

Caregivers' Corner
April 23, 2010

Linda Laudato

NASCAR racing is a sport that attracts huge numbers of fans in the US. Each week thousands of loyal followers turn out to watch the race live at the track while others cheer their favorite driver in front of the television at home. Professional drivers suit up in sponsor- labeled uniforms to race for 500 miles at speeds of over 200mph. The winner is awarded prize money and a trophy as well as the adulation of fans.

Community Caregivers has our own expert team of drivers that just might qualify for a race of this caliber. They may not have national name recognition but our drivers sure have the stats and the experience to make the qualifying rounds. They are not known for speed but their reputation for stamina, loyalty and dependability is unmatched. *We drive people happy!*

In 2009 our driving team completed 3200 laps around our communities providing rides to medical appointments and other essential errands. Our team posted 48,000 miles on the tote board and racked up 6400 hours of experience. Additional volunteers drove 6800 miles to provide 2000 hours of administrative service.

Together Community Caregiver volunteer drivers posted more miles last year than the combined mileage of all of the professionals in the three major NASCAR races or the equivalent distance of more than two times around the globe!

Each volunteer provided a valuable service whether they drove occasionally or on a regular basis. Many of them provided other services as well. Their reward is the gratitude of the people they serve. We want to thank them all for their service to our community. Here are the members of Community Caregivers' driving team:

Special recognition goes to three volunteers each of whom provided over 80 rides in 2009: Joe Kelly, Shirley Morey and Tom Morrison.

Heartfelt "thank you"s go to these volunteers who drove once a week:
Alan Bausback, Jim Catlin, Linda Chaffee, Sally Dague, Linda Desmond, Kay Gosling, Susan Griffiths, Hal Grant, Sally Lovering, Karen McDonald, Kim McKee, Ron Pearce, Bob Pettie, Lawrence Pohl, Grant Randall, David Renz, Frederick Schimpf, Cindy Wadach, Hank Williams, Don Yukonis.

Sincere gratitude to the entire driving team for helping our neighbors:
Jeff Alexander, Diane Ammerman, Melissa Barada, Jack Baugh, Lois Caulfield, Anne Carson, Debra Carson, John Carson, John Carsten, Barb Catlin, Mary Ellen Coffey, Karen Conklin, Thomas Conklin, Elaine Cowels, Katherine Cultrara, Yvonne Doberman, Sandra Dollard, Donald Dries, Joel Edwards, Joseph Fernandez, Trudy Fernandez, Paula Filkins, Donald Geoffroy, Clare Homer, Brett Hotaling, Patricia Hotaling, Richard Howie, Ralph Ives, Beth Joslin, Thera Joynt, Jerry Kennedy, Helen Kinnally, Christine Lapinski, Herbert Leichman, Judith Lenihan, Joseph Levinger, Christine Marshall, Joan Mastrianni, Curtiss Matterson, Nancy McCaffrey, Toby McErlean, Kim McKee, Sue Mohr, Michael Muller, Jane Palmer, Bobbi Pearce, Russ Peck, Patricia Perry, Griffan Dana Randall, Robert Randall, Albert Raymond, Ellen Reilly, Ron Rivers, Phyllis Rosenblum, Dorothy Sager, Steven Schreiber, Dan Schryver, John Schumacher, Donald Scrafford, Diane Shaw, Donald Stauffer, Mary Stokes, Erin Teichman, Yvette Terplak, David Teuten, Gary Thompson, Barbara Turi, Arthur Van Praag, Julianne Van Praag,

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Elizabeth Vandecar, Dolores VanPatten, Amy Walsh-Malamood, Stephen Weinberg, David Weller, Donald Whitlock, Carol Wilson, Carolyn Wilson, Arthur Yates.

If you would like to “*Drive Someone Happy*” give us a call at 456-2898. Most trips take two hours or less. *You* decide when and how often you drive. The people you meet will make for an interesting experience and you will have a team of loyal fans cheering for you. Orientations for new volunteers will be held Wednesday May 5th at 9:30am and Thursday May 13th at 6pm at Community Caregivers 2113 Western Ave. Guilderland. Or email info@communitycaregivers.org.