

# *Saving Lives by Providing Rides*

Last year Med-Ride received a call from an existing client with no Medicaid or automobile, living in Christiansburg, Virginia. The client was requesting transportation after being discharged from Carilion. Typically Med-Ride calls are not accepted on the weekends but after hearing the frantic message, the Med-Ride Coordinator began calling volunteers.

After only one call a Med-Ride volunteer was scheduled to pick up the client, a testament to the dedicated volunteers who participate in the Med-Ride Program.

The following week the client contacted Med-Ride with several requests, all surrounding urgent dental appointments and hospital trips for cancer testing.

While on the phone with him the power company came to turn off his electricity. Transportation was also needed to NRV Community Action for rental assistance and energy assistance. He was provided transportation to his various appointments by Med-Ride and transportation was arranged under another program to NRV Community Action. It was a week later that he called and asked if we could provide transportation to Lewis Gale in Salem for daily treatments that extended for eight weeks.

The client, a previous cancer survivor, had part of his esophagus removed and communication was challenging during the treatment process. Med-Ride Volunteers generously accepted the assignment of one or two days per week to transport the client to his treatments during the duration.

After completing several of his scheduled cancer treatments Med-Ride volunteers in coordination with his cancer treatments began providing the client transportation to his many dental appointments in Salem, Virginia to remove all of his teeth.

Med-Ride volunteers were instrumental in providing reliable transportation to the lifesaving treatments and for the relief of severe dental pain brought about by his medical treatments.

The Med-Ride Program utilizes available volunteers to transport clients in the New River Valley. This service is available to those who have no transportation or cannot afford public transportation. There is no age limit and the program operates in the counties of Pulaski, Giles, Montgomery, Floyd, and the City of Radford.

**Donations like yours help Med-Ride and other United Way partner agencies do meaningful, life-changing work around the New River Valley. Without the help of Med-Ride, many people wouldn't have access to the crucial medical care they need. When you give to United Way, you ensure that people in our community have access to these life saving rides!**



For more information on Med-Ride, visit <http://nrvss.org/pages/MedRide.htm>