

Quotable Quotes from Volunteer Drivers

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is that I'm not a mere chauffeur but also a friend to my older adult rider."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is knowing you are helping those in the community who depend on us to go to a doctor appointment, the grocery, or to recreational activities they would otherwise be unable to attend."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is the interesting people I drive. Most of my riders are kind enough to indulge my curiosity about their life story."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is getting to meet interesting older adults and hearing about their lives. The most unlikely appearing folks have often lived extraordinary lives, and you only learn of their experiences and contributions by spending a little time with them."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is being able to make new friends with people who for one reason or another need us to drive. Then suddenly they are on your personal care list and you want to know how they are doing."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is being able to help others and to give back to the community a service that is needed and so appreciated by the riders."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is the good feeling I get for doing something that really matters to others. Most of my riders would have no other way to get to wherever they are going. I feel that the volunteer driver program is wonderful for me as well as for our riders."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is getting to know these folks. Most are shy and a bit embarrassed about what they feel is an imposition. All are grateful."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is personal satisfaction one receives for providing a meaningful service that is truly appreciated."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is having the opportunity to reassess my own existence and to truly take part in the proverbial 'win-win' situation."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is the endless variety of challenging experiences and wonderful people encountered each and every day on the job."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is the opportunity to see people progress in their health status."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is the people you meet. Each one has a story to tell. Older adults, especially those who live alone, enjoy talking about their family and memories of the past."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is that you don't necessarily have to drive the person to get the most satisfaction out of the experience. It is in the simple and most precious moments with the person that make it feel so rewarding."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is the experience of meeting new and different people. Most of my trips are 100 miles or longer, which gives both driver and rider quite a bit of time to talk and to get to know something about each other."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is when one of your passengers asks if you will go to lunch with them. A lot of our passengers live alone and/or are sick. They enjoy talking to someone and sharing a meal."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is meeting a lot of good people, some are very sick. At those times I thank God for my good health."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is the people I have met, all of whom have enriched my life. I have been stretched, changed, educated, challenged, and humbled in many ways."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is having an opportunity to meet new and interesting people who want to maintain their independence. These are people who have had rich lives and enjoy sharing a bit of their experience in exchange for a life. They may not know it, but they inspire me in ways that can't be defined."

The best part of being a volunteer driver is being able to provide independence to some of the older adults who can no longer drive or have other limitations."

"The best part of being a volunteer driver is seeing the hardships people have overcome. I am amazed. We older people are not fragile like so many others."

The best part of being a volunteer driver is the feeling of self-worth and discovering most people care about the same things in life."

*The "testimonials" about the best part of being a volunteer driver were submitted by volunteer drivers as part of STAR Award Applications from volunteer driver programs. The writers were homemakers, teachers, lawyers, doctors, students, and retirees. The testimonials were included in the book *Stories from the Road, Stories from the Heart*, which presented 245 stories submitted by volunteer drivers. The book was edited by Helen Kerschner and published by the Beverly Foundation in 2006.