FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In early 2016, a review team of 17 professionals in transportation, volunteerism, and aging was convened by the National Volunteer Transportation Center (NVTC) to select winners of the 2015 STAR Awards for volunteer transportation service delivery. The awards are intended to recognize outstanding volunteer transportation programs and enable winners to continue the involvement of their volunteer drivers in promoting and providing transportation services.

The 2015 STAR Awards are presented by Toyota

The formal announcement and recognition of award winners will take place at the CTAA (Community Transportation Association of America) EXPO in Portland, Oregon in May, 2016.

The 2015 STAR Award Winners

**GRAND STAR AWARD WINNER (TOYOTA PRIUS)**
The Senior Connection - Silver Spring, MD

**STAR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE ($10,000)**
The Senior Care Network - Crystal Lake, IL

**STAR AWARDS FOR DISTINCTION ($7,500)**
TASC - Hampton, NH
Hearts and Hands Faith in Action - Getzville, NY

**STAR AWARDS FOR QUALITY ($5,000)**
Foothills CCOrps - Carefree, AZ
Dial a Bus of Benton County - Corvallis, OR
Reach Out Morongo Basin - Twentynine Palms, CA

**STAR AWARDS FOR INNOVATION ($2,500)**
Elder Buddies - Bangor, ME
Friendly Visitor Program - Middletown, NY
Faith in Action Caregivers - Martins Ferry, OH
Indian River County Ambulance - Vero Beach, FL
STAR AWARDS FOR MERIT ($1,000)
ECCHO, Port Townsend - WA
Escorted Transportation Service NW - Arlington Heights, IL
Interfaith Caregivers of Haddonfield - Haddonfield, NJ
In Service of Seniors – Pittsburgh, PA
Interfaith Senior Program – Waukesha, WI

HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS
Veteran and Countrywide Volunteer Transportation Program - Sturgeon Bay, WI
Rural Transit Service, Inc. - Brant, NY
RSVP of Dane County: Driver Services - Madison, WI
Patient Navigators - Framingham, MA
Kibbitz & Ride Volunteer Transportation Program - Delray Beach, FL
Silver Spring Village, Inc. - Silver Spring, MD
NORC Volunteer Transportation Services - Atlanta, GA
Catholic Charities - Honolulu, HI
Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Community Service, Westcliffe - CO
Red Cross Transportation Service - Grand Rapids, MI
Shepherd’s Center of Greater Tupelo - Tupelo, MS
St. Claire’s Catholic Social Services - Hyannis, MA

Additional Information About STAR Awards
This is the 15th year of the annual STAR Awards program. The awards were initiated by the Beverly Foundation in 2000, and in 2014 the NVTC (the successor of the Beverly Foundation) assumed the role of organizing the STAR Awards. To date more than 130 STAR Awards have been conveyed to senior and volunteer transportation programs across America. The 750 unduplicated volunteer transportation programs that have applied for a STAR Award are identified on a Map which is included on the NVTC website. Additional information about the 2015 STAR Awards is reported in a Fact Sheet also on the NVTC website.

About the National Volunteer Transportation Center
The National Volunteer Transportation Center (NVTC) is an initiative of the Community Transportation Association of America. Its purpose is to provide assistance and support to volunteer transportation programs across America. On an annual basis, these programs provide millions of rides and result in enormous time and dollar contributions of volunteer drivers. The fact that volunteer driver programs generally provide rides at a low cost to the programs and their passengers, and at the same time can provide assistance needed by people with physical and cognitive limitations is why some people refer to them as...“the hope of the future”. For more information about volunteer driver programs please visit...

http://nationalvolunteertransportationcenter.org/

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