one comes out driver should call Rider to remind them that they are waiting. If no one shows after 10 minutes Driver is to leave and call coordinator to let them know what happened. If there are 3 no Shows within a 6 month period, that person will be suspended for a period of 3 months. A letter will be sent to the rider at that time.

Community Service: Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer

It's good for you: Volunteering provides physical and mental rewards.

Reduces Stress: Experts say that when you focus on someone other than yourself, it interrupts usual tension-producing patterns.

Makes you Healthier: Moods and emotions, like optimism, joy, and control over one's fate, strengthen the immune system.

It saves resources com: Volunteering provides valuable community services so more money can be spent on local improvements.

It brings people together: Uniting people from diverse backgrounds to work toward a common goal and at the same time build camaraderie and teamwork.

It promotes personal growth and self-esteem: Understanding community needs helps foster empathy and self-efficacy.

Volunteering strengthens your community: Support families with eldercare and transportation.

You learn a lot:

Self: Volunteers discover hidden talents that may change your view on your self-worth.

Government: Through working with local non-profit agencies, volunteers learn about the functions and operations of our government.

Community: Volunteers gain knowledge of local resources available to solve community needs.

You get a chance to give back: People like to support community resources that they use themselves or that benefit people that care about.

Volunteering encourages civic responsibility: Community service and volunteerism are an investment in our community and the people who live in it.

You can make lasting friendships!

You make a difference. Every person counts!



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LASTING
FRIENDSHIPS!**

**EVERY PERSON
COUNTS!**

Help wanted!

DRIVERS NEEDED:

Imagine helping someone stay in their home by providing a ride to their necessary medical appointments.

Ready Rides is a great volunteer opportunity for active people who have minimal amount of time to volunteer. Volunteer drivers choose when they'll provide rides – once a week, once a month or once in a blue moon. For more information call 244-8719

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED:

Ready Rides invites two people from each of our eight towns to help keep Ready Rides moving forward. Board members are asked to communicate with their residents the benefits of our wonderful service. Each member is to regularly attend our monthly meetings and help with fundraising when necessary.

At this time we have several open seats. We are looking for two board members from Nottingham, one from the towns of Lee, Newmarket and Northwood.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts once a month for about 1 ½ hours please contact Ready Rides at 244-8719.

You can always just come and see what we are all about. Meetings are held at Northwood Congregational Church Rt 4, Northwood at 1:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month. Doors are always open for guests.

Our Featured Volunteer

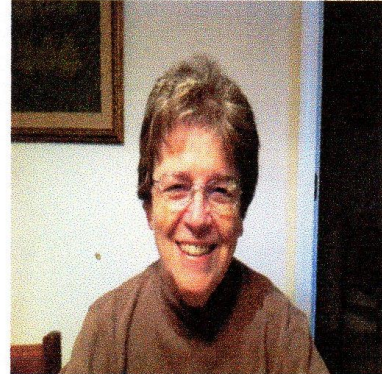
PAT WILLARD

Seeing the need to expand its services, the Ready Rides Board of Directors decided to add the towns of Durham, Lee, Madbury and Newmarket in January 2014. Beginning in February, Pat Willard joined the Ready Rides team and became the first driver from the town of Newmarket.

Besides being a driver for Ready Rides Pat is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. She watches out for abused and neglected children and follows them through the Court System to ensure they get the help they need. In addition, Pat was part of the Guardianship Monitoring Program for the Probate Court. She visited adults who were wards of the court to make sure they were not being abused. Unfortunately that program was discontinued. Again, this was a volunteer program.

Pat, a graduate of the University of New Hampshire (Go Wildcats!!) worked as an Occupational Therapist (OTR) both in Boston and Southern California. She also is a Certified Property Manager (CPM) having worked in California.

Not shy about helping others, she states she has little money to donate but lots of time to give to others. **THANK YOU, PAT!**



Welcome New Drivers

Barrington - Karen Fagerberg

Dover - Matthew Lahr

Durham - Joanne Bernard
Lisa Bubar
Robert Ely
Cate Smith

Northwood - Michael Magoon

Rochester - Brian Marshall

Strafford - Carolyn Leaf
Anne Banach

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ready Rides
P.O. Box 272
Northwood, NH 03261

PHONE:
(603) 244-8719

Please make checks payable
to Ready Rides

We are a 501 © 3 organization

Like us on Facebook!

Ready Rides provides accessible rides. Please call 244-8719 for more information.

In our first year of being in business we provided 115 rides to our residents.

In our second year of being in business we are proud to say that our wonderful drivers provided almost **700** free rides to the residents that live in Barrington, Durham, Lee, Madbury, Newmarket, Northwood, Nottingham and Strafford.

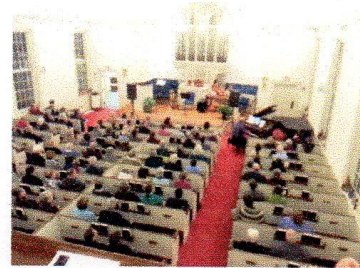
WAY TO GO READY RIDES DRIVERS!

On November 15th, we had our 2nd fundraiser featuring **Denise Gordon** as MC, **Rebecca Rule**, **Bob Chadbourne** and **Ed Gerhard**. God bless these wonderful talents to help support our service.

Thank you to all that came out to see the show and support Ready Rides.

Everyone enjoyed the show articles

Thank you to Durham Community Church for hosting this event!



We're on the Web!

See us at:

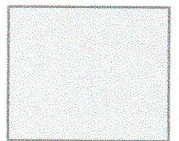
www.readyrides.org

1st Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on January 9, 2015

Come meet fellow drivers, share good food and stories. Meet our director and board members. Food will be provided by board members, Market Basket and Hannaford.



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NORTHWOOD, NH
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