



YAMHILL COUNTY
TRANSIT

ReMARKable Rider Day

August 3
2020

Meet YCT Rider Barbara Jones

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

If you care about access and mobility for people with disabilities, you may have met Barbara Jones. Barb would say people "differently-abled". If you haven't met her you are missing the pleasure of talking with someone who is well educated, a world traveler, and a passionate advocate for improving access for all.

"Dial-A-Ride" is not just a bus, it is people who are passionate and caring. The drivers are so much more than a driver, they are a friend and a safety net for older adults and people differently-abled living and traveling in Yamhill County."

If you spend any time with Barb you immediately realize she is a force to be reckoned with, outspoken, confident, caring, a problem solver and willing to take action. Watching her in action, you don't think about the fact she uses a motorized mobility device, you notice her caring and can-do attitude.

She shared that she went to the University of "I MADE IT". It is obvious she has a lifelong legacy of learning, growing, adapting, and continuing no matter the odds. Her friends would say she is giving, reliable, and a great resource for information and always an advocate for the "differently-abled."

Traveling is in her DNA, beginning with a father who worked for Lockheed which required travel and as an adult her career required travel. Barb has been to 48 states and practically every country. Her favorites are London, Amsterdam, New Zealand, and Tasmania. She loves McMinnville and her home at the Olde Stone Village community where she has lived since 2009. Barb spent her career at KBIC as a Retain Search Executive, finding the right people for the right job for rail lines such as the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Transportation and travel are part of who she is.

Barbara serves on the National Organization for Disabilities (NOD) and is currently working with the Oregon Department of Transportation on the Hwy 99 project to ensure it addresses the needs of differently-abled travelers.

Barb rode the public transit quite a bit in Europe and South America but didn't utilize a Dial-A-Ride, demand response service like Yamhill County Transit offers until she moved to McMinnville. She has been a YCT customer since 2011.

"I like everything about Dial-A-Ride, the staff are friendly and accommodating. It takes a special kind of personality to work with "differently-abled" people. We are not always at our best and can be difficult when we do not feel well. Sometimes we take our pain out on the ones who serve us. Yet, I never see them fail to serve and there is a kindness in them for those they serve. I don't think they are paid enough. To me they are on the front line and are every bit a first responder."

When asked what Barb would like to see changed about YCT she said;

"I want more people to know about Dial-A-Ride and that it can take them to the store, and to see a friend and to the doctor. It is a lifeline and it is affordable and well under budget for someone on a fixed income."

Barb said she has lived her bucket list and what inspires her is SERVICE. I think she is a great example of Service and we all should be inspired and motivated to follow her example and do what we can to serve others and to serve our community.