



Senior Transportation Services

Senior Transportation Services, Inc.

July 2024 Newsletter

Lyman Orchard Fall Fundraiser!

We are thrilled to announce our annual Fall Lyman Orchard Pie/Cookie Fundraiser! This year, the fundraiser will run from Tuesday, September 24th to Tuesday, October 15th. It's never too early to get excited about delicious pies and cookies while supporting a great cause. Orders can also be made online, please contact the office for more information. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help raise money for our Free Ride Scholarship program, benefiting individuals of low to moderate income. Mark your calendars for order delivery on Thursday, November 21st, and remember all clients get free delivery with orders. Spread the word and help us make this fundraiser our best yet!

Important Notices

We want to inform all Clients that there will be an increase in ride fees, **effective July 1, 2024**. This adjustment is necessary to ensure we can continue providing reliable transportation services and maintain our commitment to serving you with the highest standards of care and safety. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we work to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Rates based on round trip

1-6 miles: \$7.00	13-18 miles: \$19.00
7-12 miles: \$13.00	19-24 miles: \$25.00

🎯 Get Ready for Our Pickleball Tournament! 🎯

POSTPONED!!!

We're excited to announce our upcoming Pickleball tournament! Whether you're a seasoned pro or new to the game, this event promises fun and competition for all skill levels to help raise money for our organization. Stay tuned for more details, including tournament schedules and registration information, which will be updated on our website as we get closer to the date. Mark your calendars and start practicing your serves – we can't wait to see you on the court! For more information, visit our website soon! Happy Pickleballing!

Volunteer Drivers Wanted

Are you retired, a veteran, or find yourself at home during the day searching for a meaningful volunteer opportunity? Senior Transportation Services, Inc. seeks dependable volunteers, willing to use their personal vehicles, to help residents aged 55 and over in Berlin, New Britain, Meriden, Wallingford, Southington, and Plainville reach their medical appointments. We ask for a minimum commitment of just two rides per month! For more details and to access our application, please visit seniorrides.org and select the 'Volunteers' tab, or contact our Program Coordinator, Kaiya Alexander, by calling (860) 224-7117.



Client Gifts

If you are looking for a meaningful gift to give a friend, family or loved one who is a current or prospective client of STS, you can donate in their name, and we will credit it to their account. We will send a hand-written note to the recipient acknowledging your gift.

Website & Facebook Page

We are thrilled to announce that you can now conveniently fill out client applications online! Simply visit our website and head to the 'Become a Member' tab to get started. Joining our community has never been easier. We look forward to welcoming you! Visit us online at www.seniorrides.org to explore the new features and join our Facebook community page [Senior Transportation Services](#) today to stay up to date with all events, fundraising and programs soon to come, no matter where you are!

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: When will I know who my driver is before my appointment?

Answer: Calls are made to clients every Friday providing updates on your upcoming appointment(s) the following week, ensuring everyone is updated on their transportation status.

Any comments, suggestions, or questions on how we could improve and enhance our service are always welcome, feel free to email us at sts@seniorrides.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Notes for our Clients

- We book a year in advance for medical appointment transportation! Please feel free to call our office with any and all your transportation requests.
- We want to remind everyone of our Covid-19 policy. We require that all clients are vaccinated unless they can provide a medical exemption letter written by their physician.
- Be sure to recommend STS to friends, family or loved ones who would benefit from our transportation services. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Mail: Senior Transportation Services Inc. 830 Corbin Ave., New Britain, CT 06052

Email: sts@seniorrides.org **Phone Number:** 860-224-7117

To Our Volunteer Drivers

Attention all Drivers! Our annual Volunteer Driver Recognition Luncheon will be held Friday September 13th, 2024 from 12:00pm to 2:30pm! This event will be held in the Fire Room within the church and will feature a delicious lineup of dishes, sides, and desserts. This luncheon is our opportunity to honor, celebrate, and recognize the hard work and dedication each of you brings to support our mission at STS. Please RSVP by September 1st, we hope to see you there!

With the upcoming Spring weather in mind, car magnets may not stick to your vehicles due to pollen, dirt, and rain for an extended amount of time. If you're in need of a replacement, please let the office know, along with any questions or concerns.

We kindly ask all Volunteer Drivers to call Clients prior to their appointment dates to confirm the pickup time. This simple step ensures a smooth and timely service for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and for the exceptional service you continue to provide!

Supplies that are available at the office: Masks, sanitary wipes, sanitary spray, hand sanitizer, seat belt extensions and car magnets.

Driver Recognition April-June

Driver with the **Most Rides** – Sharon Guite: 106 rides!

Driver with the **Most Milage** – Sharon Guite: 1,441 miles!

Driver with the **Most Hours** – Stephen Bransfield: 94.25 hours!

Driver Appreciation – Carl Psoter: Being one of our newest drivers, Carl is another great addition to our volunteer driver team!

Driver Luncheon Event

Join us for a celebration like no other! Our annual Drivers Recognition Luncheon is happening on **Friday, September 13th, 2024**, from **12-2:30pm**, and you're invited to be part of the festivities. It's a day dedicated to honoring the hard work, dedication, and incredible contributions of our drivers. We'll be serving up delicious food and refreshing drinks as a token of our appreciation for everything you do. Whether you've been with us for years or recently joined the team, this event is our way of saying thank you for your outstanding efforts in keeping our wheels turning smoothly. To ensure we have plenty of goodies for everyone, please **RSVP by August 30th**. We can't wait to celebrate with you all!

Happy Anniversary to our Drivers!

April Anniversary – Kathleen Connolly (5 years)!

May Anniversary – Edward Barillaro (3 years), Stephen Bransfield (3 years), Mark Ferron (3 years), Margaret Lemrise (5 years), Paul Marlowe (2 years), James Sarfeh (2 years), Kenneth Wilson (2 years), and Anne Wroblewski (5 years)!

June Anniversary – Bonnie Carilli (5 years), Donna Cistulli (4 years), Marie Connett (1 year), Jane Patsas (2 years), Robert Walker (8 years)!

Donating to STS

The office staff and board members would like to thank everyone who has donated to Senior Transportation Services Inc. Our organization exists only through individual donations, Grants and Sponsorships.

Across all 6 communities that STS serves, 78% of transportation provided is at no cost to our clients. Donations and contributions help to support free rides. A \$50 donation will provide 1 round trip ride and \$100 would provide 2 round trip rides. Here's how you can donate:

1. Go to our website, www.seniorrides.org and click on "How you can help", or
2. Mail your donation to Senior Transportation Services, Inc., 830 Corbin Ave, New Britain, CT 06052. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your monetary donation is tax deductible.
3. Honorarium - If you would like to recognize a family member, friend or acquaintance with a charitable gift, STS will send a note to the recipient, stating that a gift in their honor has been received.
4. In Memoriam - If you would like to make a charitable gift in the name of someone who has passed, STS will notify the family of the deceased stating a gift has been made in their name.

Senior Transportation Services is grateful for support from the following organizations who provide partial funding for our services:

United Way of Southington – Funds Courtesy of Barnes Memorial Trust	
City of Meriden – SCAAA	North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Community Chest of New Britain & Berlin	United Way of Meriden and Wallingford
City of New Britain – CDBG	American Savings Foundation
New Britain Senior Center	Farmington Bank Community Foundation
Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Fdn., Inc.	Plainville Senior Center – NCAAA
<u>Sponsored By:</u>	
Linda Stepensky Campochiaro Memorial Trust Meriden Rotary New Season in Life, LLC GONETSPEED Crew Family Foundation	

Quarterly Ride Reports

Understanding the challenges many of our senior friends face with increasing medical costs on a fixed income, we know that every penny counts, including transportation expenses. At STS, we believe in treating every client with the same high level of care and respect, regardless of their financial situation. That's why we offer free transportation to our low-income clients, ensuring they can get to their medical appointments without worry. To keep you informed, we're excited to share updates in our Newsletter every quarter. These Ride Reports will show you the impact of the generous donations, grants, and sponsorships that make our free transportation services possible!

Free Ride Totals April-June 2024:

Total number of free rides provided in the communities: **876 free rides!**

Total number of rides provided in all 6 communities: **1,184 total rides!**

Total mileage driven by volunteer drivers: **18,626.8 total miles!**

Total hours completed by volunteer drivers: **984 hours!**

Town of Berlin: **10 rides were free!**

Town of Meriden: **29 rides were free!**

Town of New Britain: **270 rides were free!**

Town of Plainville: **34 rides were free!**

Town of Southington: **All 390 rides provided were free thanks to the United Way of Southington, courtesy of Barnes Memorial Trust!**

Town of Wallingford: **112 rides were free!**

Additional Resources Available

CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CEAP) Homeowners and Renters who pay separately for heat CALL 1-800-842-1132

FOOD - Mobile Foodshare -A truck delivers food weekly at various areas in each of the Towns we service. There is no income requirement or no residency requirements. Call Foodshare at (860) 856-4321 for times and places to pick-up food.

HOUSING - TEMPORARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - Prevent evictions, and get help with mortgage payments, Call 1-800-785-3111 between the hours of 8am – 5pm.

FINANCES - FREE FINANCIAL COACHING - Connecticut residents dealing with creditors or finding resources for managing their money, call the local United Way office.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE - Free Income Tax preparation for anyone making under \$57,000/YEAR. Call 211 for help. Also contact your local senior center for tax preparation needs and resources.

HOME SAFETY SOLUTIONS- Hartford HealthCare Home Safety Solutions offers technology that promotes independence, safety, and improved quality of life for seniors. They have devices for fall prevention, emergency response, medication management, remote monitoring, home safety, and hearing assistance. For more information, pricing and referrals please call 203-295-7476.

211- free and confidential helpline that connects individuals to resources and services in their community. You can dial 2-1-1 or visit their website, 211unitedway.org, to search for resources related to electric assistance, food assistance, housing assistance, financial assistance, and more.