



Senior Rides and More

Newsletter

Spring 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

Senior Rides and More is a faith-based nonprofit whose mission is to promote senior independent living, health and safety by providing free transportation and other services.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

2019 was an exciting and rewarding year for Senior Rides and More. We increased our services to seniors in both southwest and northwest Houston, and we had a record-breaking year of phone inquiries taken, applications mailed and submitted, and care receivers added. More exciting is that we were able to assist a fellow nonprofit in their time of need. HERO (Helping Elderly Residents Out), located in Memorial/Spring Branch area, made the difficult decision to close their doors. HERO did not want to leave their seniors without transportation and approached Senior Rides for assistance. We were fortunate enough to be in the position to accept their request to continue serving their seniors with free volunteer transportation. With Spring Branch now in our service area, Senior Rides now serves 45 zip codes!

According to the 2018 Houston Census numbers, there are more than 2,325,502 people over the age of 65 in Houston; like seniors everywhere, the great majority want to remain in their own homes. Senior Rides, working with our strategic partners, is able to make this option a reality for our care receivers.

Of course, without our wonderful volunteers, our program would not exist. These caring people use their own cars and gas to drive care receivers to doctors, to go grocery shopping and to accomplish other transportation-dependent needs. They also provide the cheerful companionship that our care receivers need. We all owe a big “thank you” to our volunteers; they help seniors remain in their own homes where they want to be.



*Debby Posso, Executive Director
Senior Rides and More*

However, without enough volunteers to help our growing number of care receivers, Senior Rides realized we need to look for other transportation options. In 2014 we started using Yellow Cab to assist when we could not find enough volunteers to help our seniors on some of our very busy days. In January of 2019, Senior Rides care receiver requests were outpacing our volunteer availability and we realized the need for alternative transportation options was immediate. This prompted us to open accounts with Lyft and Uber in order to stretch our transportation dollars. By using Lyft and Uber along with Yellow Cab, we have saved approximately 25% of our alternative transportation funds each month.

With this growth comes hard work. The Senior Rides staff works tirelessly to ensure that our hundreds of care receivers receive one-on-one attention and all phone calls are answered or returned. They have even driven care receivers themselves when the rare emergency arises, and immediate attention is needed. Debby, Carleen and Janie enjoy the personal interaction with our care receivers who call the office, and truly enjoy the occasional impromptu personal visit from a volunteer.

Finally, we owe a real debt of gratitude to our donors and community partners whose support we could not do without. It is because of this community support, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and our amazing volunteers that we are able to make a difference in the lives of our seniors.

Silver Watch Program

From the Office of Precinct 5 Constable Ted Heap

Here at Precinct 5, we care about our senior citizens. Their quality of life is important to us and we know how hard it can be protecting them in later years. To help where we can, Constable Ted Heap is pleased to announce the launch of Silver Watch, a program designed to better serve and protect senior citizens living in Precinct 5.

Under this new program, senior citizens can sign up or be signed up by concerned family members for regular personal welfare checks. Once they fill out a short form on our website and provide their consent, one of our uniformed deputies will stop by on a weekly basis to make sure the registered senior citizen is safe and well.

Our deputies will also be able to educate them on common scams that target senior citizens over the phone and internet. They will be happy to answer any questions regarding local crime trends, and can offer suggestions to seniors on protecting themselves, their home and property.

For issues not falling under the umbrella of law enforcement, our deputies can provide senior citizens with a list of local agencies which may be of assistance to aid in meeting any specific needs. Please note, this program is not intended to replace full-time care, physical security or any other medical or emergency service. If an emergency condition exists, please call 9-1-1 for immediate help.

Senior Rides and More readers, please note that this program is for precinct 5 residents only.

Sign up for Silver Watch here:

<https://constablepct5.com/index.php/silver-watch/>

The Office of Constable Ted Heap

Harris County Precinct 5

17423 Katy Freeway | Houston, TX 77094

Admin (832) 927-6700



Welcome John Heinemann to the Senior Rides and More Board of Directors



Please join Senior Rides and More in welcoming John Heinemann to our Board of Directors. John was born and raised in South Dakota, sixth in a family of ten children. He received a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. After graduating, John joined Shell Oil Company for a 36-year career and his work experience included many large construction projects as well as several different management

assignments in five different states. He retired from Shell Oil company in 2003.

John and his wife Kathy have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. A member of St Laurence Catholic Church in Sugar Land, he has served on the St. Laurence Building Committee, is an active member of the Knights of Columbus, and has been involved with many of St. Laurence's charitable activities.

Since retirement, John spends a lot of time volunteering. He is an active member, and a current Board Member, of the Sugar Land Exchange Club and is involved with their many community activities. John is also on the Habitat for Humanity Board at St Laurence Catholic Church, and he proudly states that they are getting ready to build our 14th house! If this isn't enough, he also drives a truck for Casa Juan Diego in Houston.

Aside from volunteering, John's biggest hobby is playing golf at Sweetwater Country Club, and enjoys being a member of the Houston Golf Association. As a member of the HGA, he has worked at the past 17 Houston Open golf tournaments.

John has worked as a Senior Rides and More volunteer driver between 2003 and 2008. He fondly recalls some of the people he assisted back in his days of driving our seniors. "It was uplifting for me to provide such needed and appreciated service." Senior Rides and More appreciates John's dedication to our organization and welcomes him to our board of directors!

Senior Rides and More is blessed to have amazing volunteers. Please join us in welcoming the newest members to our volunteer family:

Mary Ann Yurkanin

Marilyn Lignon

John Atwood

Duke Millard

Thomas Chaney

A Senior Rides and More Community Angel: Mrs. Inge-Lotte Liesner

Senior Rides and More has a guardian angel, and this angel is Inge-Lotte Liesner. She is an energetic powerhouse of a volunteer and is also an active member of our Advisory Board. Inge-Lotte walked through the door of Senior Rides and More about five years ago with a list of questions about our program. She was very specific: How does our program directly assist seniors? Is our financial house in order? What do we do to fundraise? Inge-Lotte had been raising funds for another Houston area nonprofit and was not pleased with their financial management. She wanted to find another nonprofit to support and wanted to make sure that this organization was directly benefiting the people it was promising to assist. When Inge saw first-hand that our fundraising efforts were keeping our doors open, and that without our assistance, many of our seniors would not be able to get to their doctors, she was convinced that we are the organization that she could stand behind.

Inge-Lotte and her husband, Willy, were born and raised in Germany. They left their native country during the turmoil of the 1940's and came to the United States via Canada. They have worked hard over the decades and have built successful businesses, most recently a small winery on property they own north of The Woodlands. Their no-nonsense approach in business translates to their success in fundraising. What Inge-Lotte does for Senior Rides and More is herculean. She is small in stature, but mighty in the kitchen.

Twice a year, Inge-Lotte holds two fundraisers to benefit Senior Rides and More. Every April, she and Willy host their fellow Buckingham residents for lunch at their farm/winery in New Waverly. This is their annual Bluebonnet Picnic and their guests pay a donation fee to spend an afternoon at the Liesner farm where they enjoy a German-inspired lunch hand-made by Inge-Lotte. The tables are set and lunch is served on the porch of the Liesner's historic landmark home overlooking the beautiful Texas Bluebonnets and the rows of grape vines ready to be transformed into wine. Inge-Lotte's Bluebonnet Picnic is always a sell-out!

The second fundraiser benefiting Senior Rides and More is held in December. Yet Inge-Lotte starts her hard work November before Thanksgiving week even begins. The residents at The Buckingham Senior Community, where Inge-Lotte and Willy live, are well aware of Inge's culinary

talents. Each holiday season their Buckingham neighbors eagerly await the word that Inge-Lotte is taking orders for her famous Stollen Bread, cakes, pies, and jams each lovingly handmade in her kitchen. Orders are taken and Inge-Lotte begins baking. Dozens and dozens of holiday treats are baked and sold by Inge so that Senior Rides and More can keep its doors open. And this is not all! The Liesner's also host three separate private dinners in their home during the month of December

to raise funds for our mission! To top it off, this generous couple also donate by underwriting the costs of these two events. If you have been to the grocery store recently, you know that the cost is in the several hundreds of dollars. Inge-Lotte's extraordinary fundraising efforts brings close to \$8,000 a year to Senior Rides and More, and each dollar is designated to directly help our seniors. It is Inge's hard work that allows us to pay for Yellow Cab, Lyft, and grocery store gift cards when they are needed throughout the year.

Inge-Lotte is the force behind these amazing fundraising efforts and her husband, Willy, is the loving

husband who supports his wife's passion for helping the underserved. Senior Rides and More is grateful to the Liesner's for their generosity and friendship. Thank you, Inge-Lotte for very literally walking through the doors of Senior Rides and More, and supporting our mission to assist the seniors in Houston and Fort Bend.



It's Easy to Become a Senior Rides Volunteer

Whether you prefer to volunteer on a regular basis or every couple of weeks, we welcome and need your participation. We have flexible scheduling and a variety of volunteer opportunities.

Volunteers are needed to provide:

- Transportation to/from medical appointments
- Transportation for Shopping Trips
- Telephone Friendship/Reassurance Calls

Contact the Senior Rides office to Volunteer:

713-772-8181; Info@SeniorRidesandMore.org

www.SeniorRidesandMore.org

Senior Rides And More Advisory Board

Cindy Siegel, Metropolitan Transit Authority Board
Mr. Orlando Sanchez, Harris County Treasurer
Ms. Virginia Lootens, Attorney at Law
Dr. Bill Franklin, M.D., Physician, retired
Inge-Lotte Liesner, Community Supporter
Deanna Parmenter, CFO, Cougar Sales
Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney



“Follow us on FACEBOOK!”
[Facebook.com/VICSW.org](https://www.facebook.com/VICSW.org)



Caregiver Statistics Jan 2019 – Dec 2019

Total Reported Volunteer Mileage – 31,452
Total Reported Volunteer Hours – 4,009
Total Reported Visits/Events – 2,985

Our Corporate Angels

Bethany Christian Church

The Brown Foundation, Inc.

Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron
Foundation

Chapelwood United Methodist Church

ChristChurch Presbyterian

The Elkins Foundation

ExxonMobil Foundation

Aubry and Sylvia Farb Community Service
Fund

The George Foundation

Jean Griswold Foundation

Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation

The Hildebrand Fund at Greater Houston
Community Foundation

The Robert H. and Anita Q. Lawe Foundation

The Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation

St. Albert of Trapani

St. Anne's Catholic Church

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

St. Laurence Catholic Church

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

St. Philip's United Methodist Church

St. Philip Presbyterian Central Mission
Endowment Fund

Shell Oil Foundation

May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust

Strake Foundation

Tomball Regional Health Foundation

Isla Carroll Turner Friendship Trust

Gil and Dody Weaver Foundation

Current Resident or

Non Profit Organization
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Permit Number 7

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