

A smiling pregnant woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a black cardigan over a black and white striped shirt and blue jeans, is seated in a black wheelchair. She is outdoors, with a blurred background of people and trees. A water bottle is visible in the wheelchair's basket.

A Nonprofit Charity - Est. 1979
**Easy
Lift**
Transportation
Community Report 2014

**I AM
EASY
LIFT**



WE ARE A NON PROFIT

MISSION

Easy Lift's mission is to fulfill our community's need for specialized transportation to allow individuals and organizations access to essential programs and services.

VALUES

Easy Lift's values of Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Honesty, Professionalism and Trust describe how we interact with our passengers and their families, our community partners and each other.

VISION

Easy Lift's vision is to become the community's recognized advisor for specialized transportation needs.



THANK YOU.

I feel I could stop right there. But, really, I cannot.

Your financial support and encouragement have in equal parts inspired Easy Lift to new heights regarding an internal level of expectation, and premier service for our passengers. Never before in my 22 years with this organization have I felt so confident and proud of the services we now provide EVERY day of the year.

Easy Lift is here for this community. We reach and partner with a great multitude of nonprofit programs and services and provide access to those who would otherwise be isolated in their homes. Easy Lift cultivates independence and assures

quality of life. SO many more of our community members rely on our Dial-A-Ride service to access health care services and prescriptions than ever before. Demand for our services exceeds capacity by a double digit percent every year. THAT is what keeps us up at night. We are determined to declare that we serve every ride request made to us.

Last year, we focused on strengthening our infrastructure. We sought support to attain the best available technology and equipment in order to provide a premier experience for each passenger. We have achieved our goal. This year, we intend to add more service hours on the road to ensure our transit-needy frail seniors and people living with severe disabilities have a chance to be healthy and independent.

So, once again, THANK YOU for all of your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto Paredes'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Ernesto Paredes
Executive Director

CORE PROGRAMS

Dial-A-Ride **DAR**

Non Emergency
Accessible Transportation **NEAT**

Children's Accessible
Transportation **CAT**

Greatest Generation
Accessible Transportation **GGAT**

WE ARE EASYLIFT

OTHER SERVICES:

Homeless
Shuttle

Community
Shuttle

Emergency
Evacuation

Loaner Vehicle



DIAL-A-RIDE (DAR)

Dial-a-Ride started in 1979 as a project of the local Easter Seals and is Easy Lift's most commonly known service. Our DAR program is subsidized through donations, grants and special public transit monies. The service is available for people who are physically or cognitively unable to ride the Metropolitan Transit District (MTD). Passengers are able to travel through south Santa Barbara County from Winchester Canyon in Goleta to Carpinteria. Registered passengers pay only \$3.50 for each one way ride.



WE ARE
EASY LIFT



Marjorie & Joe Shipp

As two of our newest passengers, Marjorie and Joe Shipp have been a pleasure to meet. As a retired professor, Mr. Shipp enjoys the company of his wife and friends at the Coral Casino. Along with socializing events, Marjorie and Joe use Dial-A-Ride (DAR) for doctor appointments and to get groceries at Vons. These two are full of life and enjoy the reliable service offered. As Marjorie said, "We can always count on you to be there."

Carmen Finn

A long time Santa Barbara resident, Carmen Finn has been using Dial-A-Ride (DAR) for more than 10 years. As a regular rider, she has access to get to the Cottage Rehabilitation Institute, the Santa Barbara Athletic Club and Jodi House. With her children all grown, Easy Lift enables Carmen to get to her medical appointments on her own.

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue polo shirt and dark trousers, stands with his hands in his pockets next to a white van. The van has "EasyLift.org" on the roof, "26" and "CA #40951" on the side, and "Easy Lift" in large letters on the rear. The background shows a residential street with houses and trees.

NON EMERGENCY ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION (NEAT)

In its third year of inception, Non-Emergency Accessible Transportation, or NEAT, has proven to be a great success. This program is designed to provide free transportation for urgently needed **dialysis treatments, cancer treatments and medical appointments** for qualifying south coast residents.

Easy Lift provides family members with a peace of mind that their loved ones will arrive at their appointments safely and on time.



WE ARE
EASY LIFT

Louise Harvey

Louise Harvey has been using our services for more than 10 years now! Dial-A-Ride (DAR) accesses her to her job at Wendy's, regular therapy at Hearts Adaptive and to church on Sundays. With a bright smile on her face and a Wendy's drink in her hand, she exclaims, "I love Easy Lift and all Easy Lift drivers!" With our help Louise is able to maintain normal everyday life activities with no worries.



Michelle Avitia

At 20 years old, Michelle Avitia is going strong on her own thanks to Easy Lift. Her diagnosis of spinal muscular atrophy has not prevented her from achieving her goal to be a medical bilingual translator and eventually a Registered Nurse. Michelle uses Easy Lift to reach Santa Barbara City College and is anxiously waiting to transfer; acceptance letters will start trickling in soon! Easy Lift allows her to pursue her dreams as well as foster her independence.



CHILDREN'S ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION (CAT)

CAT accesses children to many youth and teen programs that are unable to provide their own transportation. This year, CAT provided over 8,787 rides to children in the community via partnership with 41 nonprofit organizations.

Eureka!, a subsidiary program of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria, was happy to share that over the last **three years of partnership**, Easy Lift has provided nearly **\$40,000** of in-kind services to Girls Inc. programs and activities, including four weeks of transportation each summer at no cost to girls in the Eureka! Program. This summer alone, Easy Lift Transportation helped **Girls Inc.** Carpinteria achieve 4,788 total hours of programming at UCSB.

As part of the Eureka! Program, the girls are required to do an extern-ship within the community and shadow successful women professionals. This year, Associate Director, Nicole Campos, was chosen as a mentor for Jazmin Garcia. Jazmin worked alongside Nicole for 80 hours this summer and discovered firsthand what it takes to run a non-profit.

OTHER SERVICES

WHERE THERE ARE ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY CONCERNS, EASY LIFT IS THERE.

These are some of our other services, you may not know of ...

Homeless Shuttle

Funded by the County of Santa Barbara, this special service provides access to vital healthcare services for Santa Barbara's homeless population. The shuttle runs Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 11:45am and makes stops at the Salvation Army, Faulding Hotel, Rescue Mission and Casa Esperanza, delivering all the passengers to the county clinic and social services. This year 4,121 individuals were transported to and from the County clinic.

Emergency Evacuation & Preparedness

Emergency transportation is provided on an as-needed basis. During the Jesusita Fire, Easy Lift transported over 100 residents of Villa Alamar to safety... and back again. Easy Lift is also a member of Santa Barbara County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters), a group dedicated to

improving outcomes for county residents affected by disasters.



VOAD
SANTA BARBARA
C O U N T Y

Community Shuttle

Throughout the year, Easy Lift partners with different nonprofits to provide special shuttle runs for events across town. Some of this year's partnerships included the Fund for Santa Barbara's Bread and Roses Event, the Senior Expo, the Westside Community Center, the Dream Foundation, Elings Park and the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center.

At Easy Lift we love to help others, and when asked to fulfill someone's last wish, we make everything possible to help. This year we partnered with the Dream Foundation to provide a dreamer one last trip to Santa Barbara Harbor for a boat ride and a milkshake.

Loaner Vehicle Program

Nonprofit groups or government agencies can borrow Easy Lift vans to transport their clients after they receive driver training for their volunteers or staff.

GREATEST GENERATION ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION (GGAT)

GGAT provides grouped rides for senior citizens who may not necessarily qualify for Dial- A- Ride services, but have limited means to reach programs and services for the elderly community. GGAT works closely with agencies such as the Community Action Commission, New Beginnings Counseling Center, St. Vincent's, Goleta Community Center, and Friendship Center.



1979

Easy Lift founded as part of the Easter Seals.

1987

Easy Lift closes its doors temporarily due to financial hardships and managerial differences.



1989

The Adopt-a-Van and Loaner Vehicle Program program are established.

Easy Lift office moves from it's original location on Pine Ave in Goleta to the West Side Center. All operations held here until 2003, when Easy Lift returns to its current home in Goleta.

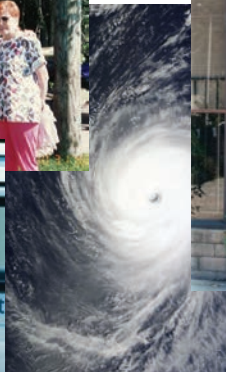
1990



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passes, making transportation services for the disabled individuals mandated under federal law.

1992

Staff Picture, Left to right: Doug Leueans (Driver Trainer) & Spouse, Ernesto Paredes (Assistant Director), Jay Gordon (Volunteer Driver) & Spouse



1997

Easy Thrift opens for 1 year as a project to generate supplemental income.

Easy Lift vehicle destroyed in accidental brush fire. The vehicle was a total loss and ridership was reduced until another could replace it.

Easy Lift upgrades from scheduling on a chalkboard to scheduling on software created in house to fit needs.

1991

Easy Lift receives its very first minivan!

Mayor Sheila Lodge cutting the ribbon

1995

Easy Lift evacuates flood victims from the East Side due to the El Nino Storm.

1998

Staff Picture Clockwise: Ken Owen (Dispatcher/Easy Thrift), Sue Verhasselt (Driver Trainer), Tom Roberts (Executive Director), Ernesto Paredes (Associate Director), Doy Leavans (Senior Driver), Karen Paredes (Driver/Dispatcher), Peggy Tidd (Operations Supervisor, RIP), Dave Grabowski (Weekend Supervisor/Operations, RIP), Noe Botello (Dispatcher), Rene Andrade (Mobility Coordinator)



CAT program launches after Story Teller of Santa Barbara donates a van to the cause.

2008

Measure A passes, providing funding for street improvements and increasing senior and disabled accessibility to public transit.

Easy Lift evacuates seniors from Alto Lucero Transitional Care and transports them to Buena Vista and Valle Verde during the Jesuita Fire.



2009

Easy Lift celebrates 30th anniversary



2005

Ernesto Paredes becomes new Executive Director.

2011

Easy Lift updates its scheduling software for the first time after 20 years.

2012

Easy Lift receives 10 new minivans through a 5310 grant. This adds 15 minivans to the current fleet.

Women's Fund recipient of \$65,000. Their gift supports the purchase of an additional vehicle and one CAT driver.

Partnership with CenCal Healthcare in full swing.

Pictured: CenCal Health Chief Operating Officer Paul Jaconette (left) and Easy Lift Executive Director Ernesto Paredes (Right)

Senior Citizen Program of the Year by Central Coast Commission for senior citizens and AARP.

present



2013

Rene Andrade, Operations Manager, was named Local Hero by the Santa Barbara Independent.

future goals

2015

Drivers will all receive a tablet to replace their current paper manifest.

GPS tracker will increase scheduling efficiency.

Payment cards will simplify life for our passengers and their family members.

Same day requests are common; we want to accommodate all of our riders.

Establish a volunteer driver program.

Creating shared sustainable transportation

WE ARE EASY LiFT

TOTAL VEHICLES: 29

Used for Dial-A-Ride Services: 23

Used for NEAT: 4

Used for special shuttles: 2

DRIVERS

Total: 34 drivers

17 full time

14 part time

3 relief

24 males / 10 females

GAS CONSUMPTION

64,417 gallons used per year

On average, in 2014: 5,368 gallons were used per month or 173 gallons per day

SERVICE

Vehicles are regularly serviced every 2 months

MAKING AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY:



FISCAL YEAR 2014

TOTAL BUDGET: \$2,545,550

REVENUE (SOURCE)

State Transit Assistance	17%
Local Government	20%
Self-Generated Revenue (Grants, fees, fundraising, ect.)	63%

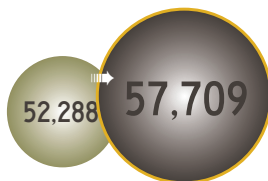
EXPENSES

Fundraising	3%
Mgmt & General	13%
Maintenance & Fuel	16%
Vehicle Insurance	9%
Route Operations	59%

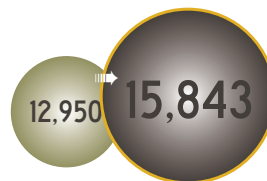
GROWING STRONG

2013

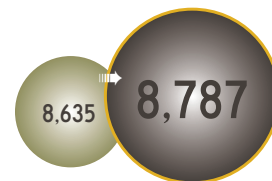
2014



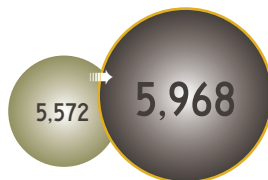
DAR
TRIPS



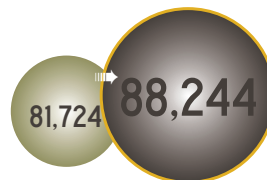
NEAT
TRIPS



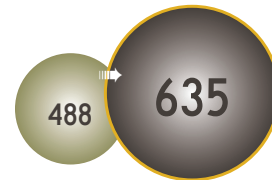
CAT
TRIPS



GGAT
TRIPS



TOTAL
TRIPS



NEW
PASSENGERS

With your support, we can continue to thrive



WE ARE EASY LiFT

*Easy Lift is fortunate to have,
what we consider, the best
employees in Santa Barbara!*

SENIOR STAFF:

As is the case in most non profits, one staff member can wear up to five different hats ... Easy Lift is no exception to that. Thank you to our senior staff of six, who always make it seem like a pit crew of thirty!

Senior Staff (from left) Include:

Adriana Marroquin, Operations Coordinator

Polly Sumner, Chief Financial Officer and Grant Writer

Ernesto Paredes, Executive Director

Nicole Campos, Associate Director

Rene Andrade, Operations Manager

Kelly Arredondo, Driver Trainer (not pictured)

DRIVERS: Easy Lift drivers go above and beyond what their job description entails. They tend to befriend their passengers in such a gentle, caring way that their pick-up route becomes more than just their job, but rather a time to catch up with old friends.

Currently we have 34 drivers, 18 full time and 16 part time, many of whom have been with us for over 10 years!

RESERVATIONISTS: Our partnership with UCSB's Work Study Program has allowed us to employ many students over the years. Their young minds are refreshing and as an organization, it is very rewarding to see them grow into young professionals.

Of our ten reservationists, eight are UCSB Work Study students, one is a SBCC student, and one is a culinary school graduate.

A photograph of two people, a man on the left and a woman on the right, both smiling. Between them is a circular logo with the text "WE ARE EASY LiFT" in yellow. The man is wearing a purple polo shirt, and the woman is wearing a blue t-shirt. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

WE ARE
EASY LiFT

Abraham Moreno



Abraham Moreno celebrated his first year anniversary with Easy Lift this summer. He comes to us through a very special partnership with Special Olympics. As a full-time SBCC second year student, he manages to get good grades, was nominated as the 2014 Special Olympics Athlete of the Year, and provides essential support to operations. Abraham updates the new passenger list and processes MTD recommendations.

Diane Gaunt



Diane came to Easy Lift after she and Ernesto crossed paths at an Alpha Resources fundraising event, where she expressed her goal to have a job and being self-sufficient. Since then, Diane has joined the team as our certified Correspondence Aide, and ensures there is enough material in stock to mail registrations to new applicants.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Miller, *President*

Reverse Mortgage Advisor,
American Advisors Group

Karen Johnson, *Secretary*

Active Passenger, Advocate for
Disabled Individuals

Jerry Newton, *Treasurer*

Retired CFO, United
Way of Santa Barbara

Mac A. Johnson

Owner, Home Instead Senior Care

Matthew Dentinger

Attorney, Yardi Systems

Dave Johnson

Retired, City of Santa Barbara
Public Works Director

Adopt-a-Van Partners

Easy Lift would like to thank the following organizations and businesses for your support through our dopt-a-Van program.



If you or your organization would like to adopt a van, please contact our office at 805.681.1181.



DECKERS

— BRANDS —

A big foot felt thank you to Deckers Outdoor Corporation who sponsored all Easy Lift drivers with new Hoka One One shoes. "It's like walking on clouds."

Pictured: Thomas Nottorf, driver

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

- Ann Jackson Family Foundation
- Cottage Health System
- Crawford Idema Family Foundation
- Dreier Family Foundation
- Herbert & Gertrude Latkin Charitable Foundation
- Hutton Parker Foundation
- Metropolitan Transit District (MTD)
- Montecito Bank & Trust
- Orfalea Foundation
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
- Santa Barbara County Human Services
- Santa Barbara Foundation
- The Dr. Hildegard H. Balin Charitable Trust
- The Gila Fund
- The June G. Outhwaite Charitable Trust
- The Watling Foundation
- Towbes Foundation
- Venoco Community Partnership
- Weingart Foundation
- Wood-Claeyssens Foundation
- Yardi Systems



*Thank you and a big welcome to the newest members of Easy Lift's Freedom Circle.
You provide mobility and independence to south Santa Barbara residents.*





WE ARE EASY LiFT

SERVING OUR
COMMUNITY
SINCE 1979

A Nonprofit Charity - Est. 1979
**Easy
Lift**
Transportation

Easy Lift Transportation
53 Cass Place, Suite D
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