



# Senior Transportation Services

Senior Transportation Services, Inc.

January 2026 Newsletter

## Welcoming 2026 with Gratitude & Momentum

As we begin a new year, we want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and hopeful 2026. We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our volunteers, clients, funders, and community partners—your dedication makes our work possible every single day. The year ahead brings exciting opportunities, meaningful connections, and special events, including our upcoming **Pickleball Fundraiser Saturday, March 14**, along with continued efforts to grow and strengthen our services for older adults in our communities. We look forward to building on the momentum of last year and reaching even more neighbors in need.

## Rock Voices Kicks Off the New Year on a High Note!

We were thrilled to start the new year with an incredible turnout at the Rock Voices concert during the first weekend of January. The event was completely sold out and filled with energy, community spirit, and amazing music. Thanks to the generosity of attendees and the efforts of Rock Voices and our volunteers, the concert raised more than **\$2,700** in support of Senior Transportation Services. We are deeply grateful for this partnership and for everyone who helped make this night such a success—it was truly a high note to begin the year!

## Join Us for Our Pickleball Fundraiser!

Do you have family or friends who love a little friendly competition? Our Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser is happening on **Saturday, March 14, 2025, from 12 PM – 4 PM!** Whether they're seasoned players or just looking to have fun, there are both competitive and just-for-fun divisions available. Not a player? No problem! We'll also have exciting **raffle prizes** for anyone to participate in. It's a great way to support our mission while enjoying a fun-filled afternoon! Encourage your loved ones to sign up and be part of this exciting event! Let's rally together for a great cause!

**Register today:** <https://app.courtreserv.com/Online/Events>List/10725> or call Trish 860-846-8084 for more information!

## ❖ Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale – May 8th & 9th! ❖

Celebrate Mom and support a great cause at our Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale! Join us on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> (12pm-6pm), and Saturday, May 9th at the same location and hours as last year to pick up beautiful flowers just in time for Mother's Day. Every purchase helps support our mission, so spread the word to family and friends! Stay tuned for more details, and we hope to see you there!

## Support STS Through Stop & Shop's Community Bag Program!

This February 2026, you can support Senior Transportation Services while making an eco-friendly choice! For every **\$2.50 reusable Community Bag** sold at **Stop & Shop (1135 Farmington Avenue, Berlin)**, our organization will receive a **\$1.00 donation**. It's an easy way to give back—just grab a Community Bag at checkout and help us continue providing essential transportation services to seniors in our community. Thank you for your support!

## 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](http://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. This QR Code can also be used to pay monthly Invoices for transportation!

PayPal QR Code:



## 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](http://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 if my appointment is canceled due to inclement weather?

**Answer:** Calls will be made from the office between 7-7:30am on the morning of your appointment if they are not canceled the day prior to your appointment. These calls are made when there's ice, sleet, or severe snow for the safety of both our Clients and Drivers.

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](mailto:sts@seniorrides.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

### Notes for our Clients

- Please keep the office updated with specifics to now using a walker/cane, requesting a pickup location, etc. to make sure office staff and volunteer drivers can make sure you have a smooth experience!
- With the temperature starting to get cooler, a friendly reminder to clients that all transportation will be canceled in inclement weather, such as heavy snow, sleet, and ice.
- Looking to share your experience about our services? Call into our office or send an email with a blurb on your transportation experience with our Drivers! We'd love to hear from you and share on our Facebook page!
- We book a year in advance for medical appointment transportation! Please call our office with your transportation requests.
- 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](mailto:sts@seniorrides.org) **Phone Number:** 860-224-7117

### To Our Volunteer Drivers

With the Winter 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 October-December

Driver with the **Most Rides** – Shaon Guite: 149 rides!

Driver with the **Most Milage** – Mark Callahan: 1,861 miles!

Driver with the **Most Hours** – Stephen Bransfield: 68.5hours!

**Driver Appreciation** – Steve Reynolds: Our clients have shared their greatest appreciation of Steve's kindness, care, and consideration that goes above and beyond! Thank you for all you do!

# Happy Anniversary to our Drivers!

**October Anniversary** – Louis Amodio Jr. (2 year), Christopher Ball (3 years), and Gale Lemieux (3 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](http://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 – SCAA	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
<b><u>Sponsored By:</u></b>	
Linda Stepensky Campochiaro Memorial Trust      Meriden Rotary	
New Season in Life, LLC      GONETSPEED      Crew Family Foundation	
First Church of Christ      Hartford Healthcare	

## Quarterly Ride Reports

We understand that rising medical costs can be a challenge for our seniors living on fixed incomes, making every penny count. At STS, we're committed to providing the same high-quality care to all clients, regardless of financial situation. That's why we offer free transportation for low-income clients, ensuring they can attend their medical appointments worry-free. To keep you updated, we'll be sharing quarterly Ride Reports in our Newsletter, showing the impact of the generous donations, grants, and sponsorships that make our services possible!

#### **Free Ride Totals October-December 2025:**

Twon of Berlin: 28.5 rides were free!

Town of Meriden: 35 rides were free!

Town of New Britain: 253 rides were free!

Town of Plainville: 30 rides were free!

Town of Southington: All 383 rides provided were free thanks to the United Way of Southington, courtesy of Barnes Memorial Trust!

Town of Wallingford: 84.5 rides were free!

Town of Plainville: 26 rides were free!

#### **Additional Resources Available**

##### **Community Foodshare**

Weekly truck deliveries of food in the following towns we service. There are no income nor residency requirements. If you're looking for more information on a location closest to you, please call CT Foodshare (203) 469-5000 or visit their website: <https://mobilefoodpantry.ctfoodshare.org/Berlin>

**Sacred Heart Church: 48 Cottage St., East Berlin, CT 06037**

-Every 2 weeks on Friday 12-12:30pm.

##### **Meriden**

**New Opportunities of Greater Meriden: 165 Miller St., Meriden, CT 06450**

-Every 2 weeks on Thursday 1-2pm

**Mount Hebron: 84 Franklin St., Meriden, CT 06450**

-Every 2 weeks on Thursday 1:15-2:15pm

##### **New Britain**

**St. Ann Church: 101 North St., New Britain, CT 06051**

-Every 2 weeks on Tuesday 9-9:45am

**New Britain HRA: 180 Clinton St., New Britain, CT 06053**

-4th Saturday of every month 9:30-10:30am

**HA Scarlett Dr.: 43 Scarlett Dr., New Britain, CT 06053**

-Every 2 weeks on Tuesday 10:15-10:45am

##### **Southington**

**The Tabernacle: 1445 West St., Southington, CT 06489**

-Every 2 weeks on Tuesday 9:15-9:45am

##### **Wallingford**

**Senior Center: 238 Washington St., Wallingford, CT 06492**

-Every 2 weeks on Tuesday 8:30-9:15am

#### **CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CEAP)**

Homeowners and Renters who pay separately for heat, contact your local office for application information and support. Please visit [ct.gov](http://ct.gov) for additional resources.

Greater New Haven: (203) 387-7700 ([www.caanh.net](http://www.caanh.net))

Greater Hartford: (860) 560-2694 ([www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org))

New Britain Energy Office: (860) 225-1084 ([www.hranbct.org](http://www.hranbct.org))

Greater Meriden: (203) 639-5060 ([www.newoppinc.org](http://www.newoppinc.org))

## **SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (HCV) PROGRAM & STATE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RAP)**

HVC is a federally funded initiative, and many housing authorities administer the HVC program. You can call the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Hartford at (860) 240-4800 for more information and additional questions.

## **FAMILYWIZE: SAVE MONEY ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Familywize negotiates a discounted cost on prescription drugs and then passes 100% of that savings on to the consumer. Get the Familywize card via download, mobile app, email or text at: <https://familywize.org/free-prescription-discount-card>. Show your free card to the pharmacist to receive the lowest possible price for your prescription!

\*\*Accepted at most pharmacies & community organization partners.

## **VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)**

FREE Professional Tax Help if your household income is up to \$57,000 during the tax season. Sign up for a free, virtual session online at [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org), click on “Tax Help” or dial **2-1-1**, press 3, then 6. 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](http://211unitedway.org), to search for resources related to electric assistance, food assistance, housing assistance, financial assistance, and more.

## **Solace Health**

Solace Health connects individuals with experienced healthcare advocates who help navigate today's complex medical system. Whether it's understanding a diagnosis, exploring treatment options, getting second opinions, or coordinating care, Solace advocates provide hands-on support every step of the way. Their advocates don't just offer advice—they make calls, coordinate with medical teams, and help ensure patients and families feel informed, supported, and empowered to make the best healthcare decisions possible.

This resource may be especially helpful for those facing new or complicated health concerns and who could benefit from having a knowledgeable advocate by their side. Visit their website:

<https://www.solace.health/> or give them a call at 240-693-3281 to speak with a local advocate.