

# Sample Newsletter

Our volunteer driver program is for older adults <and others> needing transportation in our community. We provide rides primarily to medical appointments but also take our passengers to <list primary destinations>. Rides can be provided anywhere for any purpose. Rides are scheduled by a program coordinator and transportation is provided by trained volunteers who use their own vehicles.

## Get to know a Rider and Driver



**CLOVIS** (rider), a resident of Pasadena for 19 years, joined our program 2 months ago. She told us that in 1941, she began her dressmaking career, eventually adding to her clientele the wives of Nat King Cole and Rochester (from the Jack Benny Show). Celebrities are not at all new to Clovis. As a caterer, she worked for such Hollywood favorites as Robert Taylor and Mae West. In discussing her life experiences, she said, “When I accomplished one thing, I would move on to something else.”

**LILLIAN** (driver) has made Pasadena her home for the past 33 years. She currently volunteers extensively with special needs children at Villa Esperanza. She has a desire to help others that began with her nursing career from which she is now retired. When asked about her most memorable experience, Lillian recalled the challenge and excitement of going back to school at age 50 to earn her master’s degree... not an easy task while raising her grandchildren.

Although Clovis and Lillian have known one another since 1997, they feel that their friendship has grown because of our volunteer driver program. Clovis and Lillian first met while volunteering for the RSVP program. Clovis was a timekeeper and Lillian input data. Through the years, they often saw each other, but it was not until Lillian became a volunteer driver for Clovis

that they became close friends. Now that they participate in our volunteer driver program, they find that they have more of an incentive to get together and get out and about. Clovis voluntarily stopped driving about 5 years ago when she no longer felt safe behind the wheel of her car. Since then, she has used the fixed route bus system and has participated in the

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city's taxi voucher program. She continues these options today, when possible. She says she finds it necessary to use our volunteer driver program when she visits the doctor

and has other appointments that are time sensitive. She knows that when traveling with Lillian, she arrives on time and can be dropped off right in front of her destination. She also knows that she can count on Lillian to be her escort and provide her with social support. When discussing the program, Clovis says, "This is a wonderful service. I never imagined that I would no longer drive, but now that I have a volunteer driver, I am in heaven."

Lillian sees herself as benefiting from our volunteer driver program. She says that being a

volunteer driver "gives me an incentive to get up and go. I feel that I'm every bit as involved in the program as a paid driver would be."

Clovis and Lillian have a deep admiration for each other and have forged a special relationship. "Clovis is a wonderful person and I want to be there for her," says Lillian. Lillian also told us, "I worked for a salary for many years, but making a contribution as a volunteer driver is every bit as satisfying as working for money."

It is especially difficult for public transportation to meet the travel needs to important appointments and to provide the socialization Clovis experiences with Lillian. Because of her positive experience with Lillian, Clovis offers the following suggestion to the volunteer driver program in recruiting volunteer drivers, "When you screen volunteer drivers, make sure that you pick someone who is patient, understanding, and a good socializer."

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Our volunteer driver program is a community-based transportation program that is sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_ and involves many leading organizations that provide health and social services to older adults in our community.

For more information about \_\_\_\_\_ contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Or call: \_\_\_\_\_

*(change introduction and story as needed).*