

## ReMARKable Rider Day August 3 2020

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View from the Driver's Seat by Cynthia Thompson, YC Transit Manager

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If you call and schedule a ride using Yamhill County Transit's Dial-A-Ride service, you may have the honor and good fortune to have Sharon Bohl as your driver. She has been a professional transit operator for Yamhill County Transit since 2013. Sharon has been driving buses since 1993, first as a school bus driver caring for Yamhill County kids and now caring for older adults and people with disabilities as a Dial-A-Ride driver.

Sharon's friends would describe her as a caring, giving person who would do anything for her friends and family and her customers and the dogs she cares for and loves. For the last 25 years she has rescued dogs and pets that are abandoned or don't have a place to call home. She currently has five dogs sharing her home.

"Public Transportation is a necessary and vital service; it is a lifeline for so many people. Customers tell me all the time that if it wasn't for Dial-A-Ride they would never get out of their house and would have no purpose or reason to get dressed in the morning. It is a safe and affordable service that is extremely important to so many people."

Sharon grew up and attended school in Oregon City and then moved to Canby and for the last seven years has called the City of Lafayette her home. She has two sons and one daughter and six grandchildren. Her family, job, and pets keep her busy and fulfilled. "I love it when people help other people. I have always taught my children to help others. What inspires me the most is being able to be there for someone or for a pet. I enjoy seeing people happy."

When asked what Sharon would like to see changed about Yamhill County Transit she said; getting the word out to more seniors and marketing to them at the Senior Centers, Dr offices and senior housing communities. Facebook and websites and online marketing is good for the young but not effective for the older adults in our community.

Excellent customer service needs to be the top priority for Yamhill County Transit and there is room for improvement in this area, but everyday Sharon does her part to provide the best customer service possible and she goes above and beyond every day to not only be a safe driver for her passengers but also a friend and advocate for some of Yamhill County's most vulnerable residents.

When I asked Sharon to share something about herself that most people don't' know. She said people might be surprised to learn that her vision of happiness one day will be to live in a beach house, with a beautiful garden and lots of dogs and surprisingly, NO people around.

"As long as I had dogs and dirt to dig in, I would be very happy."

