



ACCA and Shepherd's Center of Springfield/Annandale To Offer Combined Transportation Program

Beginning May 1, the ACCA Transportation Ministry, which offers rides to medical appointments using volunteer drivers, will join with the transportation program offered by the Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield (SCAS). The combined Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield/Annandale Christian Community for Action Transportation Program will offer rides to medical facilities. SCAS also provides rides to grocery stores, food banks, and banking facilities to clients over age 50 on weekends. ACCA will continue to offer volunteer drivers for clients under age 50 who are referred to ACCA for medical appointments.

"Combining our operations lets ACCA take advantage of the Shepherd's Center's efficient and user-friendly software for ride scheduling," said Gail Coleman. Ms. Coleman chairs the ACCA Transportation Committee, which coordinates with the SCAS in administering the combined program. "We are extremely grateful to Madeline Crytzer of St. Michael's and Ray Henlein of St. Alban's who have managed the ACCA Transportation Program until now and to the participating churches and their volunteers," Ms. Coleman said.

The Shepherd's Center will provide free training to all ACCA volunteer drivers on RideScheduler, an Internet-based software program used to match riders with volunteer drivers. ACCA clients will call the Shepherd's Center to schedule a ride. Drivers will ordinarily be contacted via email about available rides and will sign up online for client trips as their schedules permit. Drivers who do not use email may also be contacted by telephone. No fixed time commitment is required.

Eleven ACCA churches currently participate in the Transportation Ministry. "All of our current clients will continue to be served, and I am hopeful ACCA's volunteer drivers will sign up to volunteer with the combined SCAS/ACCA program," said Ms. Coleman.

Barbara Gatorian, Office Director of SCAS said, "We welcome this affiliation with ACCA, which has a long tradition of providing volunteer drivers to those who cannot drive themselves to medical appointments." For more information about the program or about becoming a volunteer driver, call Gail Coleman at (703) 354-0656, email gv.coleman@verizon.net, or call the Shepherd's Center at (703) 941-1419 or email shepherdscas@vacoxmail.com.

[ACCA](#) is a church-related voluntary organization that provides childcare, food, rental assistance, furniture, transportation and other services to low-income families in the Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads area, regardless of religion, race or ethnic background. What counts most in ACCA is serving those in need.

The [Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield](#) is non-profit interfaith organization sponsored by area congregations and community groups to serve seniors 50 and older in the Annandale and Springfield areas of Northern Virginia. Since 2004, the SCAS has been providing programs for enrichment, socialization and learning for senior adults.