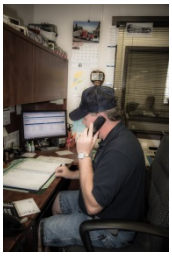
A Partnership Works and a Community Benefits

In the years that Laura Ward has been the director of the Randolph County Senior Center, she has had to think creatively to develop and maintain programs useful and engaging to seniors. The most recent results of this kind of thinking can be seen in the partnership developed to meet the needs of seniors and boost ridership activity for Country Road Transit.



In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, Laura along with Allen Cook, the director of the Upshur County Senior Center began working on a plan. With funding support from the Buckhannon City Council and the Upshur County Commission, which allowed for a federal match, a thumbs-up from both Board of Directors, and inclusive conversations with seniors, Laura designed and established a route for van service seven times a day. The result: After its first full year, ridership increased 265%, senior ridership increased 1,077% and non-senior, non-disabled ridership increased 75%. Now, not only is ridership up, but seniors have access to transportation which offers them a larger radius of travel.

"Budgets are tight and these kinds of partnerships along with other smaller partnerships we've had in the past are beneficial to everyone," said Ward. "Where possible, partnerships are the way to go to help us make sure we are able to provide vital services to our citizens."

Congratulations to everyone involved. You truly put West Virginia Seniors First!

www.randolphcountyseniorcenter.com

www.countryroadstransit.com

www.upwvsc.org/2001.html

Photos: Smoke & Mirrors Gallery and Studio