

THE EXTRA MILE



Summer
2005

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Ride Connection would like to thank those who contributed articles to this publication, including staff members Mary Graham and Caralee Lindsay, and outgoing Board Member Gerard Trageser.

Ride Connection Unveils New Website Design

Ride Connection invites you to visit our newly redesigned website at www.rideconnection.org. Now you can find out a lot more about our organization, and it's much easier to find the information you need.

Here are some of the new features:

Services- now it's easy to find out what services we provide in the community.

Newsroom- to keep you up to date on what's going on at Ride Connection. View newsletters, annual reports, and more.

Calendar- find the dates of all trainings, meetings, and current events.

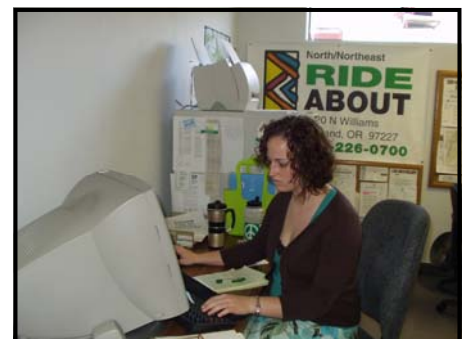
Resources- here you'll find links to other helpful service and transportation-related websites.

We have also added a secure area where service providers will have all the resources they need in one place. Check it out!

Intern Joins Ride Connection Staff for Summer

Christina Turner has joined Ride Connection for a summer internship. Christina is a Portland native who has spent the last 3 years studying Human Development and Family Studies at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. This is the second consecutive summer that Christina has returned home to work with Ride Connection. This summer, she will be earning credits through Portland State University to complete her internship requirement and graduate this coming December. While at Ride Connection, Christina assists with a variety of programs

and helps the staff wherever she can. Her help is especially needed this year while Trainer Lesa Pinker is out on maternity leave. We're glad to have Christina as part of the staff and will miss her next year.



Summer intern Christina Turner is hard at work in her office at Ride Connection.

"Linking accessible, responsive transportation with community need"

Leave a Legacy with a Gift to Ride Connection

Written by Gerard Trageser

Ten years ago, Bonny Groshong introduced me to Ride Connection. I initially served on the allocation committee, and since then, I've had the privilege of being involved with Ride Connection more closely. I have learned firsthand how seniors and people with disabilities use our important transportation services.

I am pleased that Ride Connection continues to expand and enhance its services. Ride Connection recently initiated the **N/NE Shuttle**, **RideAbout** and **RideWise** programs. In 2004-05 almost 300,000 rides were given. Over 3,800 low income wage earners and job seekers received travel education.

One of the times I've felt most successful is when Ride Connection played a role in confirming and securing special needs transportation through advocacy at the state level. When our voice was strong in Salem, I feel it was an important turning point for Ride Connection.

Without Ride Connection's enduring support, our 31 community partners could not continue to **Give the Gift of Mobility**. It is in working together that we meet challenges, and expand the important service we give in communities throughout four Metropolitan area counties



Outgoing Ride Connection Board member, Gerard Trageser and his wife, Vivian.

I am writing to ask you to seriously consider giving a gift for Ride Connection's future. One important way is through a **Legacy Gift** in your Will or Estate Plan.

Legacy Gifts to Ride Connection, such as a bequest by will, life insurance, IRA beneficiary assignments of retirement funds, gifts of stock or mutual funds, and charitable trusts, can be placed in our Endowment Fund. This Fund is our "bank account for the future". Donations to the Endowment Fund are not spent, but are invested. Only the interest or a portion of the earnings from your gift is available for the vital services and programs offered each day by Ride Connection.

The following statement in your will, trust or beneficiary document provides a simple way to achieve your intentions:

"I devise to Ride Connection, Inc., an Oregon Non-Profit Corporation, the sum of \$_____ from (or a ___% of) the rest and remainder of my estate or account to be used for carrying out its mission."

Ride Connection's tax ID is # 94-3076771

For more information contact Susan Tingley, 503-528-1734, or stingley@rideconnection.org.

Thank you for considering a Legacy Gift to ensure the Gift of Mobility for years to come!

"Make a community connection"

New Funding and Dedicated Volunteers give Clark County a Boost

Ride Connection is delighted to announce the grant of \$167,000 by Washington State Department of Transportation (WASDOT) to expand our transportation services for two years in Clark County, WA. An additional \$40,000 was awarded to buy an accessible vehicle. This is great news for citizens of Clark County who are older or living with a disability, particularly those living outside areas served by C-TRAN. In the past, Ride Connection and its partners have only been able to provide rides in Clark County for life-sustaining medical appointments, but this grant will allow us to help people get to shopping, regular medical appointments, and other important destinations. Service is projected to begin in the fall.

This opportunity could not have been granted without much effort and support from our partners and friends. Ride Connection would like to extend heartfelt thanks to WASDOT, the American Cancer Society, Catholic Community Services, Dr. Ken Nitta, the Cities of Battle Ground, Ridgefield, and Vancouver, and the East Vancouver United Methodist Church.

Catholic Community Services/Volunteer Chore Services is one of the agencies that will provide these expanded services in Washington state. Of course, these services would not be possible without the help of volunteer drivers like Martin Butler. Marty retired as a state trooper in April of 2003. After a year off of work, he decided to volunteer his free time, and contacted the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to see if they had any volunteer positions available.

Marty has now been a volunteer driver for over a year. He enjoys the flexibility of the schedule, the assistance he provides, and the ability to help seniors meet their transportation needs. "I used to have a job where I was tied to a pager," he said. "Now, I make my own schedule. And I help people with rides to appointments." Marty enjoys driving, and feels like the individuals he transports are as close as family. When asked what his favorite part of the job was, Marty responded, "visiting with the folks I drive, and exploring areas of Clark County." Marty drives about five trips a week. Rides to doctor appointments at places such as OHSU can last as long as forty-five minutes, and Marty makes it a goal to make the ride more of an outing than an appointment.



Martin Butler volunteers for Catholic Community Services, a Ride Connection Community Partner providing services in Clark County Washington.

Catholic Community Services/ Volunteer Chore Services currently has 12 drivers to provide medical transportation to older adults in the Clark County, WA district. These individuals rely on the service of these drivers, and often, it is the only way they are able to get out and about. Without the dedication of drivers, many of these individuals would be isolated, most of them alone, in their own homes, with no transportation to vital medical appointments.

Marty recommends this volunteer opportunity to anyone who has free time and wants to make a difference in the lives of others. Sometimes it's a few days a week, and sometimes it's only once a week. Even if only for a few hours a week, a volunteer driver can make a tremendous impact on the lives of the people they help.

"Give the gift of mobility"



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"Linking accessible, responsive transportation with community need"

Save the Dates!



Safe Driver Event

October 7, 2005
3:30-5:00pm
Location: TBA

Annual Luncheon

December 2, 2005
12:00pm
Double Tree,
Lloyd Center