



READY RIDES



It takes a special person to take the time out of their busy day to help someone in need!

-Unknown

Meet just a few of our Drivers at our 2nd annual Volunteer Luncheon

Left to right, back row: Crystal Dumont (Coast Call Center) Bob Baker, Jeff Donald (RR creator/Coast), Shawn McKenna, Ray Buxton, Pat Willard, Dana Glenna (board), Mike Kelleher, John Curran, Mike Smith, Dianne Kelleher (board), Bill Cuff, Martha English (secretary), Martie Gooze, Carol Cooper, Betty Smith (vice-chair), Karen McCullough (board), Steve Goodspeed (treasurer), Carolyn Clarke (board), Meri Schmalz, Denis Beaulieu. Front row, right to left: Mark Longus, Margie Longus (board), Henry Smith (board), Lisa Maurice, Jean Covill, Dag Saunders, Rick Erickson (board), Rev. Gayle Murphy (RR creator/Chair), Jan Galloway, and Mike Magoon

In This Issue

- Meet just a few of our Drivers
- History of how Ready Rides began
- Rev. Gayle Murphy
- Welcome New Drivers
- Luncheon review
- Outreach
- Thank you to all of our donors

How and When Ready Rides Came to Be!

“Volunteers help sick, disabled get to medical appointments”

Ready Rides began with the tenacity of Coast (Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation) employee Jeff Donald, the hard work of a group of Strafford women, and the leadership of Northwood minister **Gayle Murphy**.

When Donald was hired by Coast in 2011, one of his projects was to foster the development of volunteer driving programs in the region, in particular addressing the issue of seniors needing transportation for health care. Filling that need would allow seniors to age in place.

Donald got to work, circling the areas on a map that would receive the greatest benefit—rural communities not on regional bus routes, where neighbors were few and contiguous towns could work together. He came up with Nottingham, Northwood, Barrington, and Strafford (the first to sign on). He called senior centers, community centers and churches. He met with small groups of people. He sent out emails trying to find the fine line between being persistent and being annoying. Donald saw himself as a technical assistant, someone to get the ball rolling to find active community members who would step up and start the program.

Eventually, he found just the right person to become the champion—**Rev. Gayle Murphy**, the minister of the Northwood Congregational Church. Gayle said, “It’s clear to me that this was a need in our community.”

Murphy made the phone calls that got the women to show up in force. “I do remember that the women themselves got others from Strafford involved as we moved along,” said Murphy. While she may have provided the leadership, the Strafford women were the ones able to transform the dream into reality. They got to work on governance and outreach. They had funding from the Federal Transit Authority and, for insurance and nonprofit status, Murphy’s church took Ready Rides on under its auspices. In February 2013, Carol Cooper, one of the Strafford women, gave the first ride. “You always get back more than you give,” said Cooper. “I’ve met such nice, nice people.”

Excerpted from Article by Connie Eppich, Published in *Fosters*, October 21, 2014

SAYING FAREWELL

Ready Rides would be nothing without the selfless service of its members, and it is with heavy heart that we say goodbye to one of our most enthusiastic supporters. In

May, our creator and Chair, Rev. Gayle Murphy, will step down from her positions on our Board and at her church as she prepares to embark on a new project. Her future ministry will try to engage those who are not connected to established churches. She has been at the Northwood Congregational Church since October 2004.

Together with her husband, Bob, Gayle lives in a 150 year old house near downtown Concord. They have three grown sons and two grandchildren. Gayle was a full-time Mom to her boys until she entered seminary and was ordained in 1999.

Gayle will be missed by the many she touched over the years. We will miss her warm smile, kind words, pleasant personality, and willingness to help those in need. Ready Rides thanks her and wishes her the best of luck in her new endeavor.

We will miss you, Gayle!

God Bless!

Please Welcome Our New Drivers

Ray Buxton—Newfields

Robert Moynihan—Durham

John Curran—Durham

Karene Wallis—Dover

Nancy Lewis—Barrington

2nd Annual Volunteer Luncheon

Was a huge success! We had 28 drivers attend with 5 guests, held at the Northwood Congregational Church. We were very lucky this year to have donations from: Gulf (donated by driver, Bethene Wuelper), Red Hook, B.J's Wholesale, King Arthur Flour gave us 4 gift certificates, Applebee's, Bellaviso Salon & Spa in Barrington, 2 Margarita's gift certificates donated by a Barrington resident, Dwight Barnes—owner of McDonalds in Raymond and Epping—gave each driver a “Be my Guest” gift certificate, and Lindt Chocolate gave each driver a bag of truffles.

We are very blessed to have such generous vendors and members of our community who support and celebrate the work that you all do.

THANK YOU!

Ready Rides
P.O. Box 272
Northwood, NH 03261

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Outreach!

Please look for us in...

April

Durham Age of Champion

Held at UNH on April 23rd 9 to 12

May

Durham Quack Fest

Barrington Peeper Run

June

Madbury Day

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services or to become a driver.

(603) 244-8719 or

www.readyrides.org

Like us on Facebook.

We are a 501(c)(3). Your donation is tax deductible.

READY RIDES

P.O. Box 272

Northwood, NH 03261

You can view past issues of this newsletter by going to readyrides.org

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!