







# Providing Access to Transit

Information and training opens up a world of mobility.

Ride Connection's RideWise program empowers individuals with disabilities and older adults to use transit by helping them gain the skills necessary to ride safely and independently to get where they need to go on public transit.

Through a combination of information, one-on-one training, group trips and school-based training, we provide people with the experience they need.

### **One-on-One Training**

Last year, Travel Trainers worked with 311 individuals to provide personalized, hands-on experience. Sonya, pictured on the right, learned how to take the bus to her job at Kaiser Hospital where she helps keep patients comfortable.

### A SMART Partnership

RideWise expands!
This year we welcomed a new partnership with South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) in Wilsonville in order to provide travel training to residents.



## **School-Based Training**

Valuable partnerships with 28 school programs in 14 districts in the region provide transit information to teachers and students. As a result, these students went on to take 29,419 trips on transit last year.



# **Advocating for Access**

Every two years when the legislature is in a long session, Ride Connection rallies customers, volunteers and staff to participate in Transit Day at the Capitol. This year, we brought 23 people to Salem who met face-to-face with legislators to discuss transportation in their districts.

Legislators who take the time to listen to the challenges of transit users are better poised to make policy and funding decisions for the transportation system. With the allocation of more adequate resources Ride Connection can readily address the needs of people who utilize accessible options.







# **Going Places**

Yoneko has lived in Portland, Oregon all of her 94 years. Together with her husband George, she raised five children.

It wasn't until the age of 90 that Yoneko gave up her driver's license. "I drove all of my life. I don't think people realize – it's like taking your arm off!" Her kids are able to help with rides every once and a while, but not on a regular basis.

"On Tuesdays, I go to a tai chi class. I have a bad knee and I keep going! It is so nice to have a place to go to, and only because of Ride Connection is it possible. The drivers are really nice – they go above and beyond for everyone. If Ride Connection didn't exist, so many people would sit at home. It's a blessing."



### **Medical Rides on the Horizon**

After spending this year laying the groundwork with our partner, Providence Health and Services, we have launched a shuttle in order to provide more medical trips to people who need them.

Medical trip requests are often difficult to fulfill due to the sheer amount Ride Connection receives each day. The shuttle has been implemented in mid-Multnomah County and will group trips together so we can provide more rides to and from Providence Medical Center. Additionally, medical center staff and resource desks will be equipped with information and assistance for patients.





### **Ride Connection Turns 30!**

Ride Connection is celebrating its 30th birthday at the Annual Gala, which will be held at the Oregon Convention Center on Friday, May 18, 2018. For more information contact Kelly Stover: 503.290.3693 | kstover@rideconnection.org

# Thank you, Donors!

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