



Volunteer Newsletter



Camano Center & 2nd Chance Thrift Shop

Volunteer Medical Transportation Program: A Lifeline for Our Community

Since its inception, volunteer medical transportation has become a vital part of community care across the nation. Programs like ours have empowered volunteers to help their neighbors get to essential medical appointments.

After a pause due to the challenges of the pandemic, Camano Center was proud to restart the program in 2021. Since then, the demand for rides has tripled. In 2024, we expect to surpass 750 ride requests that we will be able to fill by year-end. This rapid growth underscores the increasing need for transportation services in our community, and our volunteers are at the heart of it all. They offer more than just a ride—they provide conversation, companionship, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing someone cares.



This year, we're excited to announce that our Volunteer Medical Transportation Program will be part of Giving Tuesday on December 3rd through the Stanwood Camano Area Foundation (SCAF). Giving Tuesday is an opportunity to raise funds and awareness for programs like this one, which have become essential supports for many in our community. If you are interested in contributing financially, your

donation will help sustain and expand the program, ensuring that we can continue to provide these vital services. For those who prefer to support us in other ways, sharing our mission or volunteering your time are equally valuable contributions.

The success of our program is due to the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of supporters like you. Every ride provided ensures access to medical care while also creating meaningful connections that offer comfort and ease.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey—whether as a volunteer, a donor, or both! Together, we can continue making a difference, ensuring that everyone in our community has the support they need to access medical care with dignity and ease.

I am more than happy and grateful to share how much the medical transportation program has meant to me this past year. It has been a lifesaving gift for me.

All the drivers who helped me were wonderful. Always got me to my appointments safely and on time. I won't mention names because I might inadvertently leave someone out. I am not using the program as much now except when it is absolutely necessary. But it is so reassuring to know it is there!!!

So a big thanks to this program and the coordinators and all the volunteers.

Shirlene Romain

Even though I have only used the transportation service twice, I cannot thank you enough for the service it provided. Both appointments were necessary and at a time when neither my daughter nor daughter-in-law were available to take me and I was unable to drive myself. Both drivers were made aware that the appointments could be at least two hours long but they were both so cheerful and willing to accommodate my schedule. The drive time to Everett was spent chatting and both ladies were excellent drivers.

To be able to take advantage of this service and know you will arrive on time for the appointment as well as the convenience of door to door pickup and delivery has been a Blessing. We, who are so fortunate to live on Camano and to have such a great establishment as the Community Center, are so thankful and so grateful to all the personnel and volunteers who help make this the best place in the world to call home.

Thank you all so much
Jane DeLashmutt

Thank You

My name is Cindy and my husband's name is Arthur. We have lived on Camano Island for over 25 years. In January 2020, my husband had been diagnosed with stage 4 inoperable cancerous brain tumor. Unfortunately, the cancer left my husband semi-paralyzed on the left side of his body. Our world was turned upside down. Our family lives in Boston and we didn't have any one nearby to help us with the many appointments that we had to get to, until we found out about the Camano Center. It has been a God sent to us. Words cannot express the gratitude that we have felt for the people that have helped us through this difficult journey. People such as Marilyn, Linda, Josie, and Siri to name a few that have truly impacted our life. My husband is being monitored by Alvord Brain Tumor Center at the UW Medicine and without Marilyn and Josie I don't know how we would have gotten to these very critical appointments. Also, every three months he gets an MRI at Smokey Point Everett Clinic to monitor any changes to his brain. Its because of the medical drivers we are able to make sure Arthur gets the upmost medical care.

From the bottom of our hearts, we wanted to thank all of the people who have helped us and others in need so selflessly every day. May you be blessed for all that you do.

With Sincere Thanks,

Cindy and Arthur Lahlum

We would have a difficult time getting to our appointments without the volunteers. We can say "We can't get there from here without their commitment" Whenever I tell someone about the Centered program they can't believe how lucky we are to have this program. Thank you so much all of the team. Most of my needs deal with vision issues so me driving is not an option. In addition too having this unbelievable program I look forward to the ride and sharing stories and ideas on so many topics. great people and great attitudes to brighten the day.
From Rob Hill. THANK YOU.

2nd Chance Thrift Shop, 1335 Hwy 532

ALL VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY *party*



10 DECEMBER

11 am - 1 pm

Appetizer-style brunch

50% off shopping

Parking is limited. Carpooling
recommended.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Camano Center

Lunch Help - Wednesdays 11 am -12:30 pm

Puzzle Area Organizer - any day, time flexible

Old Friends Club Activity Companions -

Tuesdays or Thursdays 9 am - 3pm
Support members by being a friend and assist as needed with activities and transitions.

Please Note Our Upcoming Holiday Closures

**Camano Center and 2nd
Chance Thrift Shop
Wednesday, December 25
Thursday, December 26
Wednesday, January 1**

2nd Chance Thrift Shop

Available Shifts:
Wednesdays 1 pm -4 pm
Fridays 10 am -1 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Volunteer Holiday Party

Location: Thrift Shop
Tuesday, December 10
Drop in anytime between 11 am -1 pm
Carpooling Recommended

Christmas Lunch at the Center

Wednesday, December 18th
seating begins at 11:30 am, serving begins
at 11:45 am
RSVP by calling 360.387.0222

55+ Resource Fair

Location: Camano Center
Saturday, March 8
More information to come

**Would you or someone you know enjoy volunteering either at the
Camano Center or the 2nd Chance Thrift Shop?**

Contact: Lisa Brents, Volunteer Services Manager

(360) 387-0222

or email lbrents@camanocenter.org

Camano Center & 2nd Chance Thrift Shop Volunteer Facebook Group

For those who may not know, we have a Facebook group for volunteers.

The intention of the group is to encourage sharing of what you and your friends are doing during your volunteer assignments with our organization.

This group also lets us reach out to ask for help when we are running short on volunteers in particular areas.

Please post your great pics or comments as often as you would like. Let's keep it fun and lighthearted.

This page is for Camano Center & 2nd Chance Thrift Shop Volunteers only.

www.facebook.com/groups/992894578220212/

or scan QR code to join



in
loving
memory

La Lee Burrill - Down to Earth Gardeners

Myrna Corcoran - Thrift Shop

Mike O'Brien - Former Board Member &
AARP Tax Aide Program