



**Winter 2024**

## **2024 by the Numbers** **From Director Nick Cecconi**

As the end of the year approaches, let's take a look back at the Getthere year (so far) by the numbers interspersed with seasonal trivia.

- 1- Peak position of Band Aid's "Do They Know It's Christmas?" in the U.K. The song only reached number 13 on the Billboard Hot 100.
- 2- Getthere staff members hired in 2024. Gianna Vallone joined in March and Stephanie Button returned to Getthere from down South in July.
- 3- People that drove the Getthere van in 2024. Getthere used the van to help people get to appointments and deliver food boxes from local pantries. Getthere was especially lucky to have Lani Kosick Ames perform her doctoral studies practicum with Rural Health Network and Getthere, helping deliver hundreds of food boxes to people in need.
- 4- Members of the genus *Streptopelia* commonly referred to as turtle doves.
- 9- Total number of Getthere program employees.
- 10- Pumpkins carved at Getthere's annual Halloween get together.
- 13- Years since Getthere began operating its call center. Getthere started in 2011, originally running the call center with two AmeriCorps members and zero full-time staff out of the United Way building in Vestal.
- 14- Unique individuals provided travel training during calendar year 2024. Getthere closed out its travel training grant from the New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities earlier this year, which it used to create a new travel training curriculum and web-based travel training support application.
- 31- Millions of dollars *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* made during its opening weekend in 1992. This was the largest November opening weekend box office haul ever until 1994's *Interview with the Vampire*.
- 43- Consecutive weeks Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas" topped the Billboard Holiday 100 chart between 2015 and 2023. The song was streamed 23.7 million times on Christmas last year. Brenda Lee and her "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" ended Carey's reign on December 9th, 2023.
- 54- Years that the *Charlie Brown Christmas Special* aired consecutively on broadcast television. The program debuted on CBS in 1965 and ran for 35 years before moving to ABC and running for another 19. It has "been available" to stream on Apple TV+ since 2020.
- 102- Individuals receiving short-term transportation assistance via Getthere's Transportation to Employment Program. Since 2018, Getthere has helped 692 individuals with transportation assistance to support their quest for long-term employment.
- 210- Years since H. Wadsworth of Birmingham published lyrics to the traditional English folk carol "The Holly and the Ivy" in 1814.
- 293.5- Average number of case assistances provided per month by Getthere Mobility and Transportation Advocates. With just under a month remaining in the year, Getthere has assisted on 3,228 total mobility cases.
- 553- Unique individuals provided financial assistance through the Connection to Care program since January 1, 2024.
- 770- Average number of miles traveled by Delaware County recipients of

Connection to Care assistance. CTC is especially critical in Delaware County where distances to health-related services are greater than in neighboring counties and transportation is commensurately more expensive.

- 4,438- Total origin to destination trips made possible by Getthere Connection to Care funding.
- 8,634- Inbound calls answered by Getthere staff, which equates to 35.8 calls answered per work day.
- 110,520- Miles facilitated by Connection to Care funding in 2024. To compare, two moons of Jupiter orbit closer to the planet's surface than this.



## **HELP WANTED**

**Getthere is looking for  
dedicated volunteer drivers to help  
people get to medical  
appointments.**

**Volunteer drivers are reimbursed  
for mileage. If you can help, call  
1-855-373-4040**

## **Overview of Travel Training** **Travel Trainer Coordinator Julie Feheley**

Travel training is designed to teach individuals, especially those with disabilities or other specific needs, how to navigate public transportation systems safely and independently. It involves personalized instruction on how to read schedules, use bus routes, and understand safety protocols. The goal of travel training is to build confidence and enhance mobility, empowering individuals to gain greater independence and access to opportunities. It can include both classroom-based learning and real-life practice, helping trainees become familiar with different types of transport, including buses and taxis. Travel training ultimately fosters greater community inclusion by enabling participants to travel confidently to work, school, appointments, and social activities. If you would like to learn more about Travel Training call Julie at 1-855-373-4040 or click the button below.

**CLICK HERE to refer someone for Travel Training  
Referral**

***Meet the Team at***



**Getthere is lucky to have a team of hardworking, compassionate problem solvers that are dedicated to helping our clients and program partners navigate transportation resources safely and independently.**



**Getthere Director  
Nick Ceconi**



**Assistant Director  
Megan Blenis**



**Transportation to  
Employment Coordinator  
Stan Varghese**



**Travel Trainer Coordinator  
Julie Feheley**



**Mobility and Transportation  
Advocate II Catrina Baez**



**Mobility and Transportation  
Advocate II Roz DeRensis**



**Mobility and Transportation  
Advocate Maggie McGoff**



**Mobility and Transportation  
Advocate Gianna Vallone**



**Mobility and Transportation  
Advocate Stephanie Button**

## **Getthere works with local employees to maintain jobs** by Transportation to Employment Coordinator Stan Varghese

The Transportation to Employment Program (TEP) often receives referrals from clients who hear about our services. An important part of our program is working with other human service agencies, workforce development, and staffing agencies who refer clients to our program.

A local staffing agency in Broome County referred a client to TEP who was starting work at a plastics company. The local bus schedule and this client's work schedule aligned and TEP was able to give them bus passes in order to get to work. Three months later, this client was still working at the company and had met their TEP goal of completion of at least 90 days of employment.

Another example of TEP working with community partners was when a human service agency in Tioga County referred a client to our program who was living at a homeless shelter and was going to begin work as a maintenance worker at a local business. This client did not have a vehicle, so TEP was able to provide cab trips short-term in order for them to have time to find a carpool with their co-workers. Three months later, during our 90 day follow up, this client was still successfully employed and had met the goal of completion of 90 days of employment.

Working with community partners and being able to assist their employees with transportation to work is a positive experience for everyone involved. Witnessing clients that we have helped with transportation assistance be able to achieve employment is a great feeling. Knowing that TEP is able to help those in our communities who need temporary help when they begin a new job is a great achievement.

**[Click HERE to refer someone to Getthere's Transportation to Employment Program!](#)**



### **Getthere Holiday Wishlist**

- **[Foldable rolling grocery carts](#)**
- **[Zippered grocery bags](#)**
- **[Car door handle assist bars](#)**
- **[Rotating seat cushions](#)**
- **[Bus pass donations](#)**
- **[Fuel card donations](#)**
- **[Hand sanitizer](#)**
- **[Monetary donations](#)**
- **[More Volunteer Drivers](#)**

**If you would like to donate contact us at  
1-855-373-4040.**

### **MTA ARTICLE**

**by Gianna Vallone Mobility and Transportation Advocate**

Getthere received a request from the Broome County Office of Aging and Meals on Wheels to assist with transportation for a rural elderly person located in Windsor in need of weekly delivery. Getthere was happy to assist. Working collaboratively led to helping an elderly neighbor receive nutritious foods weekly. It is a rewarding feeling knowing that together we can make a difference in our communities!

If you need assistance with setting up transportation, please contact the Getthere call center at (855) 373-4040, Monday through Friday from 7 am to 5:30 pm, and speak with a Mobility & Transportation Advocate.

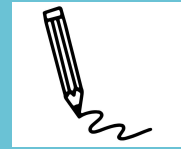
### **What folks are saying about Getthere:**



*"Thank you for the fuel card that helped me get to  
my specialist appointment"  
Broome County client*



*"Thank you Getthere for your help!"  
Chenango County client*



*"We received a fuel card from Getthere for a family member to take me to my appointment about 41 miles away from my home, THANKS!"  
Delaware County client*

*"Very appreciative of the  
fuel card assistance and Getthere!"  
Otsego County client*



*"Getthere fuel cards were very helpful so  
my family can bring me to my dialysis  
appointments"  
Tioga County client*

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**Are You Interested in Mobility Management?**  
If so, consider joining the  
Getthere Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Meeting .  
Email Megan at [mblenis@rhnscny.org](mailto:mblenis@rhnscny.org) for details.  
Our next meeting is Thursday, December 19th at 12noon.

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## **Getthere Contact Information**

**Getthere Call Center: (855) 373-4040**  
Monday through Friday from 7am until 5:30pm

Getthere Website: <https://gettherescny.org>

Getthere Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/GetthereMM/>

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You can help people your community by donating to help us provide  
transportation solutions to residents of  
*Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga counties*  
to get to healthcare appointments,  
health related services and employment.  
Make a contribution here:

**Support Getthere Programs Now**

Rural Health Network of SCNY, Inc. | 455 Court Street | Binghamton, NY 13904 US

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