



## Senior Ride Nashville delivers first ride

### *76-year old man visits wife in assisted living; Program seeks volunteer drivers for Bellevue launch*



*Rider, Yves being dropped off at assisted living facility by volunteer driver, Porter.*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nov. 8, 2017 –** [Senior Ride Nashville](#), a new transportation call center and volunteer ride service for older adults, recently completed its first ride, matching its first official member, 76-year-old Yves, with its first volunteer driver, Porter.

Yves – who currently lives with his adult son and his family – signed up for the ride service in order to visit his wife who is in the late stages of Alzheimer's and resides in an assisted living facility in Bellevue. "I try to visit my wife twice a week, but it's hard – she's about 15 minutes away and I can't get there on my own," he said. Yves' trip also included a quick trip to the grocery store on the way home. "It was wonderful. I've been isolated, and it's hard to be isolated. It's refreshing to see that there are people that are willing to help."

The ride was provided by volunteer driver Porter, who was in the first group of volunteers to be trained by SRN. "I wanted to take an opportunity to help those in need," Porter said when asked about why he volunteered to drive. "Yves has lived quite a life and it was a pleasure to get to hear his story while also providing him an easy way to visit his wife." A Nashville resident for two years, Yves was born, raised, and completed his graduate studies in Paris. He left Paris for Southern California in his mid-20s to do research at the University of Southern California, where he met his wife, who was from Lithuania. After the university, he worked at Boeing and then moved to Washington, DC and directed the country's poverty reduction strategy project in Mali, West Africa.

Helping seniors stay connected in the community and reducing isolation are primary objectives of SRN. "Yves is exactly the type of senior that our program strives to serve and we look forward to continuing to match older adults with volunteer drivers in the Bellevue area as

part of our program launch," said Carrie Brumfield, executive director for SRN. The program, which is now serving Bellevue, expects to expand into at least three additional service areas in 2018.

SRN seeks caring, reliable volunteer drivers to provide friendly conversation and rides to medical appointments, grocery stores and other destinations. Volunteer drivers are required to provide a minimum of one ride per month using their own car, and they select riders and ride assignments online through easy to use software or by calling SRN to coordinate. Potential volunteers participate in a brief interview, a background check and driving record check, and they must complete a training session.

Upcoming training sessions will be held Tues., Nov. 14 from 9 -11:30 a.m. and Thurs., Dec. 14 from 9 -11:30 a.m. One-on-one trainings are also available if volunteers are unable to make either of those sessions. Interested individuals are encouraged to view the video at [SeniorRideNashville.org](http://SeniorRideNashville.org) for a glimpse of what the SRN experience is like for both riders and volunteer drivers. To RSVP for the sessions or for more information, call: 615-610-4040 or email: [victoria@seniorridenashville.org](mailto:victoria@seniorridenashville.org).

Senior Ride Nashville offers information and referral services to match seniors and caregivers with the most appropriate transportation options, whether it's ride share, public transit, paratransit or SRN's assisted ride service. The volunteer ride program is launching in the Bellevue area of Davidson County, then will gradually expand countywide. The creation of Senior Ride Nashville is the result of work begun in May 2015, when the [Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee](#) (COA) convened a Senior Transportation Leadership Coalition to address the growing unmet need for affordable, assisted transportation for seniors.

### **About Senior Ride Nashville**

Senior Ride Nashville strives to improve quality of life for older adults in Davidson County by providing connection to mobility options along with courteous and safe door-through-door volunteer transportation for those eligible for service, enabling them to maintain their independence and dignity. Born under the Council on Aging in 2017, this nonprofit organization operates a volunteer driver program and call center for residents of Davidson County age 60 and older. SRN honors and supports senior adults by keeping them connected to the community, providing mobility for maintaining health and quality of life, and creating valuable relationships between drivers and riders. It also serves as an important linkage to other services that senior adults may need. Learn more at [seniorridenashville.org](http://seniorridenashville.org).

### **About the Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee**

The Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee COA is an independent, board directed 501(c) 3 nonprofit that strives to ensure that the community values, honors and supports older adults and caregivers by addressing unmet needs through information, advocacy and education, and being a catalyst for solutions to unmet needs. Services include free information and referral, community education, caregiver resources, elder abuse & scam prevention, advocacy, support for senior transportation and the Directory of Services. COA also hosts the annual Sage Awards to honor older adults and organizations for their lifelong service to the community. Learn more at [coamidtn.org](http://coamidtn.org).

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