



**DRIVE
HAPPINESS**

SENIORS ASSISTED TRANSPORTATION



What is Drive Happiness?

- Drive Happiness is a non-profit charitable organization that provides assisted transportation services to low-income, mobility-challenged seniors in the greater Edmonton area.
- We have been providing service to Edmonton seniors since 1998.
- We provide over 2,100 rides a month for over 1200 riders through our network of volunteer drivers.



Our Mission

Our mission is to assist seniors in remaining independent. Through our safe and reliable transportation service, we are able to support an independent lifestyle for our riders.



How the Program Works

- Eligible riders must complete an application and pay an annual fee before booking rides.
- Riders can then purchase tickets that give them 90 minutes of driving or up to 40km, whichever comes first.
- Once applications have been approved and tickets have been purchased, rides can be booked through the office as far in advance as possible.



Eligibility

Seniors need to meet several eligibility criteria:

- 65 years of age or over
- Able to enter and exit a vehicle with limited assistance
- Unable to utilize commercial/public transit due to health or mobility challenges
 - We are not equipped to handle large/heavy wheelchairs or motorized scooters



Booking Rides

Getting seniors where they need to go!

We drive our Riders anywhere they want to go, whether that be to medical appointments, to the grocery store, or to visit friends and family.

We just need to know:

Date of the ride

Pick-up and destination locations

Time they need to arrive at the destination

Length of time they will be at the destination



What our Riders Say:

“You really get to know the drivers. I couldn’t believe how much better I started to feel.”

-Rider



“Before, everything was just too hard so I stayed at home. It was lonely, but now this makes it so easy!”

-Rider



“Having people I can call and schedule rides for my appointments is a real stress reliever.”

-Rider



How do we Provide Rides?

**Drive Happiness provides rides through
volunteer drivers**

Each and every one of our volunteer drivers are thoroughly:

- Interviewed
- Screened
- Vetted
- Oriented and
- Trained



Our Volunteers

- Must provide a clean driving abstract and a Vulnerable Sector Criminal Records Check
- Can make their own schedules – they drive as much or as little as they choose, selecting the rides they want to take with no minimum requirement
- Receive a tax-free gas reimbursement for their rides
- Are passionate about helping our seniors remain independent



What our Volunteers Say:

“I like meeting the seniors and it makes me feel great to help them accomplish what they need to do.”

-Volunteer



“I hope to give back until I need the service myself.”

-Volunteer

“I volunteer because it is important to bridge the gap between our seniors and youth because we can learn a lot from each other.”

-Volunteer





In the Community

- In 2015, Drive Happiness averaged 333 rides per month. In 2018 we completed 1,500 rides per month and 17,692 rides in total!
- Last year our volunteers donated 21,000 hours of their time and drove over 216,000 kilometres.

And demand is only growing!