



*neighbors driving neighbors*  
**HELPING SENIORS GET AROUND**

Laverne Haenchen can't drive. The bus route that once linked her Lemay home to her health clinic was eliminated. For years she was depending on her son to take her to her weekly doctor's visits—until his supervisor grew concerned with his frequent absences from work. "I was sitting at my table crying," Laverne describes, when she came across the number for CORP in her newspaper.

Since 1975, the St. Louis County Older Resident Programs (CORP) has organized Neighbors Driving Neighbors, a service that recruits volunteers to drive seniors to medical appointments and other essential outings. Often actual neighbors of the program's customers, volunteers are encouraged to spend time building a bond with the seniors they help. With over 200 volunteer drivers, the program is able to serve seniors when and where the need arises.

Susan Schafers, Manager of CORP, believes the program is essential to helping many seniors achieve their desire to age at home independently. "The biggest problem among our residents is isolation," explains Schafers, "but what can you do when these seniors don't have access to a car, can no longer drive, or don't have convenient public transit options?" For Susan and CORP customers like Laverne, Neighbors Driving Neighbors is a great solution.

After using the program for five years, Laverne recalls the volunteer drivers who have now become her friends: "I'm just so grateful. I hope they never stop."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COUNTY OLDER RESIDENT PROGRAMS OR NEIGHBORS DRIVING NEIGHBORS, VISIT [www.stlouisco.com/healthandwellness](http://www.stlouisco.com/healthandwellness)