



Volunteer

June 2, 2006

To: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

From: Lois Connell, Associate Director, Volunteer Center & Program Supervisor,  
Transportation Program

On behalf of the staff, volunteers and clients of the Transportation Program of the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County, I would like to express a heart-felt thank you for your continued support of our program.

The Volunteer Center has been operating this program through out the county, with offices in Watsonville, Santa Cruz and the San Lorenzo/Scotts Valley area, since 1967. Each year over 6400 rides are provided to frail elderly and disabled members of our community. Many of our over 350 clients live in remote areas off of bus service lines. Many are too frail to use the public transportation systems when available. The volunteer drivers serving these clients are not only a means of transportation but are often one of the only human contacts, companions, to isolated seniors. Many would not receive necessary services or even be able to stay in their homes without our dedicated drivers. In the San Lorenzo Valley we recently received a thank you note from Mr. W. who wrote, "Your program is a blessing. Since I recently lost my driving privileges I didn't know how I was going to stay in my home. You see. I live in Lompico and the bus line is not accessible to me. Senior network Services referred the Volunteer Center to me and you wonderful people have agreed to help me. Thank you for my rides."

Priority is given for medical appointments, which represents approximately 65% of the rides. Other critical destinations are grocery shopping, therapy, vision centers, dialysis, banking and other essentials. About 90 volunteers donate more than 10,900 volunteer hours to provide rides to over 350 clients. TDA funds to the Volunteer Center are used for mileage reimbursement, insurance and administration of the program.

Once again, thank you from staff, volunteers and clients of the Transportation Program.

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