



ANNUAL
REPORT

2024

Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, we're filled with immense gratitude for your continued support of Ride Connection. Your generosity has empowered us to expand our services and positively impact the lives of countless individuals in our community. This year marks a significant moment for me, as I prepare to transition from my role as CEO. It's a bittersweet feeling, as this organization and its mission have been a central part of my life for many years.

Looking back at the past year, I'm incredibly proud of how our team, our volunteers, and our community partners have continued to adapt and innovate, ensuring that Ride Connection remains a vital lifeline for so many individuals in need of transportation options. We've navigated challenges with resilience, always prioritizing the

needs of those who rely on us for safe, accessible, and reliable transportation. The stories of impact—the medical services accessed, the groceries purchased, the social connections fostered—are a testament to the dedication of every individual who contributes to Ride Connection's success.

As I prepare to pass the baton, I do so with full confidence in the future of Ride Connection. We have a strong strategic foundation, a passionate and dedicated team, and an unwavering commitment to our mission. I am excited about the fresh perspectives and leadership that will guide Ride Connection into its next chapter.

I want to express my deepest thanks to our incredible staff, our tireless volunteers, our generous donors, and our invaluable community partners. Your unwavering support has made everything we do possible. It has been an honor and a privilege to lead this organization, and I am excited to watch Ride Connection continue to thrive and make an even greater impact in the years to come.

Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Sincerely,



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.

The Rosewood Initiative

Ride Connection and The Rosewood Initiative Partner to Enhance Community Mobility with Accessible Electric Bus

Ride Connection is thrilled to announce a partnership with The Rosewood Initiative, a vital community organization dedicated to empowering residents in East Multnomah County. This collaboration marks a significant step forward in enhancing accessible transportation options for the Rosewood community, made possible through generous funding from Pacific Power. The funding enabled Ride Connection to acquire one of the region's first fully accessible electric buses, a game-changer for local mobility.

This state-of-the-art electric vehicle will serve as a cornerstone for improved access to essential services and community engagement within the Rosewood community. It will provide vital transportation for older adults and individuals with disabilities, ensuring they can easily reach crucial appointments, community events, and support services. Beyond individual transport, the bus will also play a critical role in delivering essential resources, including diapers and food boxes, directly to those in need, addressing immediate community well-being.

The partnership kicked off with a successful site visit where The Rosewood Initiative team visited Ride Connection's headquarters. This visit facilitated strong connections between the two organizations, providing an opportunity to showcase the bus's innovative features, including



its advanced accessibility ramp and comfortable interior. A test ride around the neighborhood offered a firsthand experience of the bus's smooth operation and ease of use.

The Rosewood Initiative is committed to creating a thriving, equitable community. Reliable and accessible transportation is a key component of that vision. Partnering with Ride Connection, and having access to this incredible electric bus, will significantly enhance our ability to serve our community, connecting residents to vital resources and opportunities they might otherwise miss.

As the partnership deepens, Ride Connection looks forward to collaborating closely with The Rosewood Initiative to fully understand the evolving transportation challenges faced by the community. This ongoing dialogue will ensure tailored solutions are developed, empowering Rosewood residents to thrive and access all that their community has to offer.

Meet Pat



“I consider going the extra mile as part of the job.”

With a background in journalism, community-based adult education, and community organizing, Pat spent 16 years in Australia and New Zealand working across various forms of communications before returning to the U.S. After moving back, she began noticing something that deeply resonated with her— older people waiting for hours at the community pool for their transportation. Disappointed by the long waits and eager to help, Pat started driving people in her own car for free. It was through this that she learned about Project Linkage, and, after talking with the team, she knew she wanted to join the volunteer team. Now, Pat has been volunteering with Ride Connection since 2017, and even after taking a break due to knee surgeries, she returned to continue helping as soon as she was able.

For her, the heart of volunteering is offering not only transportation, but also emotional support too. “You meet people where they are,” she says. “Some people are shy and reserved, others are exhausted from doctor’s appointments, and some people are feeling sad.”

“These are very human situations, and I want to be present for that and validate their personhood.”

Beyond driving, she listens to her passengers’ concerns, often going the extra mile by recommending helpful resources to solve problems in their lives.

Her commitment to the people she serves reflects her passion for community organizing and advocacy, and it has been a deeply fulfilling part of her life. We are so lucky to have Pat in our corner, and we can’t wait to see all the joy she spreads in the coming years!

Red Hat Society Rolls with Ride Connection

Introducing the vibrant King City Red Hat Ladies! For several years, Ride Connection’s Tualatin/King City program has been organizing monthly lunch outings for this stylish and close-knit group, and both the members and their dedicated driver, Bert, greatly benefit from the experience. Alice, the group’s “Queen Bee,” shared that they currently have 11 members. “We used to have twice as many, but it became challenging to secure lunch reservations for such a large group!” The Red Hat Society, a nationwide social club, aims to empower women to fully embrace life, and it’s clear this group is doing just that.

The ladies gather each month at the King City Civic Association where Bert takes them to the selected restaurant chosen by a rotating “hostess” in the group. This month, Kathy picked Benihana in Beaverton. “Having a reliable way to get to and from the restaurant means we can truly enjoy our time together,” she said. “And Bert is the best driver! He’s always so upbeat and careful on the road.”

The Operations Team is eager to reinstate more group outings like these, which were more common before the start of COVID, to better serve the community. Bert, a 13-year veteran of the Ride Connection driver team, enjoys the change of pace that group trips provide. “This is such a cheerful group,” he



“Having a reliable way to get to and from the restaurant means we can truly enjoy our time together”

remarked. “They always radiate positivity. It’s a joy to drive them!” As Bert prepares for his retirement in October, Ride Connection is filled with gratitude for his time and endless compassion. “Ride Connection has given me more than I’ve given it,” he humbly replied.

Before lowering the lift for his last rider, Bert shares a warm smile and reminds her to “watch the curb” as she departs. He will be greatly missed by the Red Hat Ladies!

NEW EVENT

An Evening in Support of Ride Connection



Ride Connection's 2024 annual fundraising event, An Evening in Support of Ride Connection, brought together community members, partners, and supporters for a memorable night of celebration, generosity, and gratitude.

The evening raised vital funds to support our mission of providing accessible, responsive transportation to older adults and people with disabilities across the region.

This year's event was especially meaningful as we also paid tribute to our long-time CEO, Julie Wilcke Pilmer. Julie's visionary leadership and unwavering dedication have shaped Ride Connection into the trusted and impactful organization it is today. While we are sad to see her go, we celebrate her remarkable legacy with deep appreciation and look forward to continuing the work she so passionately championed. Julie is moving on to pursue other interests and to dedicate more time to her family, and we wish her all the best in this exciting new chapter.

Ride Connection by the Numbers

Total Revenue

\$80,929,866

Total Assets

\$39,795,208



1,671,951

Total miles driven



324,813

Total trips

provided by Ride Connection employees, partners and volunteers



12,946

Total volunteer hours



4,214

Unduplicated Riders

RideWise Travel Training Outreach:

Total presentations and group trips: 882

Total participants: 679

Trip Type

Medical	49%
Shopping, Grocery	26%
Support Services	13%
Recreation	9%
School, Work, Volunteering	3%

Thank You to Our Donors

\$75,000+

The Estate of Dorothy Raeburn

\$50,000

Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund

\$30,000 - \$49,999

OCF Joseph E. Weston Public
Foundation

\$5,000

CareOregon
The Lamb-Baldwin Foundation
Dan and Carolyn O'Doherty
TriMet

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Bland Family Foundation
Cambia Health Foundation
Leslie and Eric Foren
Sarah and Wayne Gabel
Heffernan Insurance Brokers
Heritage Bank
ITN America
Kaiser Permanente Northwest
Legacy Health
OnPoint Community Credit Union
Kelly Rice
Vicki and Rod Schmall
Umpqua Bank

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Mark and Metra Augustin
Buchalter
Anella Busby
Christina and Zachary Cooper
John Cornyn
Peter and Delores De Vasto
Kirk Foster
Heidi and Alex Ganum
Gresham Ford

John and Elizabeth Haunsperger

Laura Heller
Holzman Foundation
Bernice Howe
Jathan Janove
Pamela McKeen
Kurt Mueller
Mike and Stacie Mullins
Kris and Mark Olson
Pacific West Bank
PacificSource Health Plans
Providence Health & Services
Azhar and Michael Puerini
Vijay Roberts
Linda Simmons
Trillium Community Health Plan
Mary Ann Watson
Julie Wilcke Pilmer
Park and Martha Woodworth

\$500 - \$999

Alan Best
Joe Connors
Thomas Craig
Scott Gates
Cecilia Gates
Jean Glanz
Kenneth and Patricia Haas
Ellen Hamaker
Mark Herring
Dennis McCarthy
Rebecca and Roy Miller
Diane Moskowitz
Emily and Travis Motter
Dorthey Porter
Claire and Darell Potter
Sherie Sampsel
Rachel Smith
Maryellen and Ronald Tipper
Elaine Wells
Melissa Parkerton and Tom Wells

\$250 - \$499

Ruthie Bonds
Elise Bouneff
B. Joan Burrows
Jan Campbell
Jon and Chii-Lien Claro
Karen Compton
Sandra Cox
Theresa De Luca
Myrna Faris
Ruth Farm
Sharon Findling
Fred Meyer
Elda Kammerer
Suhail Khan
Jeanne Knepper
Brenda Kruger
Cathy and Loran Lamb-Mullin
Pearl Lee
Jennifer Martinek
Michael Morris
Christine Natonek
Sharron Noone
Oakshire Beer Hall, LLC
Tom Wells and Melissa Parkerton
Sue Peltier
Marissa Resnick
Claudia Robertson
Dave and Lori Robertson
Susan Schrepping
Chris Spalding
The Standard
San SunOwen
Richard and Evelyn Thomas
Transportation Options Group of
Oregon
Travis Phillips and JC Vannatta
Jean Vitali
Lisa Wilcke
Anita and Daniel Yox

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

\$100 - \$249

Gary Abbott and Jeanie Foote
Joan Albertson
Gayle Al-Kaisy
Richard Anderson
Phoebe Ashford
Alan Bacharach
Taylor Bailey
Phyllis Barbour
Moppy Barr
Lenora Behensky
Nancy Bent
Sharon Beyl
Barbara Bliss
Barry Bolewicz
Carol Botteron
Margaret Bratcher
Alfreedia Brown
Eva Bunika
Dorothy Burgus
Jon and Karen Burkhardt
Rebecca Burnett
Kevin Chambers and Maura
Jansen
Eileen Collins-Mastel
Thomas Condon
Ninfa Cruzada
Christina Deffebach
Anne Dong
Iris Dunn
Pamela Dwyer
Marlo Eckert
Charles and Leslie Elder
Kazumi Erickson
Maria Renteria Escalante
Hope Estes
Reza Farhoodi
Guntima Farrell
Monika Fein
Susan Fischer
Irene Fleming
Susan Flores
Mary Fox
LouAnn Frisch
John Fryer
Sharon Garrett
Leslie Garth
Hope Gillis
Lee Girard
Constance Gourzis
June Griffis
Carol Gubert
Connie Guist

Betty Hannah
Natalie Harris
Katherine Hawkins
Linda and James Heesacker
Neil Hickerson
Sherri Hirsch
Eileen Howe
Kirsten Huckfeldt
Jeannine Huston
Charles Jochim
Maria Menor and John Johnson
Sally and John Jones
Sharon Kassakian
Doreen Kines
Dolores King
Nancy Krivacek
Joan Lalosh
Margaret Neal and David Leckey
Joseph Lipscomb
Rita and Michael Llewellyn
Robert Lucke
Arthur Lund
Le Luu
Peter McCann
Wanda and John McFarland
Anne McHugh
William Melrose
Lillian Mills
Tom and Lisa Mills
Sharon Mitcheltree
Moda Health
Anne Mooney
Spencer Moore
Molly Murdey
Nike
OHSU Foundation
Olivia Paradis
Kay Parrott
Sheryl Patton
Don Pearson
Virginia Peckham
Miles Pengilly
Dorthea Petersen
Tam Phan
Naomi Pierce
Janelle and John Pilmer
Kristin Pineda
Julia and Lynne Pirani
Allan Pollock
Portland General Electric
Garet Prior
PRR, Inc.
Liz Ranger

Clyde Riley
Mary Lou Ritter
Lawrence Robbins
Noel Rosenbaum
Mary Rosenthal and Bridget Davis
Barbara Salmon
Steven and Christine Satterlee
Beth Saul
Kyle Schademan
Cheryl Schell
Renee Schoenfeld
Lisa Sempert and Kelly Rice
Zak Shawver
Robert Shoue
Florence Sims
Elaine Sinclair
LuAnn Slayton
Ilmars Smiltins
Virginia Smith
Jessica Soltesz
Cara Stinger
James Strassmaier
Andy and Sharon Szolnoki
Marjory Tominac
Kay Toran
Patricia Trask
Barbara Troxel
Patty Turner
USI Insurance Services
Dyami Valentine
Lesly Verduin
Vanessa Vissar
Washington County
Terry Watson
Jeanne Watts
Robert and Marla Weiner
Norville and Janet Weiss
Wells Fargo Foundation
Marc Wiitala
Robert Wilcke
Justin Wilcke
Kurt and Lisa Wilcke
Virginia Wilkinson
Erika Yen
Rachelle and Mitch Yoder

IN-KIND DONORS

Centro Cultural de Washington County
Diversity Café
Forest Grove Senior and Community
Center
Hugh and Bonnie Gilmartin

Volunteer with



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.



To learn more, contact our Volunteer Outreach Manager:

volunteer@rideconnection.org

or call **503-528-1724** | TTY: 711

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