



THE RIDER

Getting seniors where they need to go

Another busy summer has come to an end! On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, we'd like to thank our volunteers for continuing to take older people wherever they need to go, and for the special care they've taken over the past 16 months. The Government of Alberta's 'Open for Summer' plan has meant our volunteers are once again extremely busy driving riders to social gatherings and programs, connecting people with valuable community resources.

As we look to the fall and winter, Drive Happiness encourages everyone to diligently follow COVID-19 protocols. All drivers and passengers are required to continue wearing masks inside vehicles, and we recommend that you sanitize your hands frequently. Please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

This summer, we were fortunate to have three students join our team. Claire, Sydni, and Krystin were a great help during a very busy time, as we continued our provincial expansion and vaccine transportation program. We also received greatly appreciated support from our partners and funders, and we hope to bring our service to even more communities in 2022.

Finally, we'd like to announce that this will be the last edition of The Rider until further notice. If you are ever in need of information, please visit www.drivehappiness.ca, call our office, or call 211. We will continue to share events, updates, and resources on our Facebook page, which you can find by searching @DriveHappiness.ab. We miss everyone very much, and we're wishing you a safe, happy, and healthy remainder of the year.

The Drive Happiness Team



Dial 211
Text INFO to 211
Live chat ab.211.ca

Contact the helpline and online database of
 Alberta's community and social services



**DO YOU LIKE
 CAKE?**

To reduce food waste, Milk & Cookies created the 'Sad Box'. These boxes contain layers of cake scraps and icing that can be purchased and enjoyed by cake lovers! And the best part is that \$2 from every box sold from now until October will be donated to Drive Happiness!!

You can visit Milk & Cookies at 5532 Calgary Trail NW

***These boxes are limited in quantity.**

Please note: Our office will remain closed to walk in visitors until further notice. Please contact the office beforehand to arrange a time to visit. Our phone hours remain the same.

780-424-5438 | www.drivehappiness.ca | TF 1-888-336-4503
9916 45 Ave. NW | Edmonton, AB T6E 5J1
 Charitable number #86242-1310 RR0001

A Brief History of Drive Happiness

Join us for a trip down memory lane!



1998: Lifestyle Helping Hands Seniors Association was created in Southwest Edmonton, becoming incorporated shortly after in 2002.




2009: Our Whitemud Crossing space was destroyed in a fire, but rides didn't stop for a single day! Eventually we moved into a space at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church.

2012: Our service began expanding outside Edmonton, eventually becoming established in over 50 locations (and counting) across the province!



2016: Drive Happiness joined PEGASIS, a collaborative of senior-serving agencies in Edmonton working to reduce social isolation.

2018: Our name officially changed to Drive Happiness Seniors Association, and we celebrated our 20th anniversary in style.

2019: We moved into our 99th street office and co-hosted a screening of the film 'Breaking Loneliness,' which features some of our riders and volunteers! If you haven't had a chance to watch this documentary, we'd highly recommend it.



2020: We safely continued operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, adding delivery services and collaborating with organizations like the Edmonton Food Bank. Drive Happiness was nominated for a Minister's Seniors Service Award, and won a Janet Hughes Award for lessening food insecurity, a Bettie Hughes Memorial Award from the Canadian Association of Mental Health, and a Social Services Award.



Today: Drive Happiness is the largest non-profit providing assisted transportation in Alberta, with almost 200 volunteers and 1600 active riders. Since 2012, we've completed 70,000 rides and thousands of deliveries. We expand our service area and the number of people we serve annually- thank you to everyone who has helped make it happen! Here's to many more years.



Humans of Drive Happiness

In the previous edition of The Rider, we introduced you to some of the wonderful people who use our service. Now, we'd like you to meet the summer students we were lucky to have on our team this year!



Sydni

Sydni has been a tremendous help this summer. She answered our vaccine line, completed grant reporting, and developed a government relations strategy & logic model. We're wishing her the best as she heads to the University of Glasgow to pursue a Master of Science in Gender History!

"I've learned how much it means to older, more vulnerable community members to have a service attuned to their needs."



Claire

If you called our office this summer, there's a good chance you had the pleasure of chatting with Claire. We'll be cheering her on as she returns to the University of Victoria this fall to continue working on a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Global Development Studies!

"This summer I went from being a complete newcomer to Edmonton to being able to navigate the city seamlessly!"



Krystin

Over the past few months, Krystin primarily worked on communications and volunteer recruitment in new service areas. She'll be extending her time with Drive Happiness to help with our provincial expansion and other exciting projects we have in store!

"This summer I learned about the incredible resilience our riders and volunteers display in the face of adversity."

Many thanks to Sydni, Claire, and Krystin for their hard work!

Welcome Home

- Accommodation for adults age 65+
- Affordable rent based on your income
- Apartment units
- Lodges with meals and housekeeping
- Clean, well maintained, secure buildings
- Friendly, professional staff
- Recreation activities

To request an application package, or for more information, please call **780.482.6561**, email housing@gef.org or visit gef.org.



REMINDERS

Please remember that we need a minimum of **three business days'** notice when booking. *Weekends do not count as our office is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.*



WILLS, ESTATES & NOTARY.

MARRAZZO LAW OFFICE

Call us today at **(780) 756-5500**

Fax: (780) 757-5505 / 9535-135 Avenue, Edmonton, AB. T5E 1N8

Email: mlo@marrazzolawoffice.com

****10% off with Drive Happiness membership**

GERIACTORS THEATRE

We are an intergenerational theatre company in Edmonton, Alberta. Our mission is to engage seniors in theatre and performance activities, and to produce theatre of meaning for our performers and audiences.

We develop original plays based on true stories and issues of aging. Our performers range in age from early twenties to nineties. Every year, we perform for seniors, families, caregivers, healthcare providers, policy makers, students and the general public.

OUR NEW PLAY

WAY BACK

A kaleidoscope of true stories – growing up during WWII, farm life in Alberta and Sri Lanka, birth and motherhood, growing up in Trinidad, and more – **Way Back** remembers the moments of joy, hardship, triumph and magic we all experience.

While Covid-19 presented many challenges, it also inspired new ways of sharing stories and connecting with audiences. **We created our first ever audio play, Way Back**, which brings our stories to life in a new way and engages audiences from all over.

HOW TO LISTEN

- > **Way Back** is available to listen to on our website (like a podcast or radio play).
- > Tune into a listening session, hosted every month on Zoom. Listen to the play with others, and have the opportunity to share your thoughts and stories too.
- > Organizations can book a private listening session for their group (or book with other organizations for a fun collaboration).

NOT SURE? CONTACT US

AudioGeris
AUDIO PLAYS
BY GERIACTORS

*Actions taken upon information in this newsletter are at your own risk.