



HIRTA

Dialysis Trips:

Safety, Training and Working
Effectively with Private Sector Clinics

About HIRTA

- In 1981, the Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) was formed under a 28E agreement with the 7 counties in central Iowa.
- Region 11, better known as HIRTA, was established to provide public transit services in the counties of Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story and Warren.

Facebook: @RideHIRTA

Twitter: @RideHIRTA

YouTube: HIRTA Public Transit

Website: www.RideHIRTA.com



Our Trips

- Dallas:
 - 2 riders
 - Shared shuttle Perry to WDM – approximately 33 miles each one-way
- Jasper:
 - 4 riders
 - Non-shared trips – all <2 miles one way
- Marion
 - 3 riders
 - Non-shared trips - 1 rider ~16 miles one-way, all others <2 miles one way
- Story:
 - 4 riders
 - Non-shared trips - 1 rider ~10 miles one-way, all others ~3.5 miles one-way

HIRTA Driver Saves Rider's Life

Headlines

- Iowa bus driver helps man going into kidney failure
- HIRTA driver saves life of rider having medical emergency
- Quick-thinking HIRTA driver Karen Dont saves rider's life
- Newton, Iowa bus driver saves life of rider having medical emergency

Videos

- [KCCI Video](#)
- [We Are Iowa Video](#)



Remember,
we all tell the version
of the story that makes
us look good.



The Sides

Public Transportation

- “Who is paying for the service?”
- “We’re not allowed to prioritize based on trip purpose.”
- “Does transit have a seat at the table?”

Dialysis Clinics

- “We’re not allowed to pay for transportation.”
- “Transportation to essential services such as dialysis should be priority.”
- “Does dialysis have a seat at the table?”

Challenges

- Closing a center
 - Have you talked to local transit agencies?
- Building a facility
 - Can the buses fit? Can we coordinate rider chair times?
- Where is the money coming from?
 - Did you include transportation in a grant?
- Are you closed on a holiday?
 - Are you working together to make sure everyone is on the same page?
- Are you coming to the table with transit?
 - Communication is key!

Solutions & Partnerships

- Writing transportation into grants
- Educating about transit services
- Health Connector
- Creating partnerships
 - American Cancer Society
 - CHA-CHP
 - Do You Have Transportation?
 - Volunteer Transportation
 - Unmet Needs Assessments
 - CTAA
 - HIRTA Connections Coalition
 - Dialysis clinics, Public Health, Riders, City and County Staff



Volunteer Transportation

- We seek volunteers to provide transportation to community members who need help gaining access to medical appointments and the pharmacy. **Volunteers use their personal vehicles.**

Trips are based on availability and comfort level.

- Volunteer benefits:
 - Mileage Reimbursement
 - Supplemental and liability insurance
 - Annual Recognition Ceremony
 - Flexible volunteer schedule
 - Improving lives in central Iowa
 - Meeting new people



HIRTA
Helps

START A NEW
CHAPTER IN YOUR LIFE



VOLUNTEER



Want to volunteer?

If you are 55 or older, become an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer! We connect volunteers with opportunities to stay engaged while making a difference in their community. Volunteers can work the hours they want and in their community. Visit the website to get started!

Nutrition

Provide trips to food pantries, assist with meal preps, or accessing meal sites

Transportation

Provide trips to medical appointments, the pharmacy and grocery stores

Friendly Neighbor

Visit or read with someone, write notes, or attend local events

Stay in the loop!

1 (877) 686-0029
Volunteer@RideHIRTA.com
www.RideHIRTA.com/Volunteer
f @RSVP HIRTA

HIRTA Helps bookmark

Volunteer Needed



Provide transportation to essential medical treatment in Boone county

Volunteer today:
www.HIRTAHelps.org
1 (877) 686-0029

Social media graphic



Social media graphic & cartoon car with HIRTA Helps magnet

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

THIS COULD BE YOU!



www.RideHIRTA.com/Volunteer

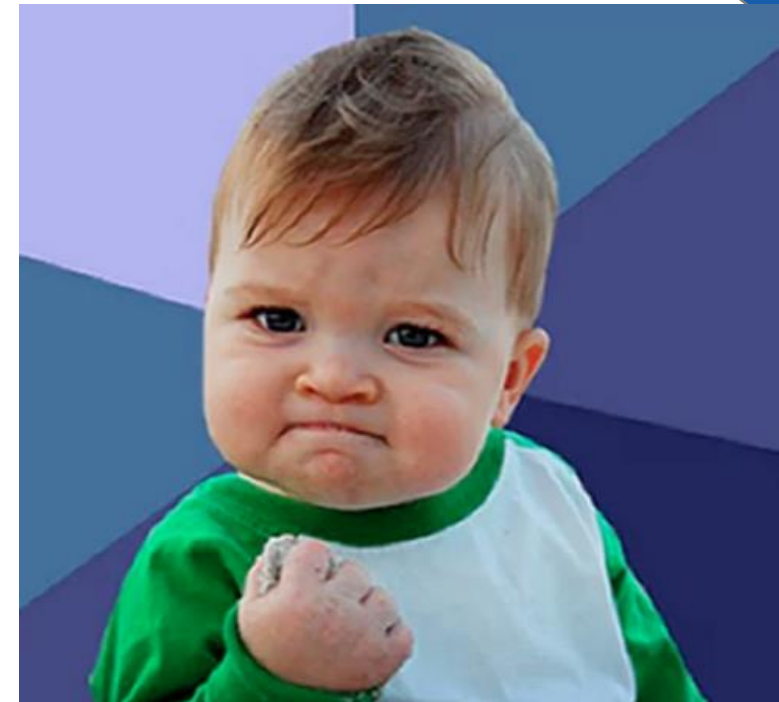
1 (877) 686-0029



RSOP
HIRTA

Successes

- “I had taken too much insulin when I was at my home and the bus driver picked me up before I passed out. She had raced me to the hospital and they took care of me. The driver knew what do. If I was driving myself, the outcome could have been different.”
- “I was doing dialysis with [a dialysis clinic] at Dallas County Hospital which was no more than five miles away. Now because [the dialysis clinic] no longer provides this service at the DCH, the closest I have to travel is to Waukee which is a round trip of 60 miles.”
- “Karen knew [my] habits. She knew [I] was always quick to come out and board the bus, and that [I] had never been a ‘no-show’. She persisted in getting [me] to come out and get on the bus. Her persistence, and her compassion, saved my life.”



Thank you!

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www.rideHIRTA.com

