



# 2019 ECHHO Annual Report

Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization

***Helping is our Middle Name!***

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



***ECHHO volunteer John Langdon helps client Pat Norton with regular transportation to her physical therapy appointments. Pat is one of more than a thousand people who depend on ECHHO each year!***

Now in our 23<sup>rd</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 es-

sential 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.

## Chairman's Message



Founded 23 years ago, 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.

ECHHO volunteers are guardians who share a deep desire to help and support others. In spite of the feelings of uncertainty caused by the coronavirus, many of us have still been moved to ask, "What can I do?" We are grateful for their eagerness, as we continue to respond to requests for help while following "best practices" to protect the health of our volunteers and clients.

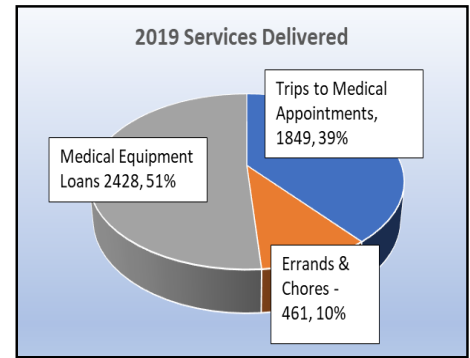
Whether it means bringing groceries and prescriptions to a client, driving patients to needed appointments, free loans of medical equipment like walkers, wheel chairs, commodes, bath seats and more, or making regular wellness check phone calls to the lonely and isolated, ECHHO is here for the most vulnerable in our community. We need to support each other, now more than ever. Just knowing someone cares can make all the difference.

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 much needed support we receive from our neighbors as well as local and state agencies which 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 2020 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 2019 vs. 2018

- 5599 volunteer hours – up 4.2% over the previous year!
- 1849 rides for medical purposes – up 20% over the previous year!
- Drove over 90,774 miles – almost 1,000 miles more than previous year!
- Loaned 2419 pieces of durable medical equipment— up 7.1% over previous year!

### Congratulations Ron Winger! ECHHO 2019 Volunteer Driver of the Year

A volunteer for four years, Ron has driven 3336 miles and logged 470 hours of service. He has primarily been bringing food-bank provisions to housebound



clients and calls the experience his "highlight of the week"! He has developed wonderful relationships with those he helps and is loved by all.



Ron Winger, an ECHHO volunteer since March, 2016 proudly received the 2019 Volunteer of the Year ECHHO Founders Award presented by Board Chairman, Mark Getzendaner.

## Notes of Appreciation from our Clients

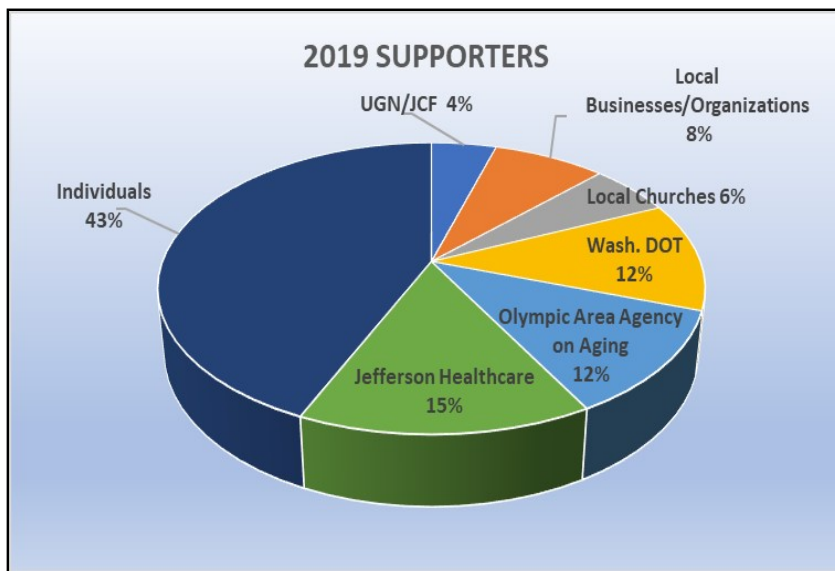
*"The weekly delivery's of my food bank food is literally a Heaven-sent lifesaver for me and my 13 yr old son Aaron. Ron is the most reliable and dependable trustworthy man I think I have ever known. He is also a great positive male role model for my son who is now a teenager and has never had a chance to know a father in his life." - Tawny*

*"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*

*"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 (43%).

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
Hal Henson	Treasurer	Retired
Vic Dirksen	Secretary	Former hospital administrator
Tom Branigan	Board Member	Former public relations professional
Nancy Budd-Garvan	Board Member	Communications Executive
Donna Murphy Doney	Board Member	Business owner
Susan Jacob-Humiston	Board Member	Former business owner
Dave Stanko	Board Member	Former County Sheriff
David Whitney	Board Member	MD, Orthopedic surgeon retired

Director of Operations - Rich Heitmann



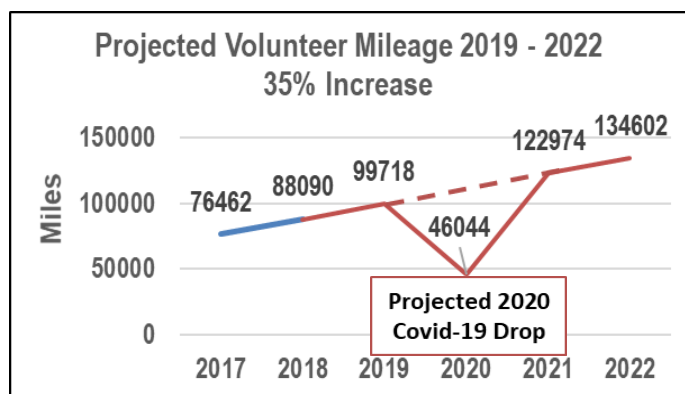
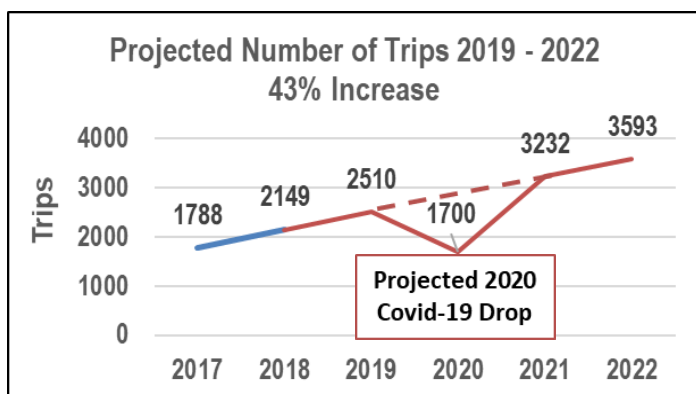
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## Looking Forward - We Need Your Help!

As the County's Senior population continues to grow, the projected need for our transportation and equipment lending services will accelerate. By 2022, the number of trips are projected to grow by 43%! The number of volunteer miles driven is also expected to increase by 35%! That will mean a huge increase in our volunteer mileage reimbursement costs, 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.



*These projections consider the expected impact of the Covid-19 pandemic for the remainder of 2020. We anticipate returning to our exponential growth when the current crisis is brought under control.*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION COMPLETE THIS FORM, DETACH AND MAIL TO:**

**ECHHO, 1110 JEFFERSON STREET, PORT TOWNSEND, WA 98368**

Or Call 360-379-3246 Or EMAIL: [info@echhojc.org](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_