

Porter County Aging & Community Services Inc.
1005 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, IN 46385

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Spring 2017 issue

NEWSLETTER



Building season "ramping" up

PCACS is launching a new year of its ramp program with the team at UAW/Ford Community Service Ramp team. The program helps those who need assistance accessing their homes due to an injury, illness or other life challenges.

Through a generous anonymous donor, PCACS is able to provide the materials needed to construct a ramp. This season the donor has promised additional funding to impact even more lives. The UAW/Ford team provides the skills and talents.

"Thanks to the awesome support from the UAW Vice President Jimmy Settles and Ford Motor Company Vice President Bill Dirkson our team will be building more ramps for the residents of Porter County," Chicago UAW-Ford Community Service

Project Manager Jeff Hall said. "Our goal is to empower people with disabilities to maintain an independent lifestyle with greater mobility by building them a temporary wheelchair ramp on their home."

Hall commented: "UAW/Ford Community Services and PCACS create an excellent partnership to help people with mobility issues. PCACS does a fantastic job at matching our talents with the needs of the people in the community. And our team really enjoys giving back to the communities where our UAW brothers and sisters work and live."

Those interested in being a ramp recipient should contact PCACS Executive Director Bruce Lindner via phone at (219) 465-7144 or via email at bhlindner@portercountyacs.org.



PCACS MISSION

PCACS extends a helping hand to seniors, people with disabilities, and the low income residents by providing compassionate services to improve their quality of life while maintaining their dignity and independence.



Join us on Facebook!
Like our page at
www.facebook.com/PCACS!

For more information on the services provided by PCACS, contact:
Bruce Lindner, executive director,
via phone at 464-9736 or
via e-mail at bhlindner@portercountyacs.org.



PCACS is proud to be a member agency of the United Way of Porter County

NEWS ROUNDUP

● **SHIP** — State Health Insurance Assistance Programs — is thrilled to have added Brenda Bocek and Bill Boyle to their volunteer staff enabling SHIP to assist even more community members. SHIP counselors are available to answer questions and offer guidance year-round and work out of their office at PCACS. To make an appointment, call (219) 464-1028 or email SHIP@portercountyacs.org.

● **EAP** — Energy Assistance Program — wrapped up its 2016-2017 season on May 12. This season the program served approximately 1,100 applicants out of its PCACS location.

● **AMAZON SMILE** — PCACS is now registered and asking you to make it the charitable organization of choice when shopping at smile.amazon.com. When you do this the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible purchases to PCACS. AmazonSmile is a website, operated by Amazon, that lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features that you find on Amazon.com.



● **How to Choose PCACS** — On your first visit to AmazonSmile, before you begin shopping, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive the donations. Then AmazonSmile will remember your selection and future eligible purchases you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to PCACS.

● **WATCH FOR IMPROVEMENTS** — Soon you will be able see the start of our building's renovation. Plans include a new canopy, façade and new windows.



SHIP VOLUNTEERS — The SHIP program volunteer counselors are, Bill Boyle, Deborah Brann, Ginger Brockwehl, Tom Murphy and Brenda Bocek.

Team Members Key to Vital Transportation Service



Drivers: Dennis Dickson, Amy Jamrok, Margaret Strehler (also serves as backup office staff), Anna Harding, and Darla Drees



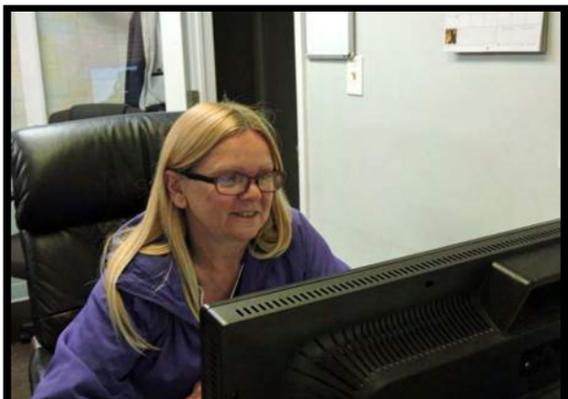
Flo Snuffer, Transportation Director

PCACS' demand-response transportation service continues, as it has for 65 years, to provide Porter County seniors and folks with disabilities transportation to doctors, dialysis, adult day care, and other necessary services. When scheduling permits, the service is able to transport to shopping sites and additional destinations that may be requested. All buses are ADA compliant and the bus drivers are able to offer assistance from door-to-door but not permitted to enter your home.

When asked to comment on the transportation service, Bruce Lindner said, "We are fortunate to have such caring and compassionate staff members who diligently work to coordinate drivers, schedule rides, and transport our community members safely and with a smile."

PCACS's buses run between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. — Monday through Friday and are available for rides to and from Porter County locations. It is suggested that to successfully schedule a ride, you call two weeks in advance. Scheduling is done between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. — Monday through Friday by calling **(219) 462-4302**.

Due to a large number of riders receiving dialysis, Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays are quicker to fill up than Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fares of \$1.00 each way are expected and may be waived in cases of financial hardship if arrangements are made in advance. Personal caregivers are not required to pay.



Joann Smedley, Main Dispatcher and backup driver



Lori McCorkel

Shana Pullins

"I enjoy working at PCACS because of all the interesting clients I meet. They all have such interesting stories. You see them daily or on a weekly basis and you start to think of them as family. When they are having a bad day, you feel bad for them. I always wonder what I could do to help them." - Margaret

"I like to drive to different places and meet and see new and old clients." - Dave

"I enjoy being able to work for an agency that provides a service for the elderly and handicapped. When clients call to book a ride and tell you how much they appreciate our service, it makes me proud." - Joann

"You get to meet different people. It's interesting." - Darla

"I love it. I always call them 'my people'. I also drive a school bus, so from one end to another, it's an interesting day." - Anna

"I like being with people, socializing with them. I enjoy getting them where they are going safely." - Dennis

"I love working with the seniors that we transport. I enjoy all the stories. I enjoy helping them with whatever they need. I love working for PCACS!" - Shana

"I like my job - the compassionate end. That's just who I am. I really like that we give them their independence back." - Amy

"All my life I have helped people and with this job I am still doing it and I still enjoy it." - Ted

"I love helping and taking care of elderly people." - Dawn

"I have worked for PCACS for 37 years, as a driver and also as the transportation director. I love knowing that the transportation we provide clients helps give them independence. I love the drivers - without them you have no transportation." - Flo

"I like the people I am surrounded by—both co-workers and clients. They are the Best." - Lori

"There is not enough space to write all the many reasons why I absolutely LOVE my job! From the people I work with, to the many sweet clients that are so grateful for our service - PCACS rocks!!" - Mary



Ted Dohner

David Springsteen

Dawn Stover and Mary Wiesemann