Neighbors Driving Neighbors

This past year 36 drivers have driven 51 riders 20,080 miles spending 1,073 hours. In addition to these growing numbers, Neighbors Driving Neighbors (NDN) has focused on strengthening the organization and making more people aware of our services. This was done through the projects listed below.

2018-2019 Projects
- Grant applications
- New fundraiser events
- Staffing - new Manager and Committees
- Ride Scheduling program
- More publicity
- Central data storage

Not only do the volunteer drivers give rides, they also provide social connection. Riders comment on how nice it is to get out and spend time with the drivers. Drivers comment on how much they enjoy learning more about the history of the town from the riders. Peter Roderick has developed that connection. He not only recently joined the NDN board, but also led a fundraiser, and is a very active driver.

In Mt. Vernon and Vienna, two times a month, there is a shopping trip to Farmington that starts with a social time. Two cars full of riders meet for coffee before doing their grocery shopping and errands. Everyone including the drivers have fun. Seeing the smiles in the photo is living proof!
The Outreach Committee was formed in 2019 after receiving a grant from the Maine Community Foundation. Its purpose is to increase the number of both riders and drivers in the 5 towns we serve. You may have seen articles in the Kennebec Journal or the Lake Regions Reader or noticed an ad we’ve placed in the KJ for several weeks. We’ve set up an informational table at NDN and other organizations’ events, and if you know of an event in one of the towns we serve, contact NDN, and we’ll be there!

The Fundraising Committee is charged with raising all of the money needed to keep us on the road as NDN receives no fees, or state, town or federal funds. The committee actively searches for organizations that will support our mission through grants and contributions. Some recent examples include: the Bingham Program, Kennebec Savings Bank, Maine Community Foundation, MaineGeneral Health, Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, and the Viles Foundation.

The committee organizes fundraising events. This year NDN expanded this effort with two dessert and art auctions in addition to the community breakfast we have done for several years. These raised over $4,000.

Our biggest source of income still is NDN’s annual appeal letter to community members. We are very grateful for the ongoing, and generous, community support.
We have taken riders to medical, dental, physical therapy, counseling and vocational rehab appointments as well as to errands like grocery shopping, banks, hair salons, Post Office, visiting family or friends and other social activities. 1,556 rides have been provided since November 2015.

Proud to report that 99% of all rides requested with 5 days notice have been driven.

"The help I have received from your organization over the years has been a blessing and I am sure many other people too, so Thanks" -Rider

"It's a life saver for me. The drivers are so nice, all of them." "I always have a great time, each trip" -Riders

This year 19 new riders have joined Neighbors Driving Neighbors. To evaluate ongoing effectiveness, the staff has been calling and talking with riders to see if NDN is meeting their needs. So far it is overwhelmingly, YES.

8 new drivers volunteered for NDN after background checks and attending orientation. All the drivers were invited to learn about the new ride scheduling computer software, Assisted Rides. The meetings were lively with input from the drivers, training on the new system, tokens of appreciation, and of course yummy snacks.

Hannaford to Go, an easy grocery stop.

"The driver was so sweet. My appointment was long but she said it was OK because she took a nap in her car." -Rider

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NDN’s annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Viles Foundation. The drivers are what makes this organization so successful!!

"I just have to thank you. You guys are absolutely phenomenal. I just think it is about most fantastic service I’ve ever heard of. Thank you so much." -Rider
The majority of funding comes from businesses and individuals like yourself. Please consider volunteering as a driver and/or making a gift by mail or securely via PayPal on our web site. Addresses for both are below.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gifts are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Want to know more?

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