



A BEVERLY FOUNDATION

SNAPSHOT

SUPPLEMENTAL

TRANSPORTATION

PROGRAMS for

SENIORS

October 2006

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY DO

In 2004 and 2005, the Beverly Foundation STAR Search and STAR Award program emphasized volunteer driver programs and volunteer drivers. To date, there are 179 volunteer driver programs and 728 volunteer drivers in the STAR Search data base.

VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM INFORMATION The following provides information on the volunteer driver organizations that submitted STAR Search surveys in 2004 and 2005.

PROFILE OF 179 VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAMS*

Average # Years of Program Operations: **17**
 Total # Volunteer Drivers in Programs: **9,304**
 Total # Riders Served by Programs: **182,385**
 Approximate # 1-Way Rides: **1,960,251**
 Median Budget: **\$23,500**
 Funding Sources:
 Grants: **74%**
 Rider Donations: **66%**
 Rider Fees: **14%**
 Tax Revenue: **18%**
 Average Cost For Insuring Programs: **\$4,162**

Primary Area Served:
 20% urban, **32%** suburban, **48%** rural
 Provide Menu of Services: **90%**
 Door-To-Door Services: **97%**
 Rides Scheduled Same Day: **15%**
 Collisions in Past Year: **4%**
 Vehicles Used: **86%** drivers', **11%** riders'
 Gender of Drivers: **58%** female, **42%** male
 Drivers age 18-55: **16%**
 Drivers age 56-64: **25%**
 Drivers age 65+: **59%**

The 2005 STAR Search survey included open-ended questions regarding volunteer driver recruitment. The top three responses of the 140 programs that responded to the survey are included below.

Three venues programs use to recruit new volunteer drivers:
churches, community, media

Three qualities programs look for in recruiting volunteer drivers:
availability, compassion, reliability

Three types of people programs target as volunteer drivers:
retirees, seniors, moms

Three concerns potential drivers express about volunteer driving:
liability, time commitment, cost of gas

Three "hooks" programs use in convincing people to be volunteer drivers:
need for transportation, satisfaction of driving, flexibility of job

*The following numbers represent samples of the 179 programs.

VOLUNTEER DRIVER INFORMATION Volunteer drivers come from all walks of life. Some are homemakers who bring their children along for the ride, and others are empty nesters who are looking for something to do since after-school and weekend soccer games are a thing of the past. Some are students who are just beginning their adulthood, and others are retirees who have completed their paid work life. Some are people who lease big expensive luxury cars, and others own old, utility vans. Some are CEOs who squeeze in an hour or two a week between appointments, and others are hourly employees who have more time than money. Some are mobile and run marathons, and others are disabled and have to use wheel chairs and assistive devices. Some go to church every Sunday and others drive someone else to church every Sunday. The following provides information on the volunteer drivers that submitted STAR Search surveys in 2004 and 2005.

PROFILE OF 728 VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

<p>Total Number of Volunteer Drivers: 728 Drivers Under age 65: 37% Drivers age 65+: 63% Gender: 49% Male, 51% Female Education: 51 % graduated college Household Income: 64% \$30,000+ Marital Status: 67% married Ethnic Background: 95% Caucasian Driving a Car: 53% 50+ Years Time As Volunteer Driver: 55% More than 3 Years</p>	<p>Three Most Frequent Types of Trips: Medical, Shopping, Personal Most Common Type of Assistance Provided: Door-to-Door, Hand-to-Hand, Escort Top Three Reasons for Volunteering: Help Others Give Back Do Something Meaningful Major Challenge: Finding Time To Drive</p>
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Volunteer drivers commit themselves to becoming a driver for a neighbor, a friend, or a complete stranger; and often continue for many years. In rural areas they are especially dedicated, as each trip may require many miles of driving and many hours of assistance. While some drivers only provide transportation to non-emergency medical services; others take their passengers to the library, to the bank, to visit a friend, to volunteer activities, and even to the barber shop or hair dresser. They look at driving as an opportunity to meet wonderful people, to have interesting experiences, to contribute time rather than money, and to give back to the community. They say that getting to know the passengers is one of their greatest sources of satisfaction.

STAR SEARCH 2006 The Beverly Foundation STAR Search and STAR Award program, which was initiated in the year 2000, began its 2006 application process in the spring. The target applicants include STPs (Supplemental Transportation Programs for seniors) in California. The outcome of the survey will be the development of a Clearinghouse of STPs in California.

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