

OUR MISSION

Wilson Rides aims to enhance the quality of life and foster a connected community for adults 55+ in Wilson County, TN by providing safe, affordable transportation to local destinations.

OUR VISION

Adults 55+ in Wilson County, TN have access to affordable and reliable transportation that appropriately supports their needs.



A WILSON RIDES STORY THAT SAYS IT BEST

Just before the recent ice storm, we had a situation that really shows what our work looks like in real life.

We serve a husband and wife here in Wilson County. The husband goes to dialysis weekly in Lebanon, and like many of our riders, they rely on us because they don't have transportation and are living on a limited income.

Right before the recent ice storm, the husband was admitted to Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital and then transferred downtown to Vanderbilt University Medical Center. They left home quickly with just a few days' worth of clothes and medication.

What was expected to be a short stay turned into ten days. During that time, the wife needed her own medications, clean clothes, and a way to go back and forth between Lebanon and Nashville. They didn't have the resources to manage that on their own. Because of the relationships we've built in this community, we were able to step in beyond transportation:

- We worked with case managers to ensure medications were delivered
- We coordinated getting clothes washed and returned
- We helped secure food vouchers while they were at the hospital
- We connected with nonprofit partners who were already making visits downtown so they weren't alone

They made it home, back to Lebanon, just before the ice storm hit. And then came the next challenge: dialysis doesn't stop for weather.

At Wilson Rides, we have an Inclement Weather Policy that we activated immediately. When our volunteer drivers and staff are unable to safely operate, our plan is to coordinate with local emergency partners including police, fire, and emergency management to ensure critical medical trips still happen.

Because of prior preparation, we already had names, addresses, and contact information ready to go. We were able to quickly connect with the Wilson County Emergency Management Agency to arrange transportation for his dialysis appointment. In other parts of the county, the Mt. Juliet Fire Department assisted dialysis patients when no other options were available.

We also use this same process when clients are dealing with unsafe conditions at home such as storm damage, unstable ramps, or difficulty safely getting in and out of their homes.

In addition, Wilson Rides is part of Wilson County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), which means we already know who to call, how to coordinate, and how to respond quickly when situations like this arise.

This is what Wilson Rides looks like at its best. It's not just about getting someone from point A to point B. It's about preparation, partnerships, and a community that shows up, especially when it matters most.

wilsonridesinc.org
615-622-5557



We Drive. You Ride. ★★★★★

THE BIGGER PICTURE – WILSON RIDES COMMUNITY IMPACT

With the support of WEHF, Wilson Rides has been able to expand and strengthen services that are essential for adults 55+ in Wilson County.

In 2025 alone:



- 5,113 trips provided to local destinations
- 2,986 ride requests fulfilled
- 71,726 volunteer miles driven
- 159 individuals served, with an average of 67 riders each month
- 91 active volunteer drivers, contributing over 4,300 hours of service

Trip purposes reflect real-life needs:

- 61% medical appointments
- 17% social engagement (reducing isolation)
- 10% personal care (haircuts, etc.)
- 8% grocery shopping
- 4% essential errands



Beyond transportation, our holistic approach extends into:

OUR SERVICES



Holiday Happiness Delivered:

Through partnerships with local service organizations, schools, and churches, we delivered over 725 Easter Bags in April 2026 to adults 55+ across Wilson County. We will serve a similar number through our Christmas Angel Tree program, ensuring hundreds of individuals feel remembered, valued, and connected during the holidays.

Community Health & Engagement:

We actively participated in the Walk Across Wilson community walking challenge, engaging our riders, volunteers, staff, and even residents in assisted living communities. It was a fun and meaningful way to promote movement, connection, and overall wellness across the county. And we WON!



Medical Equipment Support

In partnership with local organizations and Daisy's Donations, we help collect, refurbish, repair, and redistribute medical equipment, free of charge to those in need. Most recently, we delivered 60 walkers to Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital for patients who are uninsured or underinsured, helping ensure they leave the hospital safely. We also work with local assisted living communities to provide equipment they may need.

Luncheons & Social Connection:

Our events are designed to bring people together. Each year, we host a Volunteer Appreciation/Easter Luncheon (April) and a Friendsgiving celebration (Nov), typically serving a combination of 50+ riders and 50+ volunteer drivers at each event. These gatherings are about more than a meal, they create connection, community, and joy.





Food Box Delivery Program:

We deliver food boxes not only to our riders, but also to local help centers and churches serving grandparents raising grandchildren, senior centers, and partner nonprofits who serve adults 55+ across Wilson County. This allows us to extend our reach and ensure resources are shared where they are needed most.

Centurions :

We also take pride in celebrating the people in our community. From helping identify and recognize centenarians to making sure milestones and life moments don't go unnoticed, we believe honoring longevity and life stories is just as important as meeting daily needs.



WHAT MAKES THIS WORK UNIQUE

Having West End Home Foundation as a partner has allowed Wilson Rides to do more than just provide rides, it has allowed us to truly build community around the people we serve.

Because of their support, we've been able to expand the types of rides we offer and strengthen the staffing needed to support a growing demand, including a waiting list of individuals who are looking for help right now. It also allows us to invest in the "extras" that make a real difference like our rider and driver luncheons and social gatherings, which create connection, reduce isolation, and give people something to look forward to.

What makes this unique is that our model is volunteer-driven and relationship-based. We're not just filling a transportation gap, we're bridging a much larger gap around connection, dignity, and quality of life for adults 55+.

West End Home Foundation's vision of helping older adults stay engaged and connected in their communities aligns directly with what we see every day. Their support allows us to stay focused on serving people in a way that is personal, local, and meaningful while continuing to grow responsibly and meet the needs of our community.

Simply put, their partnership allows us to do this work the right way, not just efficiently, but compassionately.

