

# **Volunteer Driver TurnKey Kit**

**Planning Implementation Evaluation**



## 20 TIPS FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Is being a volunteer good for the soul? Probably, but there is conclusive evidence that it is good for the body! Studies reveal that helping others actually results in physical changes very similar to those gained by exercise. Volunteering is an enriching experience in so many ways. Here are a few guidelines to help get the most out of the volunteer driver experience.

1. When you decide to volunteer, make a commitment of time each week that you can live with and stick to it.
2. Make sure that your activities as a volunteer are covered by an appropriate level of insurance.
3. If using your own vehicle, make sure that it is in proper operating condition and clean for your passenger.
4. Take the time to read the materials given to you by your volunteer program and ask if there are things that are unclear.
5. Always be prompt and on time when picking up riders.
6. Let your riders know, first thing, that you are glad to be their volunteer driver.
7. Think of riders as friends. Show genuine interest in their lives and families.
8. Be generous. Be concerned for their feelings and comfort.
9. Be conversational and fun to be around.
10. Do not expect too much from your riders. Consider their capabilities and limitations.
11. Stay positive and remember that riding with you may be the high point of their day!
12. Learn and use the language of love. Treat everyone as an individual, as an adult and, whatever their personal difficulties, emphasize their abilities.
13. That said, it may be necessary to gently assert your authority as the driver. You are the captain of the ship. Do not argue with your rider, but be firm in establishing appropriate travel protocols.
14. Do not lecture riders about life or your beliefs.
15. Be aware of your own condition and limits. Never drive if your reflexes or senses are impaired by medications, fatigue, or illness.
16. Of course, always follow traffic rules and regulations. Drive safely and do not speed.
17. Most accidents occur at intersections, so concentrate on being more alert as you approach, carefully watching cross traffic, signals, lane changes and pedestrians.
18. Always leave plenty of room between your vehicle and the one in front of you. If someone is tailgating, you pull over and let them go by as soon as it is safe.
19. Avoid doing anything to anger other drivers. Give angry drivers lots of room and don't make eye contact.
20. If your rider suffers a medical emergency, the first thing to do is call 9-1-1 and get professional assistance. If close to a hospital, get your rider to the Emergency Room immediately.