Raised Garden Bed Comes to Life to Support Area 10 Mobile Food Pantry

Over the past year, Area 10 raised local donations to support the planning, building, and filling of a raised garden bed at our Ellettsville location. The produce grown and harvested, beginning with this inaugural year, will make its way into the monthly food delivery to our homebound neighbors.

**Financial Support Came From:** Bloomingfoods, Comfort Keepers, Elder’s Journey, and a Jack Hopkins Social Services Grant.

**Volunteers Brought It to Life:** Steve Bailey, Rebecca Ball, Tim Bayless, Bob Case, Barbara Coffman, Rick Harter, Chris Myers, Dennis Pence, Jordan Pence, Mary Pence, Brenda Pendexter, and Scott Stephenson (planner/organizer).
AREA 10 AGENCY on Aging is collaborating with four first grade classes from Edgewood Primary School on our Vegetable Garden Project. The students from each class will select two varieties of vegetables to grow, and start the seeds in their classroom. The started seeds will be transplanted into the Area 10 garden in early May, at which time the students will give us nutritional information and recipes they have researched and collected as part of their class project.

The information will be distributed through the Area 10 Mobile Food Pantry along with the produce grown through this project, increasing the volume and variety of fresh vegetables available to our clients. This year’s veggies include: tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, green beans, radishes, zucchini, lettuce, and carrots!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!

- April 11 Caregiver University “Talking with Your Doctor” 10 -11 a.m. Monroe County Public Library
- April 27 O’Bannon Institute Day of Services (Ivy Tech) host site for volunteer service 10a.m. – 2 p.m.
- April 28 Stuff-A-Bus from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kroger East
- May 9th 50+ Expo at Twin Lakes Recreational Center, likely 3-6 p.m.
- May 11 Caregiver University “Meet Your Area Agency on Aging” 2-3 p.m. Monroe County Public Library
- May 16 Benefit Luncheon from 11:30 – 1:00 at Ivy Tech’s Shreve Hall
- June 18 Caregiver University “Understanding the Stages of Dementia” 1-2:30 p.m. Monroe County Public Library
There is no designated leader at the helm of this group, as Barbara Kleindorfer puts it “We just like to get together with friends and teach each other different things.” Debbie Edwards chimes in, “While teaching ourselves, we also teach each other.”

This close-knit group has tackled many different projects and techniques together. Each member is working on their own project at the moment. Marge Scisco is working on a small quilt, and though she isn’t sure yet what she’ll do with it, she greatly enjoys the process and the fellowship she experiences while piecing it together. When asked what mediums she prefers, she proudly claims “here we sew, we knit, we do a little bit of everything!

Ethel Satter is currently working on a dish cloth with the intention of donating it to a church bazaar. She shared with us a delightful teddy bear that she completed for the “Hug a Bear” program for the Surgery Center. These simple yet adorable bears will be a welcome addition to the life of a child surviving a traumatic event.

Debbie Edwards dutifully labors over a little paper pressing bowl, which she plans to fill with trinkets. Like many in the class, she was inspired by a project she saw, and brought it with her to master in the comfort of this class.

Mark Lawrence, the solitary male presence in the class, shared with us his cross stitch project. He was skillfully working on a bear design, and when finished it would have the appearance of hair sticking out from the background.
Judy Hutson was practicing smocking, an embroidery technique that gathers fabric without the use of elastic. At the time, she was planning on making an Easter dress for her granddaughter with smocking. Judy has mastery of many difficult techniques and teaches a sewing class.

Some projects can take months to complete, and this group focuses less on deadlines and more on sharing and the working process. Most of the group, like Jan Rigsby, work at their own rate and will take their projects home with them. For weeks at a time, they bring their projects back, slowly completing their complex fabric works.

One member is working on a cross stitch pattern of a cat perched among a stack of books, and happily admits it could take up to six months to finish.

This tight knit group also likes to snack while they work, and they take turns with who’s responsible for bringing in the treats. This week, Marge Sciscoe had prepared some peanut bars to share. The members enjoy the company of friends, and take the time to celebrate each other’s birthdays as well. When speaking of the class and it’s philosophy, Joan says “We socialize, we snack, and we work!”

They welcome you to join them in their stress-free, passionate, and fun handicraft club. If you’re looking to learn new skills, or just brush up on your technique, one thing is for sure, here, they have a lot of fun!
RARELY do you traverse the roads of Monroe County without encountering one of the brown or white Area 10 Rural Transit buses. The Rural Transit system has been in operation over 30 years and provides service to Monroe, Owen, Lawrence and Putnam County. Rural Transit bus service is available to anyone living in these counties. Last year the 28 men and women bus drivers logged over 518,857 miles while providing services to area residents.

RT driver Bob Owens notes that even though many people see the buses everyday they still do not know how many services Rural Transit provides. He notes that Rural Transit is a door-to-door service at a fraction of the cost of other transportation options. “We will be there for you. Use us! Put the word out to family and friends!”

They provide transportation to a variety of places which include work, school, doctor’s appointments, Ivy Tech, Stonebelt, Centerstone, courthouse, weddings, club activities, funerals, grocery stores, pharmacies, recreational activities, visiting family and field trips just to name a few. The Shopping Bus which runs on Thursdays in Monroe County allows shoppers to choose where they need to go to complete their shopping needs. Riders can transfer at the Bloomington Transit to combine rides with Rural Transit. Transportation can be provided from Bloomington to Ellettsville to Spencer or from Ellettsville to Bedford. The first Monroe County RT bus leaves the lot at around 6 a.m. and the last run is completed about 7:30 p.m.

There is a common theme when the drivers are asked why they are Rural Transit drivers and that is the fulfillment that comes with the job. Bob Owens notes that when he came to Rural Transit he “fell in love” with helping the community and the relationships he develops with his passengers.

Paul White notes that he views his job as providing a customer service and “helping people which is what I enjoy”. Herb Ault, dispatcher and driver, noted “Area 10 is a company of good people helping the good people in the community”.

“ We will be there for you. Use us! Put the word out to family and friends!”

-Driver Bob Owens

A Day in the Life of a Rural Transit Driver
By Georgianne Medaris

SPRING 2018

Area 10 Agency on Aging
These are very much needed services. “Area 10 is a close knit family and I look forward every day to coming to work. For me there is definitely fulfillment at the end of the day”.

Driver Roland Bettman likes driving and not being in one place all the time, talking to passengers and “interacting with the Stone Belt kids” The love of the job was recently highlighted when driver Pat Freeman retired after 25+ years as a driver. Currently Liz Kramer is in her 16th year as an RT driver.

Besides providing transportation, the drivers sometimes find themselves assisting with other services. Paul White notes a time when he came upon an accident which involved a gasoline leak. After assisting the occupant of the car, he found a safe place to park the RT bus and then directed traffic away from the scene so that no other injuries occurred.

On a lighter note, dispatcher Herb Ault, tells the story of working with a groom on transportation for his wedding party. Just a few minutes before the wedding was to occur Herb received a call from the groom who was suffering from a case of pre-wedding jitters. Herb asked the groom if the woman he was supposed to marry was the love of his life. When the groom said yes, Herb calmed the groom’s pre-wedding jitters and the groom proceeded to the ceremony.

The biggest frustration the drivers encounter are the road conditions and traffic especially on Indiana 37 and I-69. According to Paul, “We have to deal with things that are out of our control that effect our job and service to our customers.”

Because of the close relationships Rural Transit personnel develop with passengers, Herb Ault notes that one of the hardest parts of the job for both drivers and dispatchers is when one of their clients pass away.

Drivers for Rural Transit are required to hold a CDL Class C license. They are required to undergo physicals every 1 or 2 years and are subject to random drug testing. They also must complete numerous training exercises throughout the year including wheelchair training.

Costs for transportation is $1.00 for one county-one way, $2.00 for two county-one way, $3 for door to door-one way, $6 for door to door two county-one way.

Rural Transit is a Medicaid transit provider.

Contact Rural Transit by phone:
- Monroe/Lawrence County: 812-876-1079
- Putnam County: 765-848-1508
- Owen County: 812-829-6066
- Toll free: 800-844-1010

Thanks to ALL of our Rural Transit staff for keeping our seniors independent, and the wheels going round and round!

Herb Ault, Greg Boruff, Cheryl Dees, Rex Franklin, Sheila Grubbs, Bob Owens, Dustin Reynolds, Leota Smith, Sandy Tibbett, Sheila White, Eddie Barrett, Don Creek, Jerry Farmer, Tricia Goss, Betty Hanlon, Dave Parsons, Caitlin Roof, John Strader, Bill Warner, Pat Williams, Roland Bettman, Donnie Davis, Rich Fields, Anthony Grubbs, Liz Kramer, Roy Pruett, Lisa Salyers, Jacquelyn Strange, Paul White
Our wonderful sponsors, whose generous support enables us to continue our great work!

Thank You!