It is evident that the community needs help getting to where they need to go. The Regional Transit Authority is consistently getting feedback that people cannot afford the costs of the RTA rides. Therefore the RTA decided to apply for grants to help those who are truly in need. The RTA wrote three grants and received funding from all of the grantors!!

The first grant was from $1,000 from the Wahlert Foundation which is to provide transportation to people who are in need of inpatient mental health services. Many times people are sent out of town for treatment and are not able to get back into town. This grant will help those people in need.

The second grant was from The Maquoketa Area Community Foundation which is to provide transportation to individuals or families who are of low income and are in need of medical care. This will help many families or individuals within the entire Jackson County!

The third and final grant the RTA received was $1,800 from the Theisen’s Foundation. This grant is also for low income individuals or families who are in need of medical care within Dubuque County.

The RTA and its riders are truly grateful for these grant awards!
Black Tie Bowling!

On Saturday February 26th, the RTA had their 3rd annual Black Tie Bowling Fundraising event! The event was held at Cherry Lanes within the Diamond Jo Casino. The RTA raised over $10,000 thanks to many bowlers, sponsors and wonderful donors within our community!! Those funds will go towards our everyday operating expenses. To see our pictures “friend” us on Facebook!!

Mark your calendars! Next year’s event will be Saturday February 25th 2012.

If you would like the RTA to come to your agency staff meeting to explain our services please contact Bridget Bartlett at 563-556-4166 or BBartlett@ecia.org

Did you know?
The average American spends 18% of his or her income on transportation and only 13% on food!!!

According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), families that use public transportation can reduce their household expenses by $6,200 annually!!

Whether you think you can or think you can’t, you’re right!

Henry Ford

Our drivers are SO important to us!!

The RTA is now taking ideas or suggestions on how we can help the drivers enjoy their job and feel like they have a voice! Please submit your comments in the safe in each garage location. All comments can be anonymous.

Thank you for all of your hard work!!

Bruce Houlton

As we all age, things change in our bodies. Those changes can affect our driving abilities. And talking to an elderly loved one about their driving can be very difficult!

A national study revealed that 8 out of 10 family members are transporting their elderly loved ones. But there are times when caregivers cannot transport their loved ones’ wheelchair, or don’t know how to handle it if their loved one becomes confused or agitated.

TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS

To fill out a NAPIS form or check our rates and schedules visit www.rta8.org

For more information on senior transportation visit: www.seniortransportation.easterseals.com

But The RTA is here to help! If you or your loved one is 60 years or older, and lives independently or in an assisted living facility, they can qualify for financial assistance through a partnership between Scenic Valley and the RTA.

By filling out a simple NAPIS form, riders who are 60+ years or older can ride at a rate of a voluntary contribution.

Contact Scenic Valley Area Agency on Aging at 563-588-3970 (DBQ), 563-927-5037 (Delaware County), or 563-652-6771 (Jackson County) or the RTA at 1-800-839-5005 for more information.

Our drivers are SO important to us!!

Say hello to Bruce Houlton! Bruce has been working for the RTA for five years and works out of the Manchester garage. Bruce is retired as the Vice President of NICC, however works 2-3 days a week with the RTA. Bruce has a wife, two girls who live nearby and 4 grandchildren! He enjoys camping with his family and traveling in their RV. Bruce enjoys working for the RTA and has a special place in his heart for the riders. He enjoys talking to the rider’s every-day and always has a smile for them! Bruce provides rides primarily within the Manchester area, but also does have some rides back and forth to Dyersville. Bruce chose this job after he retired because he wanted to do something different, and because he is aware how great the need is. Bruce stated that without the RTA his passengers would not get to where they need to go or have the sense of freedom they currently have. In five years Bruce hopes that he is retired from the RTA and is somewhere warm for the winter! He hopes in five years that the RTA is promoting our services in the rural areas of Delaware, and expanding services to those truly in need.

THANK YOU BRUCE FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK!!

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