



Metropolitan Family Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metropolitan Family Service and Ride Connection Team up to Provide Transportation for Mid-County Residents *Service will be provided to individuals over 60 and people with disabilities*

Portland, OR—September 24, 2008—Metropolitan Family Service and Ride Connection are proud to announce a new shuttle service in the mid-Multnomah County region for older adults and people with disabilities. By caring for our older and disabled community members who offer so much to all of us – through their life experience and presence – this service will form a vital connection in the community.

Beginning on September 25, 2008, two vehicles will be operating from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 5 days per week. A 14 passenger minibus has a lift and can secure two wheelchairs. The minivan has a ramp and can secure one wheelchair. The shuttle will enhance the community participation of older adults and people with disabilities by providing regular service to and from points between 82nd Avenue and 162nd Avenue.

The minivan will be used primarily to provide rides to doctor's appointments or personal business appointments. The minibus will be used to transport groups on scheduled routes for shopping, community events or recreation.

Shuttle routes are based on survey information collected on unmet transportation needs in the service area. An initial route includes a circulator shuttle in the Lents/Powellhurst neighborhoods on Thursdays and a circulator shuttle in the Parkrose/Hazelwood/Mill Park neighborhoods on Fridays. All rides will be requested through the Ride Connection service center at 503.226.0700.

There is no charge for the shuttle service, but donations are strongly encouraged.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on September 25th from 10 to 11am at Eastport Plaza to celebrate the new service.

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Background Information

The **Mid-Multnomah County U-Ride Program** is a partnership between Metropolitan Family Service and Ride Connection. Service is provided to individuals over 60 and people with disabilities Monday through Friday between 9 AM and 5 PM. Service is primarily within the service area: East to NE/SE 162nd, West to NE/SE 82nd, North to the Columbia River and South to the Clackamas County border. Metropolitan Family Service also recruits volunteers who are willing to use their own vehicles to provide trips in the area to help meet the need for individual trips.

About **Metropolitan Family Service (MFS)**: For more than half a century, Metropolitan Family Service has played a vital role in the lives of children, families, and older adults. We provide services at more than 160 sites. Metropolitan Family Service makes connections that strengthen the lives of 33,000 individuals and families each year.

Ride Connection is a nonprofit, community service organization established to link accessible, responsive transportation with community needs. Ride Connection coordinates a Network of over 30 providers. Service representative's schedule over 358,000 rides for more than 10,500 individuals annually.

For more information, or to attend the service launch contact Pat Kaczmarek, Marketing and Communications Manager at 503.232.0007 ext.170. You can visit our website at www.metfamily.org.

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