

Thanks to Flint Hills Resources, DARTS will have Learning Buddies for Reading, Science, and Math

DARTS' Reading Buddies program engages nearly 300 volunteers to help thousands of students with their reading skills in 24 area elementary schools. The schools asked us to expand the program to help students with other subjects, and we answered.

Thanks to additional support from Flint Hills Resources (Reading Buddies program sponsor since 2000), DARTS is expanding the program to math and science.



“Learning Buddies” volunteers are being recruited now to work with students this fall. Susan Carter, Manager of Community Investment for Flint Hills Resources, said, “We are particularly pleased to increase our gift this year and expand Reading Buddies to math and science – these skill sets over time are a critical part of our community’s work force.”

Safety “Matters” with DARTS Drivers

DARTS recently celebrated an amazing record of safe driving. Some 40 drivers who have been driving a DARTS bus anywhere from 1 to 24 years were honored because they’ve never had a preventable accident. U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum sent a personal congratulation to the drivers, saying,

“My father used DARTS services for years, and our family depended on drivers like you to give him the mobility and freedom he needed. Your compassion and devotion to helping others is admirable and much appreciated.”

Search for DARTS’ Next President is Progressing

Under the leadership of Marty Kennedy of Thomson West, the Search Committee of DARTS’ Board of Directors has worked with an outside executive firm to secure the very best future leadership for DARTS. Their work ends late September and the successor to Dick Graham, DARTS founder and president, will be named soon thereafter. Stay tuned.

DARTS VMS Gets National Coverage

The August 18 issue of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* (a national newspaper on nonprofits) featured our new tax-paying nonprofit, DARTS Vehicle Maintenance Services (VMS). DARTS is the parent organization for DARTS VMS. DARTS VMS provides one-stop repair and maintenance services for Twin Cities nonprofits that operate specialized, lift-equipped vehicles. DARTS VMS helps ensure that transit-dependent riders get where they need to go safely.

Nonprofits using DARTS VMS see decreased vehicle operating costs, less vehicle downtime, and improved vehicle safety for their riders — a true social return that furthers the mission of DARTS. As of August 2005, DARTS VMS is servicing 585 vehicles from 96 nonprofit organizations. By 2007, DARTS VMS should see net profits, after taxes, that can help support other DARTS programs and help create new ventures.

To learn more about DARTS VMS or to get a copy of the *Chronicle* article, call 651-455-1560.



U of M Worklife Program to Host DARTS' Seminars

Starting in October, DARTS will present seven eldercare seminars aimed at working caregivers for broadcast to U of M campuses throughout the state. Seminar topics include *Family Caregiving Strategies, Financial and Legal Issues, and Housing Decisions*. DARTS offers these seminars to workplaces throughout the metro area. To learn more, visit www.darts1.org or call 651-455-1560 for a brochure.



Staying Accountable, Keeping You Informed

DARTS' complete 2004 financial statements and program accomplishments are now available online at www.darts1.org. If you would prefer a printed copy, please call us at 651-455-1560. DARTS' 2004 annual report will be printed and mailed late October.

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DARTS Wins a National Transportation Award

In late May, DARTS received the 2005 *United We Ride National Leadership Award* at a national transit conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The award recognizes organizations that exemplify “the best” in coordinating ride services for those who depend on a transportation service. DARTS was one of only five organizations in the country to receive this prestigious award, presented by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

At left: Kris Barrett, Director of Transportation, is shown holding the United We Ride award. Betty McCollum's letter to drivers (see article on front) is in the background.