Global & MV Drivers Honored for Safe Driving

On February 22nd Access hosted a driver incentive award presentation at Global Paratransit (GP). We had 14 drivers earn top honors for driving 100,000 safe miles! Each received four tickets to DISNEYLAND, and a paid day off for their hard work.

There were a total of 215 drivers honored that day for their safe driving. Access and GPI management staff were on hand to personally thank the drivers for their dedication to safety.

Luis Pacheco
Safety Analyst

Shelly congratulating 100,000 mile drivers: Sabino Alvarado, Vladin Grishin, Bertha Celis, Gloria Abernathy

Driver Concepcion Macias receives a GPS for driving 80,000 safe miles and congratulations from (left to right) Phillip Rice (Access), Juan Jimenez (GPI), and Alfredo Torales (Access)

Six drivers reached 90,000 miles award level which is a 37" HD TV: Vladin Grishin, Gloria Abernathy, Gabriel Manjarrez, Jorge Estrada, Edward Barrientos, Errol Johnson

MV Transportation Drivers

On March 8th, Access surprised drivers for MV Transportation in the San Fernando Valley with a special driver incentive awards presentation. MV had 14 drivers qualify for the 90,000 mile award which is a high definition flat screen TV. There was also one driver, Vladimir Shevtsov, who qualified for a pack of four Disneyland park hopper tickets for driving 100,000 miles without an accident or safety related complaint. Access and MV management were present to give the drivers their awards.
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Resource Fair

The ‘U.S. News & World Report’ has named the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center as one of ‘America’s Best Hospitals’ in Rehabilitation Medicine. This was an honor given to the facility for the 23rd consecutive year. For the past fifty years Rancho has had a proud tradition of excellent inpatient care. The Center has become one of the largest comprehensive medical rehabilitation centers in the U.S. providing services to a wide range of individuals with catastrophic illnesses and injuries. Rancho specializes in helping patients with disabilities regain skills and learn techniques to accomplish the basic activities of daily living. These services help patients to obtain as much independence as they are able, so they may return to their family, school or a job.

In early March, 2013 Rancho held their first annual ‘Resource Fair’ in the lobby of the Jacquelin Perry Neuro-Trauma Institute. The goal of their maiden voyage was to provide their patients with a wide range of community based agencies that could possibly contribute to the daily needs of the Rancho patron and members of their family. Access Services’ Mobility Management team was invited to share a table at the Fair and provide valuable information about the service. What is Access? What is curb to curb? These were just two of the predominate questions that staff members as well as their patients and families wanted to know. The Mobility team was given a rare opportunity to educate and promote the service as a part of their recovery plan.

Rancho Los Amigos is becoming an enhanced medical home for stroke and spinal cord injuries, providing lifetime care for seniors and persons with disabilities. As Rancho continues to pioneer and create programs that promote recovery and community re-integration, Access can become a vital component of the Rancho patients’ newly found independence.

Erik Washington
Mobility Management Counselor

APTA Legislative Conference

I recently attended the annual APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC from March 9th to the 11th. As always, it was a useful snapshot of the current state of federal transportation policy. Attendees heard from a number of major transit policymakers, including outgoing Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. Legislative staff from House and Senate Committees also provided an interesting “View from the Hill” on Monday. In addition to attending these sessions, I participated in a meeting of APTA’s Intergovernmental Issues Subcommittee, the Legislative Committee and the Access Committee.

Overall, while it appears that transit will not see significant increases in funding in the near future, Secretary LaHood begged to differ when asked by a reporter from the website Politico: “Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said that President Barack Obama will step up on transportation issues just not now. LaHood told the crowd at the APTA legislative conference to think “big and bold.” But afterwards, a reporter asked him how exactly one does big and bold with an 18.4 cents per gallon gas tax. LaHood’s reply: “Well, I think what you’re going to see is big and bold from the president when he gets around to talking about infrastructure. Right now the president is focused on sequester, guns and immigration, and I think when the president comes out later this year, I don’t know when that will be, it will be whenever Congress takes care of guns, immigration and sequester, but once he gets around to talking about infrastructure and transportation, the president will be big and bold.”

Andre Colaiace
Deputy Executive Director, Planning & Governmental Services
Los Angeles Marathon

Every year Access provider California Transit (CTI) assists the elite wheelchair racers who participate in the Los Angeles Marathon. Pickups are coordinated by CTI and volunteer staff from the LA Marathon (LAM). These pickups start at the Los Angeles International Airport where racers are picked up and transported to their perspective hotels. These elite wheelchair racers come from all across the globe to participate in LA’s prestigious race.

On marathon day, the racers are transported by CTI to the starting line area to prepare themselves for the race. Over the years CTI has done a tremendous job to ensure racers arrive early so they can prepare themselves for the race.

This year the event will take place on Sunday, March 17, 2013. The wheelchair division of the race is scheduled to start at 6:55am (Hand cycles 7:00am), all other participants start at 7:28am.

The race starts at Dodger Stadium (1000 Elysian Park Avenue, Los Angeles) and finishes on Ocean Avenue at the intersection of Ocean Avenue and California Avenue in Santa Monica.

Access wishes all participants a safe marathon racing experience!

Geoffrey Okamoto
Project Administrator

Westwood Veterans Hospital Outreach

Access’ Louis Burns was invited to a ‘Question and Answer’ session with the veterans at the Westwood Veteran Medical Center in West Los Angeles. Chaplain Dov Cohen, who is also a CAC member, directed the meeting for both in and outpatients, along with their friends. This was an opportunity for the veterans to meet Access staff members and develop a better understanding of how the service can work for them.

The Westwood VA is a 500-bed hospital complex affiliated with the UCLA School of Medicine. The Center offers a wide range of treatment and investigative approaches for patients with acute and chronic illness. The diverse inpatient, partial hospital, and outpatient services include treatment for both general and specialized disorders and post-traumatic stress disorders. At the close of the meeting the new Access Rider’s Guide was provided to each Access client thus providing the individuals with the knowledge of ‘How to Schedule’, phone numbers and whom to call.

Erik Washington
Mobility Management Counselor
Rider Comments

"I am writing for my father. My dad being a dialysis patient, has been with Access for 3 yrs since my folks moved to the Valley. I have to tell you Access worked with us in every way, as a standing client. Access was for the most part a most convenient service. As his daughter I personally appreciate all you do."

Marvin, Canoga Park
Rider since 2004

Helping Hand Winner for January

Our Helping Hand Program January 2013 award goes to Kevin Myvett of Northridge, CA.

Mr. Myvett has been using our service since 2003 and frequently travels from the San Fernando Valley to Los Angeles. Since July of 2012 to the present, Mr. Myvett has traveled 135 times and has not received any No Shows or Late Standing Orders.

Driver Commendations by Mr. Myvett include:

- MV Driver, Maribel has a very positive attitude, is very helpful and very polite. Keep up the good work
- CTI Driver, Randy is very punctual and professional. Keep up the good work

Overall, he is very appreciative of everyone’s support and services. For his kindness and appreciation, we recognized Mr. Myvett with our Helping Hand pin and balloons on March 6th.

Please join us in congratulating our January “Helping Hand” award winner.

Hamilton Franco &
the Operations Supervisor Team

Safe Drivers Rewarded

and personally thank them for their high driving standards. Access always welcomes the opportunity to recognize our drivers, their hard work, and to encourage safety.

Justin Catoe
Operations Intern

MV’s First 100K mile safe driver and all the 90K mile winners

(L to R) Rogelio Gomez, Christina Blanco (Access) Jessie Serna – MV Driver and 90K TV award recipient, Shelly Verrinder, Steve Chang (Access), Walter Andrade (MV)