



*Love is our universal language*



February always brings a gentle reminder of the power of connection. While Valentine’s Day often celebrates romantic love, I’ve always believed it’s also a perfect moment to honor the quieter, steadfast forms of love—the kind you show every time you give your time, patience, and compassion to the seniors in our community.

Every ride you give, every friendly conversation, every moment you spend easing someone’s day is a meaningful act of service. You help our clients stay independent, engaged, and connected to the world around them. That is love in action. And it matters more than you may ever fully see.

♥ Deb Nieves  
Director of Volunteer Services

Drive a Senior Volunteer contributions in 2025:

Total Volunteer Rides & Services: 13,718

Volunteer miles: 169,699

Volunteer hours: 14,378

Clients served: 1,310

New Volunteers: 118

Active volunteers: 407

*Thank you!*

\*\*\*  
SAVE THE DATES!  
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### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>

You are invited to participate in this event being held for Senior Access area clients. We plan to host events for the other two areas (Chariot and Drive a Senior ATX) soon.

Location: **Palm Valley Lutheran Church**,  
2500 E Palm Valley Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78665

### SATURDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>

#### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



We’re so grateful for the incredible heart and energy our volunteers pour into Drive a Senior. You keep our mission moving—quite literally—and we want to take a moment to celebrate you.

We’re planning a relaxed, come-as-you-are happy hour on Saturday, April 25th, from 6–8 pm, and we’d love for you to join us. This will be a simple, budget-friendly gathering where we can unwind together, share stories, and connect with volunteers from all three of our area agencies.

Because we’re keeping things cost-conscious, we’re looking for a venue where everyone can purchase their own food and drinks if they’d like. Your presence is what matters most, and we want to make it easy for as many volunteers as possible to attend.

Please save the date. I’ll share the venue details and an RSVP soon so we can choose a spot that comfortably fits our group.

We can’t wait to spend time with the amazing people who make our mission possible.

**Grand Adult Day**  
A Celebration of Sharing Love with One Another  
**Friday, February 20, 2026**  
**11:30 am till 1:30 pm**  
**CUT Off to RSVP**  
**2pm, Feb 13, 2026**

Bring a dish you love to share.  
Make enough for 6-8 people.  
Enjoy the miles of smiles across the room as others enjoy your contribution to our community lunch.

# Volunteer Spotlight: Celebrating Three Stars of Service

## ELMER GOERTZ



Volunteering since 2012. At 83, Elmer feels better than ever. With almost 1,300 rides over the past 14 years of committed service, Elmer still enjoys bringing smiles and comfort to our clients. He specializes in helping veterans get to their appointments at the VA. "I didn't choose it. I call every Monday and ask the SC team to give me the most challenging rides, and it turned out to be those ones. I keep taking the same clients there, and we have become buddies. They are truly grateful for the service we provide, and that gives me joy".

## VIRGINIA COLE



Volunteering since 2018. Virginia moved back to TX after spending most of her adult life in CA. She wanted to make friends and be involved in the community; that's how she came knocking on our doors. Virginia loves to present herself authentically and to welcome people of all backgrounds. She became a regular volunteer for a client who might be challenging for others, but not for Virginia. To her, he is an "old-time cowboy." She makes him giggle and enjoy the ride. That's what we're all about. Connecting with those who have so much to offer but are often disregarded.

## BECKY CHEN

Volunteering since 2022. Becky became a volunteer because her dad, who lived in NY, needed rides after he lost his driving ability. His dad had great friends who took care of him. So she decided to do the same for others here in TX. She finds tremendous joy in simply helping our seniors. "I'm community driven, and I'll do what I can because one day, I might be the one who will need the help." Becky currently helps draft DAS monthly volunteer report for the Travis County EngAGE program. After the merger, I needed help with several tasks, and she jumped to my rescue. "I feel like I'm helping in a meaningful way, driving or helping with behind-the-scenes".



## AR UPDATE

Most of us are already set up with **Assisted Rides** after the December data migration. However, if you are still having trouble logging in, **here is how to solve that issue:**

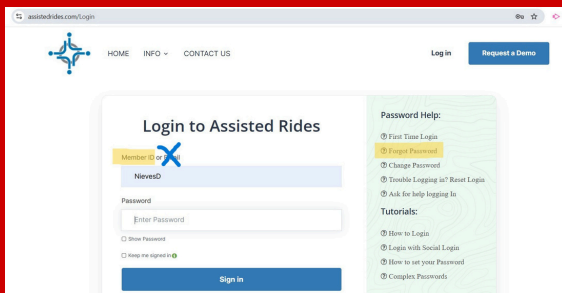


First, go to [AssistedRides.com](https://AssistedRides.com).

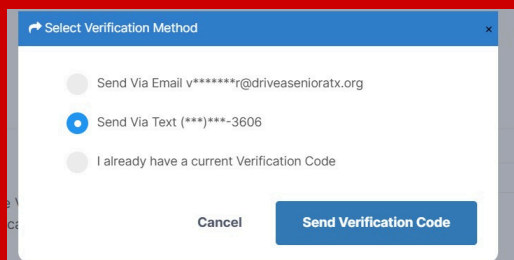
Enter your **Member ID** (not your email).

If you don't remember it, text us, and we will send it to you.

**Do not enter your password.** Go to the right, select "**Forgot password**", and confirm your member ID.

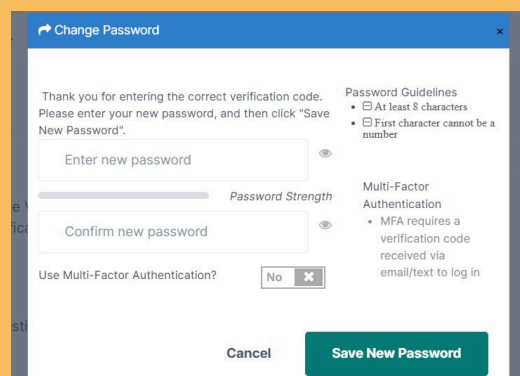


Then send yourself a passcode (last time, I promise!)  
Enter the Verification Code.



Once you enter the verification code, this page will appear, where you can enter your new password.

You can either enter a **new password** or your **old one**. The system doesn't remember your previous password.



Make sure you save your new credentials if prompted. After that, you should be able to log in to [AssistedRides.com](https://AssistedRides.com) without any problems.

If you are still experiencing trouble logging into AR, let me know, and I'll help you fix it.

## Words from our Program Director...

"The relationships you build are treasures to those who don't get out much. It is much more precious time spent with a friendly face than a stranger from Lyft or Z-Trip. We hear their words of gratitude often, and it makes being here, doing this job, helping our senior community a mission worth the work it takes to get it all done. One ride may not seem like much, but to many home-bound clients, time with a real person can mean the world in ways we don't always fathom." - **Charis Fleming, Program Director**

