



TRA Newsletter • November 2022

We're Driving Independence

Empowering older adults and adults with low vision to be engaged in their communities and live life to their fullest potential



WRAPS AWARD

TRA received the Westchester Recreation and Parks Society (WRAPS) public service award for providing unselfish service on behalf of public recreation, parks, conservation and other related services.



On hand to receive the award were Rose Cappa Rotunno, Board Member, Catherine Wynkoop, President and Ibrahim Abdallah, Call Center Director

THANK YOU

Special thanks to the Federal Transit Administration, Westchester County Business First, The Field Hall Foundation, The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, NYS Office for the Aging, New York-Presbyterian Westchester and New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley whose ongoing support helps to power our mission.

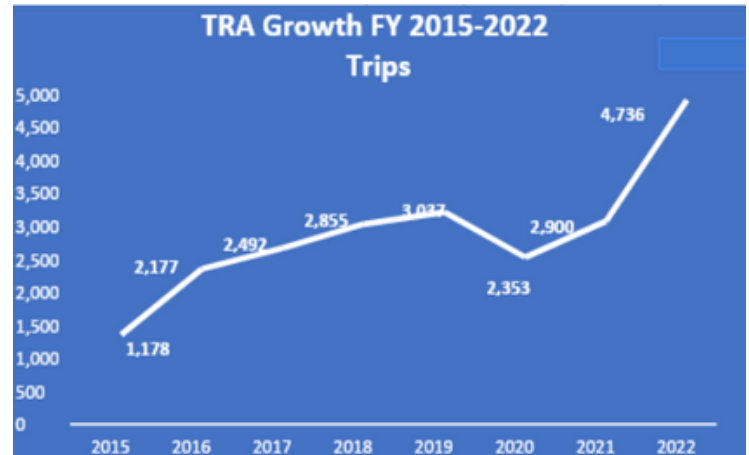
We also thank Assemblymember Chris Burdick for securing a grant in aid to expand access to medical rides for older adults in northeast Westchester.

And last, but so vitally important, we thank you - our individual donors and volunteer drivers.

TRANSPORTATION

Our original, and most important, service is providing rides for adults over age 60 and adults over age 21 with low vision.

TRA has grown rapidly.



Thanks to the support of so many riders, volunteers, elected officials, government agencies, and foundations, TRA (formerly WestFair Rides) stayed open throughout the pandemic. Since September 2021, we have grown 58% in one-way trips.

TRA has provided 24,000 rides, driven 360,000 miles, and drivers have volunteered over 26,000 hours.

Our growth in 2021 and 2022 has been made possible by:

- Our faithful corps of volunteer drivers, some of whom have been able to stay active, despite high gasoline prices, because we reimburse mileage to any volunteer who requests it
- Backup livery service by five TLC-approved services
- Two new RAV-4 vehicles purchased with FTA 5310 funding with 20% match from local contributors.

Please see the enclosed letter for more information about our program and the importance of your donations in expanding our services to older adults and adults with disabilities.

While we love to see all of you at our luncheons and special events, this season we invite you to "Stay Home for the Holidays" in lieu of a special in-person event.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Laura Rúa Reidy is TRA's Manager of Volunteer Engagement. Laura's resume includes community outreach and advocacy, public speaking, marketing, and fundraising. Laura will be focused on volunteer recruitment and retention, as well as forging new relationships with community based organizations.

Coleen Skelly, LCSW, TRA's Manager of Outreach, has over ten years experience in the non-profit, public school, and private sector, and extensive experience with the vision impaired community. Coleen will identify and help clients to access resources, leading them forward to a greater level of independence, and an improved quality of life.

Mitchell Fleiss drives one of TRA's vehicles part-time. He was referred to us in March by an aging in place organization where he still drives as a volunteer. In his professional career, Mitch was a motivational speaker, a busy salesman, and a marketer.

Donald Eubanks is TRA's second staff driver. Don has over 15 years of experience in chauffeuring. His 30 year career at the NYS Thruway Authority gives him a valuable perspective on driving and road conditions.

Both Mitch and Don are driving TRA owned vehicles.



RESOURCES



Organizations are currently updating their service information on the TRA Resource Hub (my-tra.org/tra-resource-hub). Services range from aging-in-place to town senior services and transportation services. We recently added the ability to receive and to follow up on referrals from those agencies, including:

At Home On the Sound	Scarsdale Edgemont Family
At Home in Greenwich	Counseling Service
Feeding Westchester	SPRYE
New Rochelle Cares	St. John's Riverside Hospital
New Rochelle Office of the	Transportation Association of
Aging	Greenwich (TAG)
Mamaroneck Senior Services	VNS Westchester

DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?

We're stepping out to make you and your neighbors more aware of TRA, our services, and our volunteer program. Let us know about your local events!

Contact Laura at Volunteer@my-TRA.org or call 914-752-2631.



YOU CAN BE A VOLUNTEER DRIVER!

If you would like to help people in your community, you have a valid drivers license, auto insurance, and a dependable vehicle...**YOU can apply to be a TRA volunteer driver.**

Get ready to experience the joy of helping your neighbors in need!

YOU can make the difference to an older adult 60+, or an adult 21+ with low vision, who needs a ride to a medical appointment.

YOU can set your own hours, and choose as many trips as you would like to volunteer for.

Call Laura at 914-752-2631. or email volunteer@my-TRA.org.

Visit my-TRA.org/register-to-drive to fill out an application.



TRA'S VOLUNTEERS

In April, legislators and elected officials joined TRA volunteers and staff at Hartsdale's Ridge Park to celebrate annual Volunteer Week and to "cut the ribbon" on two new TRA vehicles.

We were pleased to welcome Deputy County Executive Kenneth Jenkins, NYS Assemblymember Chris Burdick, NYS Senator Shelley B. Mayer, County Board of Legislators members Maryjane Shimsky and Jewel Williams Johnson, and Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner.



Honored for their service to TRA riders:

Larry Bender	Linda Levine
Nora Betacci	Sandee Levinson
Barbara DeMaar	Joseph Majsak
Alan Dindas	Steve Ocskasy
Iris Federico	Janet Rodriguez
Norm Handleman	Stephen Scarangella

A highlight of the day was the unveiling of TRA's two hybrid Toyota SUV's which will supplement volunteer driven medical rides.

Raffle prizes were donated by Tranquility Spa, the Capitol Theatre, Westchester Department of Parks and Recreation, Red Hat on the River, and Trader Joe's.



FOLLOW US!!

Facebook	MY-TRA
Instagram	@TRA_Rides
Twitter	@TRA-Rides

ACCESS



For the past three years, TRA interns researched and verified services provided by community partners. This information is now available via the TRA Resource Hub 24/7 at my-tra.org/tra-resource-hub. Users can access online information 24/7 or by calling the Center Team weekdays, 9am-5pm.

The Call Center Team (914-754-3533) and our new Outreach Manager, Colleen Skelly, LCSW, are working to ensure older adults, their families, and caregivers, actually receive services they are referred to. Coordinators continue to register community partners so they can send and receive referrals by email and by phone.

RIDING WITH TRA

After every ride, we ask our riders to fill out a satisfaction survey. We get hundreds back. Here's a sampling of how support for TRA makes a great difference in people's lives:

"The driver was courteous and extremely helpful and safe. I am 97 years old and thankful for such a benefit." Robert K.

"This service was a blessing. D. was a delight and made me comfortable with a good sense of humor." Lorraine A.

"Your service is outstanding and has saved me hundreds of dollars over time. I am on Social Security and your company is great!!" Mark C.

Please Donate!
my-TRA.org/donate

If you prefer, you can mail a check to:

TRA
487 E. Main Street, #218
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Use this quick link to donate!

Use your phone's camera to bring you to our website.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRA AND THE PEOPLE WE SERVE



Volunteer Driver



914-764-3533

www.my-TRA.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Travis, Chair
Edward Kovac, Vice-Chair
Hope Miller-McRae, Secretary
Arleen Zuckerman, Treasurer
Jeffrey Shaver, Chair, Audit Committee
Catherine Wynkoop, President
Christopher Collins-McNeil
Robert Health
Lynda O'Hanlon
Angela Picardo
Rose Cappa Rotunno
Judy Schmiedler

487 Main Street, #218
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

