

Perspectives



The AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation Network

The Idaho State Independent Living Council and the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities partnered to make this grant program a possibility. This program was developed in response to the lack of transportation options that isolate so many individuals with disabilities. Focus groups conducted in Idaho rank lack of transportation options as the most significant barrier to independence.

AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation Network members assist in identifying sustainability solutions for the accessible transportation options created in the first and second year of the program. These options were created throughout Idaho and assist in improving the access of individuals with disabilities to reach employment opportunities and local facilities within their communities.

This newsletter is for the AmeriCorps members, Partners and other interested parties of this program.

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Success Story

"Approximately two weeks ago, I was asked by World Relief to assist two family members from Somali with Travel Training. They had recently arrived in the United States from a refugee camp in Central Africa. The two family members were a mother and her younger daughter. They needed to be trained on how to ride the bus from their apartment to the English Language Center in Boise, Idaho. I had planned to use an interpreter to communicate with the two women because their English was very limited. On my first day of training with them, my interpreter did not show up so I left to go to the bus stop with the two trainees and myself. As we were standing and waiting patiently at the bus stop, I began to explain to them how to read a bus sign and on which side of the street to wait. When the bus finally came, I headed to the front of the bus to show them where the bike rack was located and how to use it. Upon boarding the bus, I showed the ladies how to swipe/insert the ticket and everything else that they would need to know in order to ride the bus. As I was training these two women, I could see by the look on their faces that they were very lost and confused. I later found out through the interpreter that they were suffering from mild anxiety. When we arrived at the English Language Center, I met with my interpreter. On the way home, I had him interpret everything I discussed with my trainees on our first bus ride that day. After a week straight of intensive training, the daughter has learned how to ride the bus independently and with confidence. The mom has learned how to ride the bus without her daughter's companionship to the English Language Center and today she is learning how to ride the bus to her Job Class."

Message from the AmeriCorps Project Manager

Memorial Day weekend will be here soon. Each of us in our own way will be taking the time to recognize the heroes that sacrificed their lives fighting for our freedom. We, as AmeriCorps members, have an opportunity to pay it forward to the heroes that remain among us. As a result of fighting for our freedom, some of them now live each day with disabilities that can potentially limit their ability to participate in our community. I can't think of a better way to thank them than by providing freedom of choice in mobility through the accessible transportation options achieved and sustained this year. Although we have not given our lives in service, we have poured our best efforts into service for Idaho. There will come a time, whether now or in the future, when we look at our AmeriCorps service and

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realize what an impact our effort in accessible transportation has made in each of our communities. Our service may seem like we are just throwing a small pebble into a large ocean but enough pebbles will cause ripples that will grow to waves that others will ride. The most amazing thing is that not only are we touching the lives of individuals within our community but at some point in the future we will most likely be accessing those same options. In essence, as we work to enrich the lives of others and ensure their independence we enrich our own lives and ensure our future independence. So go out and make ripples so that others can RIDE THE WAVE, because you never know if you will be riding that same wave someday.

- Janette Rickman

Aliece Bright

"My greatest success as of late is my bus project. Through the project, I was able to identify improvements that would help the public use the TRPTA busses in Idaho Falls. After presenting my findings to the TRPTA board, there has been an increase of bus stop signs, and an updated, user friendly schedule will be put in place when the routes change this summer."

If you encounter material in this newsletter that you cannot access, let us know. Your comments and interest in our newsletter help us to identify areas where we can improve. Please send all accessibility questions, concerns or suggestions to janette.rickman@silc.idaho.gov

I-Way Leadership Awards Announced

I-way Leadership awards are offered on an annual basis to recognize leadership and innovation in the effective coordination of mobility options in Idaho.



“Nancy Hoobler

Nancy Hoobler, an AmeriCorps Member, has directly contributed to the success of the Volunteer Driver Program for the Disability Action Center of the Northwest (DAC). The Volunteer Driver Program is a partnership between DAC and COAST Transportation with the goal of providing alternative transportation options within the five counties of North Central Idaho. Nancy has been the primary entity utilizing the time, talent and energy of numerous volunteer drivers to effectively provide transportation to area residents to access health care and other necessary appointments and daily activities. In addition, Nancy has worked countless hours visiting community and senior centers and presenting at city council and county commissioner meetings building awareness of the program. Her efforts have successfully increased the number of volunteers in the program and the number of residents who are able to get from point A to point B.

The I-way Leadership Award recognizes Nancy Hoobler for her role in building an innovative program to address the transportation needs of a variety of individuals throughout District 2.

Ms. Hoobler will be presented with her formal 2011 I-way Leadership Award at the Idaho Transportation Board meeting held in Lewiston on April 19-20, 2011.”

– CTAI website

<http://i-way.org/AnnouncementRetrieve.aspx?ID=68269>

Idaho Non-Profit Makes a Go of Public Transit

“By aggressively seeking federal grant monies and dedicating a large share of staff time to implementing a voucher system, the Living Independence Network now offers transportation to more than 1000 local residents.

Because LINC has a limited amount of grant money, the number of rides each customer gets is also limited: about two trips each week to anywhere they wish.

While two rides a week may not seem like much, for people like Lavonne Kibbie, 82, the vouchers have made all the difference.

At first, she recalled, when a single taxi company supplied rides, she was out of luck when the driver was busy. But the inability to get to the grocery store or to have her hair done was not the most difficult part of lacking a ride, she said. It was the feeling of being trapped.

‘When that independence goes away you feel lost and neglected and useless because it’s not there at your command, to have a vehicle to get you where you want to go when you want to go,’ Kibbie said.

(Heinrich of LINC receives regular thank you cards from Kibbie, regardless of whether it’s a holiday.)”

*You can go to the link below to read the entire article in the online magazine “Daily Yonder” regarding the voucher program that **Ted Roy** is working on at **LINC** in Twin Falls.*

<http://www.dailyyonder.com/twin-falls-transportation/2011/02/01/3155>



Rideshare Online

This is a FREE web-based ride matching system that enables you- and all Idahoans – to save money, time and the environment, one mile at a time. It’s fast and secure. It can provide matches for your daily work commute, as well as one-time trips to special events like football games.

It’s easy to get started:

- * **Sign up at www.i-way.org/rideshareonline**
- * **Find your match: carpool, vanpool, bike or walk**
- * **Start ridesharing and save!**

Check out CTAI at www.CTAI.org; www.i-way.org; or On Facebook at www.facebook.com/CTAIdaho

In response to the motto of the Corporation for National Service “**Getting Things Done**”:

I don’t want to be someone who enters communities solely to get things done. I want to be part of a sustaining, connected, and interdependent set of communities.

-Peter Hocking, Brown University

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Together We Can Create a Better Idaho for All Idahoans

Find us on the Web:
<http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>



Accessible Transit News from Around the Country:
Northern Nevada's Center for Independent Living's Accessible Transit Option.

Check it out on YouTube!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfejuoTJDtw&feature=related>

Bill Knowlden, AmeriCorps Member



In regards to the Serve Idaho Conference Lucky Peak Service Project, Bill writes:

"...I was very surprised to find we weren't going to Lucky Peak nursery at all, but the state park in front of the dam which included the swimming area. I was all too familiar with this park as it has been a favorite summer hangout for my family since I was old enough to remember and, according to old photos, even before then. My mother's high school chorus had sung at its opening according to my mom. I was thrilled to think that this place that had been such a fixture in the summers of my youth would be where I would get to help out.

After arriving we met Park Ranger, Ken, and found out that our task was going to be planting new trees in the park. The last year's wind storms had damaged quite a few of the older trees there and they had to be taken out. Others had died due to old age, and still others had just grown too tall, endangering power lines as they did. Ranger Ken got us our tools, and away we went like only a mad rush of overly enthusiastic volunteers can. We started planting the trees. The location of our service project was not the only surprise of that day as the weather had apparently not listened to the news that morning and turned out to be cold and windy. By the time we had planted 21 trees it had started to rain. As we waited under the covered picnic area for our bus, I started looking around and realized that the trees we had planted will last for years. This will be our legacy to those that use the park, enjoying the area and the shade provided by the trees we had planted for years to come. Just like my mother with her high school choir, I would always have a small tie to this park, and to the people who will use this park for years to come. Perhaps one day when I have grandchildren, I will be able to bring them here to have a picnic under a tree and tell them the story of when a group of volunteers came and helped make this park a place for everyone to enjoy."

SUMMER of SERVICE – Starting Soon!

Quarter Time Members

We have 11 Quarter Time AmeriCorps Member positions to fill for our *Summer of Service*. Members will serve 450 hours and receive a \$1,468 education award upon successful completion of their hours. If you can think of anyone who is interested in gaining job skills and providing a valuable service in the field of accessible transportation direct them to apply online at:

www.americorps.gov

They will need to complete a profile registration in order to apply.

Click on the "Join AmeriCorps!" icon. To find our program (Accessible Transportation Network), follow these steps:

1. Select Economic Development from the first drop-down box
2. Then choose "Idaho" as where to serve
3. Click Search.

Scroll and click on "AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation Network." Then, click "Apply Now."

FOR FUN

The Equal Rights Center has a new online game called:

"What is wrong with these pictures?"

Try it out now at the link below
<http://www.equalrightscenter.org/site/PageServer?pagename=disabilitygame>

Calendar & Deadlines

May

- **May In Motion Challenge:**
Find alternative modes of transportation for your commute and send me your stories.
- **May 9 - 10, 2011:** Interviews held for Quarter-Time Summer of Service members
- **May 19, 2011 (3:30 to 5 p.m. MST):** Monthly Team Meeting call-in. Call-in instructions will be sent ahead of time.



- **May 30, 2011:** Memorial Day. SILC office is closed

June



- **June 2011:** Franklin Corridor Route expected to be in service
- **June, 2011:** PSO; Summer of Service AmeriCorps members
- **June 14 - 15, 2011:** 2011 Idaho Transit Technology Summit. Hotel 43, Boise, Idaho
This Summit is sponsored by the Idaho Transportation Department and CTAI. There is no cost to attend the training. Lunch is on your own.
[Idaho RTAP Scholarships](#) are available to assist with travel expenses.
[Follow this Link for more information and to register!](#) Space is limited so register soon!
- **June 16, 2011 (3:30 to 5 p.m. MST):** Monthly Team Meeting call-in. Call-in instructions will be sent ahead of time

July

- **July 1, 2011:** 3rd Quarter Progress Report due
- **July 4, 2011:** Independence Day. SILC office is closed.
- **July 21, 2011(3:30 to 5 p.m. MST):** Monthly Team Meeting call-in. Call instructions will be sent ahead of time.
- **July/August, 2011:** End of Year Wrap-Up. TBD

