



FROM THE ASHES AND
THE MUD WE RISE TOGETHER

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

2017 Community Report



Dear Friends,

So much happened in the past two months, that it is difficult to look at the whole year.

From an organizational standpoint, I could not have more pride for my team. Amidst floods, fires and mudslides we were able to maintain service without any interruptions. The Board of Directors conducted a wage analysis study inclusive of review of current job descriptions and salaries, and Easy Lift was nominated as the Top Paratransit Agency for the State of California! Easy Lift also partnered with the Santa Barbara International Film Festival to provide free transportation to the theater, and with the City of Carpinteria to create shuttle access for its citizens during Highway 101 modification. Operationally, we had a fantastic year!

Still, Mother Nature had a test for us. On the evening of January 8th, the county placed Easy Lift on-call in anticipation of an evacuation process due to the storm set to hit overnight. It felt largely like a precautionary measure.

It seemed that nobody had any idea what the next 24 hours would bring. I am so grateful for the many individuals and organizations that have come together to help our community through these tough times, I am particularly grateful for the Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, Santa Barbara American Red Cross and the United Way of Santa Barbara County. Although the recovery phase will last months to years for some, Easy Lift will continue to serve our community through ash, mud and debris.

Kindly yours,

Ernesto Paredes

Ernesto Paredes, Executive Director

Thank you Karen!

After more than 20 years Karen has decided to retire from the board. Her active participation in the implementation of the 1990's Americans Disabilities Act (ADA) provided the board with immeasurable insight into the life of an Easy Lift passenger.



Major Funding Partners

Ann Jackson Family Foundation
CenCal Health
Herbert & Gertrude Latkin Charitable Foundation
Hutton Parker Foundation
Metropolitan Transit District (MTD)
Montecito Bank & Trust
Santa Barbara Artificial Kidney Center
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
United Way of Santa Barbara County
Weingart Foundation
Women's Fund of Santa Barbara
Wood-Claeyssens Foundation
Yardi

Adopt-A-Van Sponsors

Cottage Hospital
HUB International
Mission Home Health
Montecito Bank & Trust
Santa Barbara Airport
Visiting Nurse & Hospice
Zodo's Bowling & Beyond

Thank you Mr. Towbes!

Two vehicles were commemorated with the image of Mr. Towbes as a last abode for his generosity and support. Mr. Towbes always believed in the mission and purpose of Easy Lift.

Thank you VNHC!

Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care (VNHC) increased their commitment from one adopted vehicle to five vehicles. As an Adopt-A-Van Sponsor, VNHC is able to provide Easy Lift with a regular source of revenue to assist in the delivery of services to the Santa Barbara community.



STRENGTH COMES FROM OUR

CORE PROGRAMS

DAR- Dial-A-Ride is south Santa Barbara County's ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) specialized transit. It serves individuals who physically or cognitively are unable to ride the Metropolitan Transit District (MTD). Registered passengers are able to travel through south Santa Barbara County from Winchester Canyon in Goleta to Carpinteria, while only paying \$3.50 for each one-way ride.

NEAT- Non-Emergency Accessible Transportation is a partnership with CenCal Health to provide free transportation for life sustaining medical appointments such as dialysis and cancer treatments. Passengers must be eligible for MediCal and provide valid documentation from primary doctors.

CAT- Children's Accessible Transportation provides transportation to many youth and teen programs. We have the ability to transport youth in a safe and competent manner at little to no cost to the recipient.

OTHER SERVICES

DAR Direct (pilot program) In an effort to provide greater access to lifeline services for those who have no other transportation options, Easy Lift introduced Dial-A-Ride Direct in July 2016, a pilot program to help individuals with unforeseen same-day transportation. A total of 4,134 same day trips were provided to medical appointments, prescription pickups and nutrition sites using one vehicle Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. Easy Lift is currently searching for sustainable funding to implement as a regular, ongoing service.

County Health Shuttle Funded by the County of Santa Barbara, this special service provides access to vital healthcare services for south Santa Barbara's homeless population. The shuttle runs Monday through Friday 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.

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 include Special Olympics, the Senior Expo, the Westside Community Center, the Music Academy Rummage Sale, United Way's Day of Caring, the Santa Barbara Triathlon, and LEON's Dia De Los Abuelos luncheon.

SBIFF Partnership We are proud to announce our newest partnership with the International Film Festival (IFF). Every month the IFF opens up the newly remodeled Riviera Theater to showcase an award winning film, for free, to all seniors. Easy Lift complements this by providing free transportation to senior centers to ensure they too can participate in the screenings.



Emergency Evacuation & Preparedness During December's Thomas Fire, Easy Lift partnered with the County Sheriff's Department, 211 and the Santa Barbara County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) to facilitate the evacuation of frail seniors and individuals with disabilities. More than 200 individuals from affected areas in Santa Barbara were transported to shelters, hotels and family member's homes.



SUPPORT FOR OUR PASSENGERS

PATRICIA DOOLEY

Patricia Dooley is the Director of Volunteer Services at Cottage Hospital. She shares that Easy Lift is a “godsend” and “without Easy Lift (she) would not be able to work.” For Patricia it is important that she is at work every day because she is able to support and facilitate the activities of over 100 volunteers.

Through the last 8 years working at Cottage, Patricia has seen many of her volunteers go into the medical field and get hired. “I love meeting people and helping them get started on their career paths. Without having Easy Lift to get me to my job every day, this would be very difficult.”

REVENUE (SOURCE)

15%

State Transit Assistance

19%

Local Government

66%

Self-Generated
(Grants, fees, fundraising, etc.)



Board of Directors

Eric Miller, *President* – Reverse Mortgage Advisor,
American Advisors Group

Roy McLaughlin, *Treasurer* – Manager & Treasurer,
Santa Barbara Teachers Federal Credit Union

Bob Gray, *Secretary* – Retired, Santa Barbara School District

Matt Dentinger, *Member* – Attorney, Yardi

Dave Johnson, *Member* – Retired, City of
Santa Barbara Public Works Director

Mac Johnson, *Member* – Owner, Home Instead Senior Care

Craig McClellan, *Member* – Remote Engineer, CIO Solutions

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Top Paratransit in California - CalAct Award

- Easy Lift Transportation has received the high honor of “Top Paratransit” for California at the recent statewide California Association of Coordinated Transportation Conference (CalACT) in Lake Tahoe. This award reverses transit programs focused on serving frail seniors and people living with severe disabilities. This is the first such honor for Easy Lift, now in its 39th year serving south Santa Barbara County. Easy Lift was recognized for its programmatic efficiency, innovative transit solutions, financial stability, and community collaboration.

Carpinteria Creek Shuttle

- As part of the Highway 101: Linden and Casitas Pass Project, the Carpinteria Creek bike path was temporarily closed. Easy Lift was contracted to provide a free shuttle service between San Roque Mobile Estates and the Downtown Carpinteria area. To date, Easy Lift has been able to serve 4,219 individuals impacted by this closure.

EXPENSES

13%

Mgmt & General

5%

Fundraising

7%

Vehicle Insurance

15%

Maintenance & fuel

60%

Route Operations