



Serving seniors and people with disabilities.

# Newsletter

## Spring 2010

### Letter from the Office



Spring time is just around the corner and Dial-A-Bus is gearing up for our biggest project ever. Many of you have heard that we have to move from our current location by the spring of 2013. To accomplish this we would like to build our own facility, but that takes a lot of time and money.

The facility would be large enough so that we would have adequate parking for the vehicles, sufficient office space for operations and room within the office for trainings. Often all people see in the community is our vehicles and drivers, unaware that there is a lot more going on “behind the scenes” to keep the operation going.

To accomplish our dream we will need your help. Many of you have already contributed funds, but we are just at the beginning phase of the fundraising process and have a long way to go.

Even if you cannot donate funds you can still help our campaign by writing letters to the editor in support of our need for a new facility. Letters (250 words or less) can be sent to: Corvallis Gazette Times  
600 SW Jefferson Ave,  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
Email: [opinion@gtconnect.com](mailto:opinion@gtconnect.com)

## THREE CHEERS TO VOLUNTEERS!

Dial-A-Bus began in 1974 as the vision of a selfless gentleman who saw a need in his community for alternative transportation options for senior citizens. Over the past 30 years the program has grown from his home-based operation, using his own car to a fleet of 22 vehicles and over 40 volunteers.

We have expanded our service hours, days and population served. We now offer transportation for adults with disabilities and children with disabilities.

Our volunteers have made all this possible. Last year they logged over 7200 hours of service. This number was used to leverage state and federal monies to operate our program and keep the fares low.

In addition to the funding we received we should also take into account that the national average wage a volunteer is worth is \$20.25 per hour. That translates into \$145,800 of service we received from the volunteers and all they wanted in return was a friendly smile and a happy customer.

So next time you see one of our volunteers, either in a car, on the street or wherever they may be; remember to thank them for all that they do and what they have done to make Dial-A-Bus the success it is today.

---

**Watch your mailboxes for our Board of Directors  
Newsletter in April!**



# Driver at Large

by Gary Tiedeman

How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? If you're anything like me, you have not been terribly successful. I tried to learn something from my past failures this time. What I used to do was to make resolutions about eliminating one of my many undesirable traits. There were several years of the Stop Smoking Resolution, for example. But the only noticeable change was the creation of new rationalizations for continuing to smoke. (I am now a non-smoker, but without the aid of New Year's resolutions.) Then there were several years of the Lose Twenty Pounds Resolution. Result: an additional weight increase. In fact, it became a handy routine to simply alternate years between the "Big Two": Stop Smoking in even-numbered years, Lose Weight in odd-numbered years. That way, I didn't have to waste much time thinking about various other vices worthy of condemnation. After multiple years of failure in both endeavors, I tried to get by for a while with some cutesy, meaningless, or self-fulfilling resolution: "I resolve to make no resolutions this year," or "My resolution is to think of a really good resolution for next year," or "I resolve to try new cigarette brands and gain five pounds." Well, every one of these approaches provoked massive guilt and occasional ridicule. So I decided to do something truly worthwhile for 2010, which meant paring down my target to something actually within reach. What to pick? My initial ideas were admirable, but unrealistic. Write a book. Climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Learn to cook. And then one day it hit me, when my wife said "I sure wish you would clean up your side of the dresser top, so I could get to it with the dust cloth." Aha! Perfect! Made to order! Now if you're thinking this is far too modest a task to deserve resolution status, you have no appreciation for the amount of receipts, hard candy, grocery lists, ticket stubs, and assorted other junk I can manage to pile into semi-artistic mounds atop the dresser. Hence, my 2010 resolution: To Clean Up My Section of the Bedroom Dresser Top. And I am pleased to report real progress this time. In just two months, the stacks on the outer edge of my space have been remodeled - - and even slightly reduced. By October, or maybe November, I expect to have made some real progress. Then I'll have to start thinking of something good for 2011!

Now, fasten your seat belts, and have a safe ride.

*To Whom it May Concern,  
I have been riding Dial-A-Bus for over two years now, what a wonderful service is provided for those of us who are without transportation or unable to ride the local transportation.*

*Everything is very organized and done in a timely manner. All the drivers are very responsible and extremely cordial. I have met some wonderful people. The staff is phenomenal what a wonderful job they do. They are truly the exception to the rule.  
Sincerely,  
D. Pitman*

## Dial-A-Bus Closures

**Memorial Day,  
Monday May 31st  
and  
Fourth of July,  
Sunday July 4th**

# May 2010

## Older Americans Month

**AgeStrong!LiveLong!**

### Save on Drug Costs

There are people in Linn and Benton Counties who are eligible for help with prescription drug costs, but are not taking advantage of that assistance. Changes in the 2010 law provides help for even more people.

Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) volunteers can help those on Medicare apply through the Social Security Administration's Limited Income Subsidy program. An individual's income must be less than \$1,354 monthly (\$16,245 annual), assets below \$12,510, and for a married couple living together, income must be below \$1,821 monthly (\$25,010 annual) with combined assets below \$25,010.

To get help finding out if you qualify, in Benton County call for an appointment with a SHIBA volunteer at the Corvallis Senior Center at 541-766-6959 and in Linn County call 541-812-0849.

*I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate Dial-A-Bus. I am 88 years old and recently gave up my car. I would be lost without Dial-A-Bus. It is a most wonderful Service. Sincerely, D. Meade*

### Volunteer Interfaith CAREGIVERS

Dial-A-Bus strives to ensure that our clients transportation needs are met so that they can continue living independently in their own homes. Sometimes we encounter customers with an increased need that is beyond the scope of the services we provide. This includes need for door-through-door assistance, and companions.

That is when we refer them to Interfaith Caregivers. Their service is for adults over 60 and those with disabilities. They also assist with light house cleaning, yard work, minor home repairs and relief for family caregivers.

For more information call:  
(541)757-0980

### Capital Campaign Contribution

Please accept my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ as a donation to the Dial-A-Bus Capital Campaign. Funds from the Capital Campaign will provide a permanent facility for the program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have Email? Would you like to help Dial-A-Bus save paper? We can send you our newsletter via email! Just call Celeste at 757-2514 to be added to the email list.**



605 NW 27th  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Visit us on the Web!  
[dialabus@freeshell.org](mailto:dialabus@freeshell.org)



**The Dial-A-Bus  
Zap Car!**

To be used for promotional  
purposes only.  
Donated by: Lloyd Meskimen

## **Mission Statement**

Providing special transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities throughout Benton County and connecting with adjoining counties.