FACT, NCTD Donate 12 Vehicles to Communities

In April 2010 FACT donated a dozen wheelchair accessible small buses to local non-profit and governmental agencies. The vehicles were formerly owned and operated by North County Transit District (NCTD). The donated vehicles will enhance service for seniors, individuals with disabilities and local communities.

Recipients were randomly chosen at the April 14th FACT Board of Directors’ Meeting. The winners were: Chabad of Poway, Rancho Bernardo Senior Center, Boys & Girls Club of Oceanside, City Link Foundation, TERI Inc., North County Solutions for Change, Ramona Unified School District, Boys & Girls Club of San Dieguito, Green Oak Ranch Ministries Inc., Bread of Life Inc., North County Lifeline Inc., and From The Inside Out Inc.

Vehicle Recipients Share Stories...

Vehicle recipients attended the FACT May 12th Board of Directors meeting and shared their stories and plans for the donated vehicles.

Green Oak Ranch Ministries (Carl Fielstra, Chairman)
Green Oak Ranch has been a Vista residential drug and alcohol faith-based program for 60 years. The program serves approximately 60-70 women and men in residence at one time. “This bus will be extraordinarily helpful in transporting clients to medical appointments and job searches. During the summer, we hold camps for foster children and this bus will make it possible to go to off-site field trips. We are very grateful and are getting ready to paint and make our bus outrageously gorgeous. Thank you so very much!”

Bread of Life Rescue Mission (Steve Bassett)
“I can’t say how exuberant our ministry is to receive this bus.” The winter Oceanside shelter does not have showers and the donated bus will provide transportation to breakfast and showers. Also the bus will offer rides to the VA and to mental health appointments in San Diego. “I want to thank FACT and all the organizations involved and all our partners here. I see all these faces of people I’ve been involved with and it’s exciting to have a community in North County San Diego that is an icon in downtown San Diego for what we’re doing. We’re on the threshold of being a model for the County and I’m excited to be a part of that.”

From The Inside Out (Priscilla Steiner, Director)
“It’s a dream we’ve had for many years to have a bus to take our kids on different field trips and we are really grateful.” The bus will provide transportation to after-school programs and for volunteer opportunities. “Everyone is completely excited. Thank you so much.”

More agency stories on back...
Boys & Girls Club of San Dieguito (Robo Feldman, Managing Director)
Boys & Girls Club of San Dieguito serves approximately 6,000 kids annually through athletic programs, after-school programs and camps. “This bus will help us greatly on a daily basis getting the kids back and forth.” We have 5 or 6 branches and all the branches have after school programs. “This bus will be moving all day long going from school to school with its driver getting them to their specific branches where they need to be. The kids will be so excited, in the past some have had to stay behind because we didn’t have enough transportation vehicles. We are just so happy and thankful that we were awarded this big bus.”

TERI, Inc. (Rich Engbretson, Director of Transportation)
TERI serves adults with disabilities through two day programs, two non-public schools and group homes. It is so important to have an effective transportation program, especially backup when a bus is down. The new bus will help add security to the TERI transportation program.

North County Solutions for Change (Antonia Peterson, Outreach Coordinator)
North County Solutions for Change is about permanently solving family homelessness for kids and communities. There are over 50 families, parents and kids. The donated bus is the first vehicle they have owned. It will provide transportation between the agency’s “Intake & Assessment” location and the “Transitional Housing” location. The new bus will also provide rides to special events. “This bus is a blessing for the families. I thank you FACT Board and NCTD for choosing us and being part of the change for solving family homelessness.”

North County Lifeline (Donald Stump, Executive Director)
North County Lifeline is a regional, multi-service organization. Primarily N.C. Lifeline provides an ‘at school’ program for juvenile offenders as well as family programs such as emergency assistance, family self-sufficiency and a homeless shelter. N.C. Lifeline’s community-based program just recently provided tax assistance for over 1,000 clients. Also N.C. Lifeline has a mediation program that works with the courts and the fair-housing program throughout North County.

North County Lifeline will use their donated vehicle throughout these programs. The youth and after-school programs will be able to take field trips; currently the agency resorts to renting vans and buses. In the juvenile offender program they will take field trips to places like the juvenile prison and the Museum of Tolerance. The family programs will use the vehicle to transport to universities, job fairs and educational workshops. “This bus will be a great thing for the agency.”

Photo on cover page—Board Meeting Participants Stand Next to Donated Bus Awarded to Boys & Girls Club of San Dieguito
First Row—left to right: Steve Basset (Bread of Life, Inc.), Priscilla Alvarez (From The Inside Out), Carl Fielstra (Green Oak Ranch Ministries, Inc.), Mac McGee (FACT Technical Advisory Committee), Brett Wilson (San Dieguito Boys & Girls Club), Merit Whitney (Ramona Unified School District), Teresa Barth (FACT Board Member), Susan Hafner (FACT Board Member), Robo Feldman (San Dieguito Boys & Girls Club), LaVonna Connelly (FACT Board Member), Antonia Peterson (North County Solutions for Change), Alane Haynes (FACT Technical Advisory Committee), Bob Campbell (FACT Board Member), Brent Boyd (MTS), Arun Prem (FACT Executive Director).

Second Row—left to right: Donald Stump (North County Lifeline), Phil Monroe (FACT Chairman), Dan Levy (SANDAG), Rich Engbretson (TERI, Inc.)

Please join us for the next CAM meeting:
Wednesday, September 15th
10:00am - 12:00pm
CalTrans Bldg.
4050 Taylor St., S.D. 92110
For more information please call 760.643.4081

The Vision of FACT is that all people living in San Diego County will have full mobility through an accessible transportation system that meets their needs.