Volunteer Assisted Transportation completed its eighth year as a unique transportation option for Knox County seniors and people with disabilities and has provided more than 38,000 trips since it began service in March 2009 with just a handful of volunteers. The program is designed to serve those who require aid and assistance to travel safely. Volunteers drive agency vehicles and receive extensive screening and training so program riders can be assured they are in the hands of ‘professional' drivers who have the rider’s safety first and foremost in their minds.

Training includes AAA or AARP’s Driver Improvement Program, certification in CPR and First Aid, passenger assistance techniques for safely assisting seniors and people with disabilities, and a comprehensive vehicle orientation. While there is a modest fare for the service, no one is turned away based on finances. There are no restrictions on trip purpose, but 65 percent of the trips have been for medical appointments and essential errands.

825 riders ... seniors and people with disabilities ... have utilized the service since its inception. Sixty percent of program ridership is over seventy-five years of age ... thirty percent are over eighty-five years of age ... seventy-five percent are women ... fifteen percent use wheelchairs.

Highlights for FY 16/17:

255 unique individuals were served.

7,211 trips were provided to Knox County residents who required assistance to travel safely and keep essential medical appointments, go food shopping, conduct daily errands, and enjoy social activities. This is a 9.5% increase over last year!

65 different volunteer drivers participated this year.

Over 7,000 hours of volunteer time was contributed.

3 new Prius hybrid sedans joined the fleet. (Now at 10 hybrids and 7 wheelchair accessible minivans)

Staff provided transportation counseling to more than 500 callers.