

A message from the Executive Director

Greetings!

Somehow it is March already. It seems like just yesterday that I came on board with the Drive Happiness team! I want to thank you all – our members, volunteers, staff and board – for your warm welcome and support during these first 3 months. It has been a pleasure to meet and talk with many of you already, and I hope to meet many more of you in the coming months.

Please be sure to join us in April for our Annual General Meeting and keep your eye out for your annual membership renewals, which will be sent out in June.

Warm wishes,

Shannon L. Gill, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**CONGRATULATIONS
TOM GREYSON!**



A few months ago we asked our volunteer drivers to participate in a friendly contest, in order to help us recruit more drivers. We would like to congratulate **Tom Greyson** for all of his efforts and for winning the prize of 4 tickets to the Oilers game!



From left to right, Tom, sons: Gary, Colin and grandson Michael enjoyed this special game.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

* We would like to invite you to join us for the next **Annual General Meeting** which will be held on **April 28, 2018, 1-4pm** at Twin Brooks Community League: 11341 12 Ave NW . During this meeting you will hear a summary of last year's activities and accomplishments. You will also have the opportunity to address any concerns or suggestions for Drive Happiness. If you need a ride for this event, please book an appointment at 780-424-5438, X1. We look forward to seeing you!

* Please note: our North Office, which was located at the Northgate Lions Seniors Centre (7524 139 Ave NW) is now closed.

**Drive
Happiness.**



SENIORS ASSISTED TRANSPORTATION

We Drive Happiness. 780-424-5438

Drive Happiness services are provided by:
Lifestyle Helping Hands Seniors Association
Charitable number #86242-1310 RR0001

Something to Celebrate!



Can you believe it!!! In the last few years we have seen a huge growth in the number of rides completed by our volunteer drivers. Drive Happiness now provides 1400+ rides per month, all through the use of volunteer, not paid drivers.

Currently, we have a 95% fulfillment rate on requested rides. However, as you know, sometimes a driver *is not* available to drive you. Our membership protocol outlines how we are **all** to handle this situation: *If no driver is available 24 hours prior to your appointment, we will let you know so that you can make other arrangements.*

We completely understand the difficulty this creates for you. Our amazing drivers try to take as many rides as possible, however we always try to respect the fact that they are volunteers and are not always available. We appreciate your patience and understanding with this.

Keeping this in mind, although we know emergencies arise, we do request that you book your appointments **at least three business days in advance**, whenever possible. If you know your appointments more than 3 days ahead of time please don't hesitate and call the office right away.

THANK YOU !

Nominations for the 2018/19 Board of Directors

Do you or someone you know want to give back by serving on our board of directors? Use your expertise and professional skill set by joining us! **Drive Happiness** is looking for board members for the 2018/19 term. Please send resume & cover letter to: lhhsa@telus.net today.

**Nominations close March 28th.*



Service animals accompanying members who are blind, deaf or disabled are permitted to attend with the member. Non-service pets can only travel with a member if the pet is traveling in a crate. **Uncrated pets are not permitted.** When booking your ride, please inform the office if you are traveling with a pet or service animal, as some volunteer drivers may have allergies. Thank you!

Volunteer Drivers Spotlight

Our volunteers are integral to Drive Happiness.

Our drivers are vital, ensuring our members are able to go to their appointments safely and on time.

**We would like to thank all of our dedicated volunteer drivers
for their hard work and commitment.**

Here's a close up of just a few of our wonderful volunteers!

Esther Murphy

When did you start volunteering? *September 9, 2014*

Place of birth? *Tralee, Ireland*

What is your favorite movie? *Just watched Lion (2016 directed by Garth Davis). Also an Irish movie called The Field (1990 directed by Jim Sheridan).*

A place you would like to visit in the world? *Malta*

Why do you volunteer? *I worked as a geriatric nurse my whole life and enjoyed it very much. Volunteering is a way for me to care for seniors, and keep them safe, even though I am retired.*



Emmanuel Rubio Barrios

When did you start volunteering? *January 19, 2015*

Place of birth? *Mexico City, Mexico*

What is your favorite movie?

Life Is Beautiful (1998 directed by Roberto Benigni)

A place you would like to visit in the world? *The North Pole*

Why do you volunteer? *This volunteer position is very rewarding.*

I like meeting the seniors and it makes me feel great to help them out and accomplish what they need to do.



Harold Lake

When did you start volunteering? *October 6, 2016*

Place of birth? *Winnipeg, Canada*

What is your favorite movie?

Jeremiah Johnson (1972 directed by Sydney Pollack)

A place you would like to visit in the world? *Great Britain*

Why do you volunteer? *I hope to give back until I need the service myself.*

It is a really good cause. I really enjoy listening to the stories and getting to know the seniors.



Rider's Reminder

Before calling the office to book rides, make sure you have the following information:

1. Date and time of the appointment
2. Duration of the appointment
3. Complete address of your destination
4. Any additional trips before or after the appointment
5. If you are bringing a cane, walker, pet or an attendant with you.

Remember, all rides **must** be booked with our office. Riders should not call the drivers directly to book appointments to avoid any miscommunication.



Thank you!



All membership renewal fees are due on July 01, 2018. The annual membership is \$24.00 per member. We accept:

- Cash, by visiting our office at 10740 19 Ave Edmonton, AB T6J 6W9
- Cheques (made out to "LHHSA"), in person or mailed to our office
- Credit Card, by calling 780-424-5438, ext. 6
*\$3.00 transaction fee applies



It is with great sadness we mourn the loss of one of our longest standing drivers.
Al Parsons was loved & will be greatly missed!



Helping seniors make the best connection

Call
211

Information and referrals to community and government supports. Press 2 for the Seniors Information Phone Line.

Call
311

Information on City of Edmonton programs and services

Call
411

Directory assistance

Call
511

Alberta road conditions

Call
811

Health Link to speak with a registered nurse

Call
911

Emergency services: police, fire & ambulance

CONNECTING
EDMONTON
SENIORS



Most people are familiar with 911, but may not be familiar with other important phone numbers.

This new postcard developed by ESCC helps seniors connect with the appropriate service for their needs.