

*Seniors Are  
Helping Seniors  
Stay Connected!*

# SENIOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES

**In this issue:**

- TAXI-UP & GO Project
- Senior Companion Program
- Foster Grandparent Program
- Blazing a Trail Art Exhibition



## TAXI-UP & GO PROJECT

**T**axi-Up & GO ...may sound like a song title in the making and for many Oakland seniors who are monolingual, isolated and have limited access to community resources, it is music to their transportation woes!

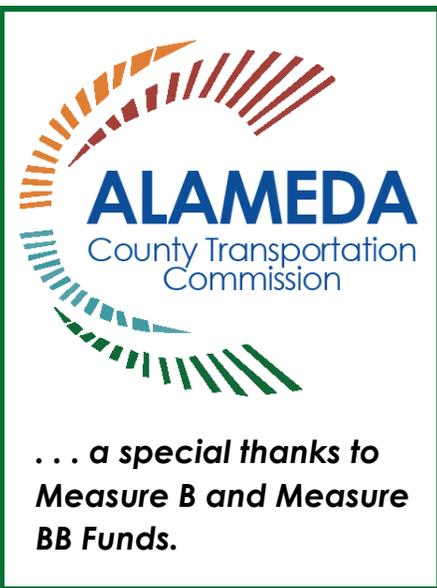
### Another year has ended as we roll forward:

The Taxi-Up & GO Project is an integral part of the City of Oakland's Senior Companion Program. The SCP's TUGO project is in partnership with the

Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly and Disabled (OPED) in which Senior Companion volunteers escort and assist Oakland's frail and elderly residents to medical appointments and group grocery shopping trips.

Volunteers and client caregivers are trained to use taxi-scrip/vouchers. After receiving the initial TUGO training, elderly clients are assigned to SC volunteers who provide them with language appropriate resource information and "companion-ship" assistance. Each SC is

*Continued on page 2*



*Taxi-Up & GO Project escorted assistance . . . arriving at the market.*

## TAXI-UP & GO PROJECT

*Continued from page 1*

supervised by professional staff to assess the needs of clients before they are assigned to volunteers who further assist in the case management process.

Key to the “GO” in the TUGO Project is the coordination of bringing together all of the volunteer factors including: community-based station supervisors, volunteers and care-givers to train, schedule and access taxi-assisted transportation for clients age 55 and above.

For many of the TUGO clients, they face the challenge of overcoming the “fear” to use taxicabs as a means of transportation. These fears are lessened with a trained peer or care-giver to escort them and who is culturally sensitive, language appropriate and provides a sense of ‘safety’ and companionship.

Since 2009, the TUGO Project has assisted an average of 300 clients annually, primarily to

access medical taxi transportation and assist in group grocery shopping trips! Senior Companion volunteers often bond with their clients over the many years of service and clients report that if it were not for their volunteer’s assistance, they may not have maintained their medical appointments and or have known about other community resources. These and many other acclamations of what it means to have volunteer ‘assistance’ resulted in providing alternatives to access and expand the transportation supports for elderly residents.

Oakland senior residents further report that with taxi assistance, they ‘feel’ they have some semblance of living and being an integral part of the community while aging in place.

### **Way to go Taxi-Up & GO Project! TELL A FRIEND!**

The TUGO Project is funded by the Alameda County Commission on Transportation (ACTC) Measure B-GAP Funds and



*... getting out to shop.*

Measure BB Funds the City of Oakland and the Corporation for National and Community Services.

For further information and applications for the next TUGO training class call main line: **510-238-3080**.

## SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

### **Who are Senior Companions?**

**S**enior Companions are healthy older adults who help other adults in need live as independently as possible in their respective communities.

Senior Companions provide support to family caregivers. They assist with the placement of resources, connecting seniors to services, grocery shopping, escorting

and “helping” with other daily tasks necessary to maintain independence.

Without the help of Senior Companions, many older adults would not be able to continue to live independently and would need more expensive and less personal care.

### **Senior Companions receive:**

- Pre-service orientations and monthly training;



*... Seniors helping seniors*

*Continued on page 3*

## SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

*Continued from page 2*

- Supplemental Insurance;
- Annual recognition event;
- A small contribution towards meals and transportation when funds are available;
- A small stipend for those who qualify;
- The joy of knowing you're making a difference for the frail and socially isolated senior.

### Senior Companions

- Are over 55 years of age;
- Can volunteer an average of 15 -20 hours per week;

- Have a limited income; and
- Love children/youth and seniors!

Are YOU the senior that will make a difference? Become a Senior Volunteer Today!

### Program Staff

- Volunteer placements/training:  
**Liz Hillen (510) 238-3620**
- Time sheet entries:  
**Greg Choe (510) 238-3080**
- Taxi Up & GO/Taxi Scrip:  
**April Haley (510) 238-3175** or  
**June David (510) 238-2208**

- Reception:  
**Lana Fisher (510) 238-3080**
  - Program Operation:  
**Andrea Turner (510) 238-2987**
- FAX: 238-7207**



## FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

### What is a Foster Grandparent?

**F**oster Grandparents are older adults who offer love, wisdom, and support to children. They assist children and youth in schools, Head Start, day care centers, and elementary schools.

Foster Grandparents even the odds for children and youth who have special needs. They help children gain the confidence they need

so that they may grow to reach their maximum potential! Foster Grandparents receive training in tutoring, mentoring and storytelling.

If you earn a limited income they

may qualify to receive a small non-taxable stipend in exchange for their volunteer work.

They must be 55 and over and willing to volunteer 15-20 hours per week



*... we're still celebrating our volunteers.*



Foster Grandparent Volunteers "Mentees" on Display  
Volunteers Mentor and Assist in the Following Activities: Art, Reading, Writing, Hi-Tech, Play, Fun, Friends and Care

Top: Ethel Parks-FGP Volunteer & Mentee Art Work

Bottom: Kyrha Dahan-FGP Volunteer and Mentee Group



## Blazing a Trail Art Exhibit 2016

The Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents partnered with the African American Quilters of Oakland, the Oakland Art Association and our clients and staff to exhibit in the “Annual Older American Month Exhibit”.

The richness of the art exhibitors provided the community with a sense of being connected to generations of cultural experiences. The diversity of our communities was truly represented in

their works of art displayed in this year’s theme: “Blazing A Trail” Art Exhibition.



Senior Companion Client: Home is where the Heart is . . .



ASSETS staff art piece

SCP/FGP IS PART OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE, NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORP.  
TAXI UP & GO IS FUNDED BY THE ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
ALL PROGRAMS ARE SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF OAKLAND



**SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM**  
**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM**  
**TAXI UP & GO PROGRAM**  
Human Services Department  
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4340

