

Why I'm a Volunteer Driver By William Wasch

One of the joys of driving our members are the conversations I have while taking them to their destinations, whether to the bank, to a doctor's appointment, or to bring their dog to their vet. Each trip is a walk in the past with our members and an opportunity to share experiences which they have had in their long and busy lives. While working closely with our director as Co-Board Chair, I am constantly re-energized by the satisfaction of working with the clients of ITN*CentralCt*.



Photo by Nhung

The cornerstone of our program was the speech last year by Katherine Freund, founder of the national ITN® program. As I listened, I was galvanized. Katherine spoke of an accident years before, in which her young son, who was then about the same age as my own, was hit by an elderly driver's car. Her son survived, but Katherine's response to the incident was what called me to action. Instead of focusing on blaming the driver, Katherine was determined to find a solution to the larger issue: finding a workable transportation alternative for people who can no longer drive safely. At that time, Katherine was a young mother and still pursuing her education. Yet she developed the entire ITN model and brought it to fruition, while managing to obtain her degree and raise her son. I thought to myself, "What would I have done?" I also thought of this: Katherine's program was already working to prevent an accident that could injure my child or someone else. So my question, rather than being "How could I volunteer?" became instead, "How could I not?"

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Annual Appeal: Help Build a Strong Foundation

Please consider making a special gift this year to honor the initial success of this new, non-profit service that provides door-through-door rides to seniors and adults with visual impairments. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to begin to build a sound financial footing for the future. All donations made before the end of the year are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law for the 2009 tax year. Membership dues and rider fares cover less than half the true costs of our operations, so your support is critical to our future success.

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Welcome New Members!

Brian Conneely
Carolyn Hannuksela
Alan Hatfield
Mary Ann James
Lonita Porter
Mollie Stalker
Ann Marie Viola

Welcome New Volunteers!

John Leverton
Alice Pomper
Bill Wasch, Jr.

Members Night Out

Our first members' night out in September was a great success, with 35 people attending. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Enzo's Restaurant in Middletown. We had fun giving door prizes and building community among our members, volunteers, and staff.

The event was so much fun that we are doing it again on Tuesday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m. at Enzo's. All members are invited, and we hope all our drivers can be available to bring members to the party. The rides will be free, and we have arranged the same menu at Enzo's for \$12 a person.

At this event we will do a "Yankee Swap". So kindly bring along a gift under \$5.00, either gift wrapped or in a bag. Then we will draw numbers. Please RSVP by December 1st so we can give the restaurant a head count. See you there!

G W Frazier, executive director

Why I am a Volunteer Driver (Continued from page 1)

I have many elderly friends who still drive. They live in my hometown in Connecticut. I can't help them daily in the way I wish I could. So I think of my participation in *ITN Central CT* as a way that I can help someone else's elderly friends. At the same time, I'm working to build a program that will hopefully cover them someday.

I enjoy my freedom tremendously. But I don't take it for granted. As long as I'm able to go where I want to, when I want to, I'm going to keep on helping others do so as well. At the same time, I'm helping to build a program to preserve that ability throughout life. Every single ride is important to that effort. And so, even my small contribution furthers the cause and broadens the network. I may only provide an occasional ride now and then, but it's one ride that helps other people....

Someday my wife who also drives and I are going to need a ride. Every day that I drive brings that network one road closer to us.

Bill Wasch, Co-Board Chair

Rider of the Month

Our very popular Healthy Rides beneficiary, Jean Squicciarini, is driven to the local dialysis unit three days a week by another member, Alice Pomper. Jean is picked up in the afternoon by Gary Brewer, one of our volunteers who works for a nearby children's home. It is a win-win for all three who have developed considerable respect and affection for each other.



This month we are recognizing Jean as Rider of the Month. The picture shown here has her entering the car in her driveway and her walker being stowed in the back of the car. This type of door-to-door arm-to-arm service is what distinguishes the ITN model and makes our service such a welcome approach for our many members who are no longer able to drive. Jean also uses ITN Central CT for trips to her doctor and her nail studio in town.

Major Donors 2008 - 2009

Thank you for your generous support during our first year of operation.

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Middlesex United Way

Middletown Health Department

Middletown Senior Center

South Congregational Church

The Good People Fund

Wethersfield Special Needs Fund

ITN Central CT Going Green

Receive ITN Express via Email!

Along with everybody else these days, we are watching our costs carefully! Postage, paper and ink really add up, as well as add to our landfills!

If you received a paper copy of this newsletter, it means that we don't have your email address. If you have an email address and would like to help us save money, and the environment, please email us at info@itncentralct.org and put "Switch to email" in the subject line.

We will add your address to the system and you will receive future mailings via email.



- I would like more information about becoming a member of ITN*CentralCT*.
- I would like more information about becoming a Volunteer Driver.
- I would like more information about becoming an office volunteer.
- I am making a tax-deductable donation to ITN*CentralCT*.

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