

R E P O R T

Your United Way of Broome County investment at work

September 2003

Deposit Foundation helps seniors get around

Tessie Smith loved to walk to local stores, doctors' appointments, and to visit friends from her centrally-located home in Deposit. Though her husband of over 50 years had passed away several years ago, Tessie was doing a good job of managing things on her own without much help from friends and family (all of her adult children live over 100 miles away and visits from them are rare). Though she never learned how to drive a car, Tessie was doing just fine on her own two feet.

But as Tessie grew older (she is now in her early 90's), getting around on her own became increasingly difficult. She could no longer walk to do her errands, visit friends, or to see her doctor for appointments. Many of the friends she used to call on for rides were no longer driving. Tessie was becoming increasingly lonely and frustrated that she couldn't go out.

Thankfully, the **Deposit Foundation and Rural Housing Services** was there to save the day. The organization helps seniors like Tessie who live in Deposit get to doctors' appointments in Deposit and surrounding areas and to run basic errands like grocery shopping and banking. Deposit is a small rural town with no public transportation or taxi service, which makes it extremely difficult for those without their own transportation to get around. The ones most affected by this are seniors who cannot drive due to age or who are unable to own their own vehicle.

Now with the assistance of the **Deposit Foundation's Transportation Program**, Tessie is given rides to her doctors' appointments by a volunteer driver. The volunteer and his wife have befriended Tessie, and they sometimes take her out to a nice lunch following her appointments.

Tessie is also involved with the organization's **Senior Companion Program**, which provides seniors transportation to businesses in Deposit to run errands. Every Friday, the van transports up to six seniors to downtown Deposit, where they have breakfast or lunch together,

help she needs and still live in her hometown of Deposit. Though living in a rural area can be difficult for many seniors, Deposit Foundation helps make their lives easier by providing them with the transportation services they need.

Tessie now lives in a senior apartment complex on the outskirts of Deposit, where she shares her life with other seniors like herself who utilize the Deposit Foundation's services.

Deposit Foundation and United Way give senior citizens a lift

The Deposit Foundation's Transportation Program and Senior Companion Program are both funded by United Way of Broome County. In 2002, Deposit Foundation used your United Way contribution to provide over 500 rides for seniors like Tessie to appointments and other important errands. The organization has approximately 10 volunteers who drive its seven-passenger minivan. Because of volunteers and contributors like you, seniors without transportation living in Deposit don't have to be homebound.

To learn more about the Deposit Foundation, or to learn how to become a volunteer, call 467-4000 or visit its web site at www.tds.net/depositchamber/Foundation.html.



A volunteer for the Deposit Foundation loads groceries into the organization's minivan for an elderly client. The organization transports seniors living in rural Deposit who are unable to get around on their own.

shop in local stores, and socialize. The volunteers also run errands for them, carry their packages into the van and into their homes, and make sure they get in and out of the van safely. For seniors with poor eyesight, the volunteers help them read labels while they are shopping and describe the scenery as they are riding.

Because of Deposit Foundation, Tessie is able to get the transportation and the

When you support "what matters" in the 2003 United Way Campaign, you may win a **2004 Nissan Sentra** courtesy of Serafini Nissan-Volvo, or **\$1,000 in groceries** courtesy of Wegmans.



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