



ANNUAL  
REPORT

2023

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear friends,

I am immensely proud of the work Ride Connection has accomplished this past year. Together, we have overcome challenges, celebrated milestones, and deepened our commitment to connecting our community through accessible transportation.



Our shared vision has fueled remarkable progress. We've continued to build back from the pandemic and are happy to say we've been able to increase ridership, expand service areas, and build new partnerships. These successes are a testament to the hard work and collaboration of our dedicated team, our wonderful volunteers, our supportive partners, and the trust placed in us by our customers.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your ongoing support. Your investment in Ride Connection makes a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals. By providing free transportation options, we empower people to access essential services, healthcare, employment, and social connection.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to build a transportation system that is equitable and accessible for all. Your continued partnership is essential to achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Julie Wilcke Pilmer".

Julie Wilcke Pilmer,  
Chief Executive Officer

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ride Connection acknowledges that our facilities are situated on the traditional village sites of the Multnomah Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, Clackamas, and many other Indigenous nations of the Columbia River, who have called this place home long before the arrival of white colonizers (Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable, 2018). We honor and recognize the enduring relationship between Indigenous peoples and their territories.

## RUTH'S RIDES

**This year Ride Connection was fortunate to receive a generous bequest from lifelong advocate and educator, Dr. RuthAnn Parvin.**



DR. RUTHANN PARVIN

From her work in combating racial and sexual discrimination, to being an indomitable advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community, RuthAnn was a powerhouse of generosity and inclusion. RuthAnn wished for her estate to serve the community. Upon her passing, her sister, Nileh, researched organizations that aligned with RuthAnn's lifelong work in community advocacy. She remembered that her sister has used Ride Connection's services in the past and reached out to our staff to discuss how we could possibly honor her sister. This resulted in the largest private individual donation in Ride Connection's history.

RuthAnn's spirit of giving has enabled us to create a new program in her memory, Ruth's Rides. This program was created in alignment with RuthAnn's vision to provide customers in need of bariatric

transportation to and from their medical appointments and treatments. We have already been able to provide over 90 rides since its inception with many more on the horizon thanks to the largest bequest from an individual in Ride Connection's history!

RuthAnn's lifelong advocacy and kindness will leave a lasting impact on our shared community. We are deeply grateful for her heart for advocacy and inclusion and are honored to carry out her legacy.

**If you are interested in contributing to Ruth's Rides, please contact Kelly Stover at [kstover@rideconnection.org](mailto:kstover@rideconnection.org) or call 503-290-3693.**

# OREGON CHINESE COALITION AND RIDE CONNECTION JOIN FORCES TO OFFER RECREATIONAL TRIPS FOR SENIORS



Ride Connection is proud to partner with the Oregon Chinese Coalition to provide a free shuttle service for their monthly Take Seniors to the Garden trips.

For the initial trip on March, 10 seniors from a local retirement community were able to tour Lan Su Chinese Garden and enjoy the tea and desserts in the Yun Shui Teahouse. The program provides opportunities for seniors to get outside, socialize, and enjoy new experiences. This can be especially important for those who have been isolated due to COVID. For some participants, this was the first trip outside of their apartment in years.

Although it was a bit of a wet day, the moisture in the air accentuated the flower fragrance inside the garden and couldn't dampen the smiles shared throughout the visit as everyone took in the sights, snapped photos, and shared in conversation and laughter.

The collaboration between Ride Connection and the Oregon Chinese Coalition shows the power of working together to meet the needs of the community. Ride Connection looks forward to continuing these outings to the garden and taking groups to additional recreation destinations in the future.

# CUSTOMER STORY

## RENEE

Renee was born in Portland but had moved away, returning in June of 2019 to work with Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB). She had heard that Portland was a great city for mobility and public transportation.

Renee joined a dragon boat team to participate in the 2022 Portland Rose Festival on team Lethally Blind. When she first started paddling, another volunteer at Portland Adventist Community Services, where she volunteers as a receptionist 20 hours a week, and a sighted staff member at OCB were driving her to practice. However, Renee had practice three days a week and it was important to her to be able to get there independently. Ride Connection's Travel Trainer, Devon, worked with Renee to identify and practice the most accessible route to her dragon boat practice. They worked on street crossing skills, using the transit app to plan trips and check when buses will arrive as well as navigating the Hawthorne Bridge and Eastside Esplanade safely until she was ready to make the trip independently.

While the sport is still somewhat new for her, Renee likes that her body and mind must focus and says it's great for her mental health. She has met a lot of good friends through paddling and likes being part of a team. Dragon boating has helped



**“Mobility is empowering!”**

her to not give up. Being on a team has benefited her in lots of other aspects of her life.

Renee said it is exhilarating to walk across the Hawthorne bridge and know where she is going. She shared that she could not have done this route without Travel Training. Renee has always been active but is able to be even more active now. The help travel training provides her is tremendous and serves as a springboard to make other trips. Renee said, “It is nice to be able to travel to dragon boating and be independent.”

# RIDE CONNECTION BY THE NUMBERS

## Financial Summary 2022 - 2023

Total Revenue

\$70,041,032

Total Assets

\$32,624,212



1,860,019

Total miles  
driven



299,178

Total trips

provided by Ride Connection  
employees, partners  
and volunteers



20,774

Total volunteer  
hours

RideWise Travel  
Training Outreach:

Total presentations and  
group trips: 42

Total participants: 695

## Trip Type

Medical	24%
Nutrition, Grocery	19%
Support Services	19%
Recreation	6%
School, Work, Volunteering	32%

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

## **\$150,000+**

Pacific Power

## **\$50,000**

The Estate of RuthAnn Parvin

## **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

OCF Joseph E. Weston Public  
Foundation

## **\$5,000 - \$7,500**

CareOregon  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
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TriMet

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*Thank you for helping us link accessible, responsive transportation alternatives with individual and community needs!*

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Centro Cultural de Washington County  
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Forest Grove Senior and Community Center



# Volunteer with Ride Connection!

Ride Connection is looking for volunteer drivers! We need caring and compassionate people to provide rides to places like medical appointments, the grocery store, and community centers.

We will match you with older adults, Veterans, or people with disabilities in need of transportation right in your neighborhood, when it is convenient for you (Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm). Volunteers may choose to drive their own cars, or one of ours.



To volunteer, you must have at least 5 years of licensed driving experience, be able to pass a criminal background check and demonstrate safe driving habits on the road. You'll be equipped with excellent training on safety, defensive driving techniques, and other helpful tools to ensure a great experience for you and everyone you drive.

**Volunteering with Ride Connection is more than providing a ride – it's providing human connection, and access to the community.**

**Interested?**

**Send an email to [volunteer@rideconnection.org](mailto:volunteer@rideconnection.org)**