



# **Volunteer Transportation Programs Receive Cash Awards + A Toyota Sienna**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**Washington DC and Albuquerque, New Mexico**

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## ***2016 STAR Award Winners***

### **GRAND STAR AWARD (TOYOTA SIENNA MOBILITY VEHICLE)**

#### ***GRAND STAR Award Winner***

***Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition - Sedona, AZ***

### **STAR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE (\$10,000)**

***ACC Senior Services, Sacramento, CA***

### **STAR AWARDS FOR INNOVATION (\$7,000)**

***Berthoud Golden Links, Inc./Project RAFT - Berthoud, CO***

***RSVP Driver Services - Madison, WI***

### **STAR AWARDS FOR DISTINCTION (\$5,000)**

***Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers - Shepherd's Town, WV***

***Neighbor Ride, Inc. - Columbia, MD***

### **"FAST START" STAR AWARDS (\$1,500)**

***JFS Patient Navigator Program - Framingham, MA***

***Silver Spring Village - Silver Spring, MD***

***Ready Rides Transportation Assistance - Northwood, NH***

***Senior Miles (Smiles) - Maryville, TN***

### **STAR AWARDS FOR MERIT (\$1,000)**

***Ahwatukee YMCA Outreach Programs for Seniors - Phoenix, AZ***

***Brandywine Village Network of Jewish Family Services - Wilmington, DE***

***Drive A Senior Access - Round Rock, TX***

***Hearts and Hands Faith In Action - Getzville, NY***

***Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County - West Bend, WI***

***Island Volunteer Caregivers - Bainbridge Island, WA***

***I Care, Inc. - Decatur, GA***

***Molly's Angels of Napa Valley - Napa, CA***

***Ride Connect - Mount Kisco, NY***

***The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula - Lakebay, WA***

## **Additional Information About the NVTC STAR Awards**

The NVTC STAR Awards recognize outstanding volunteer transportation programs and the involvement of their volunteer drivers in promoting and providing transportation services to passengers, especially older adult passengers. 147 volunteer driver programs submitted applications for a STAR Award in 2016. In late 2016 and early 2017 a review team of 15 professionals in transportation, volunteerism, and aging reviewed 147 STAR Award applications; and in April of 2017 members of the team met to select the 2016 STAR Award winners.

### **The 2016 STAR Awards are supported by Toyota!**

This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the annual STAR Awards program. The awards were initiated by the Beverly Foundation in 2000. In 2014 the NVTC assumed the role of organizing the STAR Awards. To date more than 150 STAR Awards have been conveyed to senior and volunteer transportation programs across America. The 800+ unduplicated volunteer driver program STAR Award applicants are identified on a map located on the NVTC website. Information about the 2016 STAR Award applicants is reported in a Fact Sheet also on the NVTC website.

In addition to preparing an application, each applicant for a 2016 STAR Award was asked to submit a story written by a passenger/client who received transportation from its service. A book that includes sixty or more of these stories will be published in late summer of 2017.

### ***About the National Volunteer Transportation Center***

*The National Volunteer Transportation Center (NVTC) is an initiative of the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). Its purpose is to provide assistance and support to volunteer transportation programs across America. On an annual basis, these programs provide millions of rides and result in enormous time and dollar contributions of volunteer drivers. The fact that volunteer driver programs generally provide rides at a low cost for the programs and their passengers, and at the same time provide assistance needed by people with physical and cognitive limitations is why some people refer to them as... "the hope of the future". For more information about volunteer driver programs please visit...*

<http://nationalvolunteertransportationcenter.org/>

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