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Port Townsend, WA 98368

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# 2018 Annual Report

*Helping is our Middle Name!*

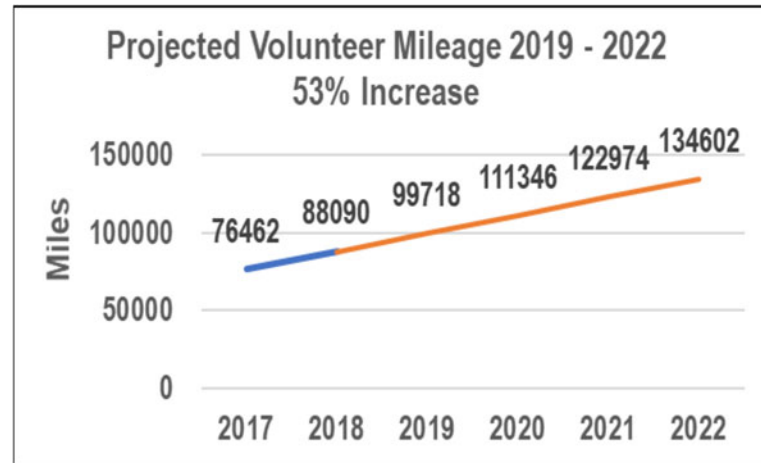
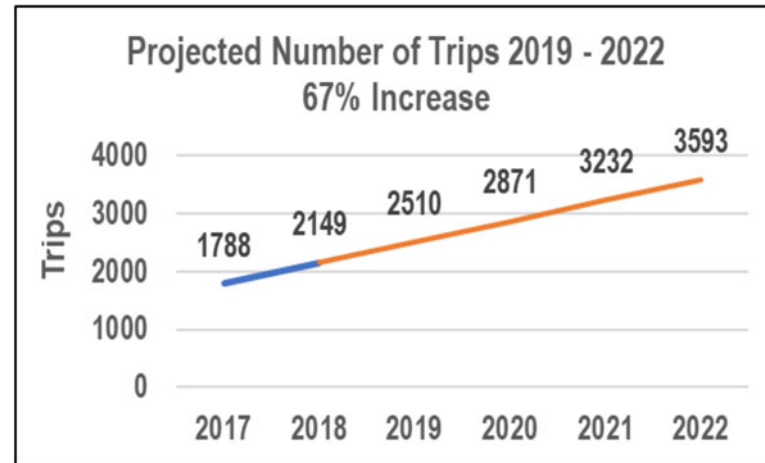
**Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization**

**TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR NEIGHBORS!**

## Looking Forward - We Need Your Help!

As the County's Senior population continues to grow, the projected need for our transportation and equipment lending services will accelerate. In just a few years, the number of trips will be double the 2017 levels. Our mileage reimbursement costs will continue to rise, as our Volunteer Drivers cover more and more miles – not just within the County, but to medical facilities in Sequim, Port Angeles, Poulsbo, Silverdale, Tacoma and Seattle. ECHHO is the only transportation provider in Jefferson County that delivers county residents directly to medical appointments out of the area – at no cost.

ECHHO depends on the community to support these vital services that we provide through donations of time – as a volunteer, and funding – from individuals, local business organizations, and churches. We ask that you consider donating to and volunteering for ECHHO. We can't keep providing our services without you. Please help us to be there for you, your family, friends and neighbors, whenever you need us – now and in the coming years. On behalf of our volunteers and our care receivers, we thank you for your support.



Jon Langdon, ECHHO volunteer driver, and client Pat Norton. Jon has been delivering ECHHO clients to medical appointments and errands for more than 6 years.

Now in our 22<sup>nd</sup> year of operation, ECHHO serves the needs of East Jefferson County residents with a volunteer-based transportation program, assistance in running errands, and free loans of medical equipment. The need for our services continues to grow, as our county welcomes an increasing population of older adults.

### Jefferson County facts:

- Over a third (35.6%) of county residents are aged 65+
- We are the oldest county in the state, and 9<sup>th</sup> oldest in the U.S.
- 40% of county households have an older adult living alone
- Most older adults living alone are women - 79%

ECHHO provides a safety net for our community. We provide the ONLY one-on-one, individual transportation service for Older Adults, the Disabled and Handicapped, and Low-income residents. And we are the only provider of durable medical equipment for short or long-term loan. All at no cost to the care receiver.

*"Like many generations, we won't give up living in our own home to move to institutional care without a fight. We want to keep our independence. And we don't want to drain our savings to afford assisted-living arrangements. We want to "age in place." – Ken Dychtwald, Age Wave, N.Y. Times, Aug., 2019*

ECHHO supports our community in achieving that ambition to "age in place." Our volunteers provide attentive and supportive transportation to hospitals, outpatient surgery centers, medical clinics, cancer and dialysis treatment facilities;

grocery shopping and access to other essential services; and loans of medical equipment for mobility, bathroom and bedroom equipment to assist with daily living, and other items to support people to maintain independent living and better quality of life.

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of ECHHO is to support independent living in our community, by working in partnership with volunteers and community organizations in East Jefferson County, to provide transportation to medical appointments and other essential services, and loans of durable medical equipment, all free of charge.



### To Make a Donation and for More Information

Complete this form, detach and enclose with your check in the enclosed donation envelope.

ECHHO, 1110 Jefferson Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Or Call 360-379-3246 Or Email: info@echhojc.org

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I AM INTERESTED IN (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

BEING A VOLUNTEER  RECEIVING SERVICES  HOW MY GROUP/CLUB CAN HELP

MAKING A DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR DONATING EQUIPMENT \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Equipment





## Chairman's Message

ECHHO is a one-of-a-kind organization – neighbors volunteering to help other neighbors to maintain their quality of life and still have access to the services they need.

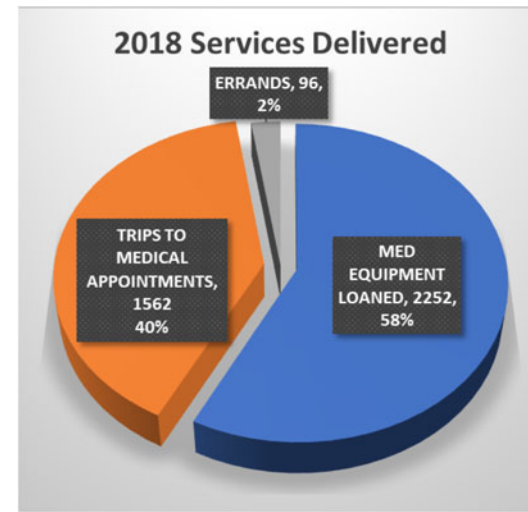
The baby boom generation is now becoming the “Silver Tsunami,” as one writer put it. Our county is one of the most attractive places for retirement relocation on the West Coast. So, it's no wonder our population of older adults – age 60 and above – is growing steadily, year after year.

As we age, more of us need joint replacement surgery, outpatient procedures, treatment for vision loss, help for age-related infirmity, chronic illness, and sadly, treatment for cancer and dialysis. This puts an increasing demand on ECHHO's human and financial resources. We must find additional resources every year to keep our services free of charge and available to all who need us.

We are grateful for the support we receive from local and state agencies who provide funds to help cover our operating costs. And, most importantly, we thank our volunteers who make it possible for us to provide our services without cost to the recipient.

We look forward to continuing our work together in 2019 and beyond, to supporting our residents to live independently, with the transportation and tools to make that possible.

Mark Getzendaner  
Board Chairman, ECHHO



### ECHHO Services delivered in 2018:

- 5400 volunteer hours – up 14% over the previous year
- 1500+ rides for medical purposes – up 25% over the previous year
- Drove over 90,000 miles – up 15% over the previous year
- Loaned 2258 pieces of durable medical equipment .



Katie Habegger, an ECHHO volunteer since February, 2014 receives the 2018 Volunteer of the Year award from Board Chairman, Mark Getzendaner.

## “Why I love being an ECHHO Volunteer”

By Katie Habegger

### ECHHO 2018 Volunteer Driver of the Year

“Recently, one of my ECHHO riders joyfully announced her doctors have declared she is in remission. She attributed a large part of her recovery to the support her ECHHO drivers provided during her lengthy treatment. It made me so proud to have been part of her support system during the most difficult journey of her life. During my working career, I never imagined that I could make such a difference in peoples' lives, but as an ECHHO driver I see it every day. I truly love being an ECHHO volunteer.”

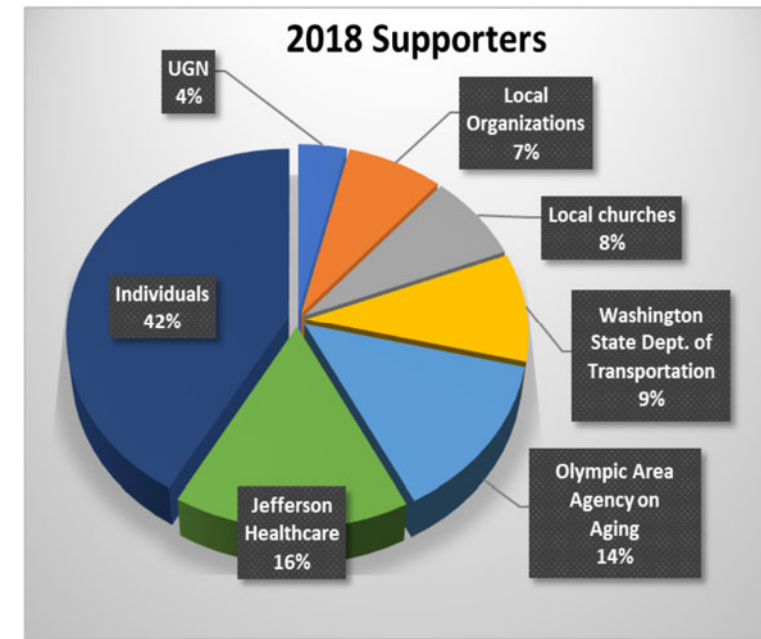
## Notes of Appreciation from our Clients

“My deepest thanks for your wonderful service. As a disabled senior living alone, I have few options for getting to my daily radiation treatments in Poulsbo. ECHHO has literally saved my life!” – Elenor

“For someone living alone, with impaired mobility and a walking stick, the only way to get to these medical appointments is often by very expensive taxi. The bus is a poor option, if one eye is dilated after a laser operation. Yours is a wonderful organization.” – Alan

“We would like to extend to you our utmost appreciation for the use of your equipment. Both of us have had an assortment of joint replacements over the past few years. We wouldn't have gotten through the procedures nearly as well without this wonderful service.” – Marti and Bob

# A Special Thank You to All of Our Supporters!



We are blessed with the support of many people, organizations, and agencies who believe in what we do, and its importance to our community. We are honored that individual donors - many of whom are clients - are the single largest group of supporters for our transportation and equipment lending services (42%).

We also appreciate the support we receive from local churches and civic organizations, as well as Jefferson Healthcare, United Good Neighbors and Jefferson Community Foundation, and some of the medical providers who recognize our role in providing access for their patients.

We are fortunate to receive funding from the Olympic Area Agency on Aging, which distributes federal funds from the Older Americans Act, and the Washington State Department of Transportation, both of which provide much-needed support for our transportation program.



Ann was thankful for ECHHO equipment to help her through hip replacement recovery.

## ECHHO Board of Directors

Mark Getzendaner	Chair	Former insurance business owner
Bill James	Vice Chair	Former business executive
Vic Dirksen	Secretary	Former hospital administrator
Tom Branigan	Board Member	Former public relations professional
Donna Doney	Board Member	Business owner
Dave Stanko	Board Member	Former county sheriff
Charlotte Wells	Board Member	Educator
David Whitney	Board Member	MD, orthopedic surgeon retired
Diane Wilcox	Board Member	Former legal office manager

Director of Operations - Rich Heitmann

Director of Development and Community Relations - Nancy Budd-Garvan