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Contact

Reed Cochran, Executive Director
SCM Community Transportation, Inc.
167 Holland Street
Somerville, MA 02144
617-625-1191 x24

www.scmtransportation.org
rcochran@scmtransportation.org

SCM Invites Friends in From the Heat

Medford – June 9, 2008- SCM Community Transportation launched its 25th anniversary activities today with a “Friendraiser” at the new Tufts Boathouse in Medford.

SCM, which was founded created 25 years ago by the cities of Somerville, Cambridge and Medford (SCM), currently provides more than 8,500 one-way trips a month to senior citizens and persons with disabilities in these and surrounding communities. SCM ferries its riders to medical appointments, grocery shopping, adult daycare facilities, councils on aging and excursions.

Throughout the Greater Boston area, residents braved record heat, but on the Malden River, cool breezes fanned those who came for an update on SCM's future plans. These plans include a soon-to-be-announced re-branding effort sponsored by a local business. A shiny green and white van with the words, “Door2Door: Transportation by SCM” sat just beside the boathouse.

“It doesn’t take more than a trip to the gas station for us to realize that the transportation landscape is changing,” said board President John Keegan as he addressed the group. “Having spent three years stabilizing SCM, we think that we have a great platform for the future. We want to do more.” Keegan, who is the Executive Director of Somerville’s Walnut Street Center, joined the board after serving on the turnaround committee steered by Executive Director Reed Cochran. In her comments to the attendees, Cochran said, “We think it should be a relief to give up the car keys. Transportation options will make it possible for all of us to have independent lifestyles as we grow older.”

The event was formally hosted by SCM's board of directors in appreciation of the founding communities. Riders from all three cities were in attendance, as were State Representatives Paul Donato and Carl Sciortino and State Senator Pat Jehlen, all of whom were active in procuring an emergency grant for the non-profit three years ago. At that time, the agency faced closure due to escalating costs that exceeded its contract funding. Currently, the Representatives are championing an additional \$100,000 for the agency in this year’s budget so that SCM can both keep up with fuel costs and expand its services.

SCM promotes the independence of seniors and people with disabilities through community-based transportation. Our friendly, safe and reliable services help people maintain healthy, mobile and connected lives. For more information about SCM, visit www.scmtransportation.org or call them at 617-625-1191.

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