

# EMPLOYEE VAN POOL PROGRAM

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## 30TH ANNIVERSARY

In August 2008, The University of Iowa Employee Van Pool Program began its 30th year of operation. The program began with four vans and 48 employees in 1978 and has grown to 85 vans and over 870 employees. We attribute our success over the years to our participants and our ability to provide low cost convenient transportation.

In 1978, vanpools across the nation were forming in response to the energy crisis. The University of Iowa was no exception as the Parking & Transportation Department began the program with four vans; one each from Kalona, Lone Tree, West Branch and Williamsburg. Today, those four vans are still in operation along with 81 other

vans. The vans serve 34 communities and a variety of work hours including third shift (5pm–1:30am).

Vanpooling continues to help reduce energy consumption as well as reduce traffic congestion and parking demand. In FY2008, the Van Pool Program traveled a combined 1,198,424 miles and used 84,934 gallons of fuel to transport over 850 employees daily to and from work. If all of the van pool members had drove themselves instead, they would have traveled over 9 million extra miles and used over 360,000 extra gallons of fuel. With gas prices hovering around \$3.00/gallon, the Van Pool Program saved its members collectively over 1million dollars in fuel costs in FY2008.



maxi-van & mini-van

We are very proud of the Van Pool Program and its members. Throughout the years, the program has provided an economical way for University employees to get to work. Our successful longevity would not have been possible without our drivers and members; for without their dedication, willingness and effort, we would not be celebrating 30 years of pooling.

Thank you to all of our drivers and members for 30 great years!

## MEMBERS' STORIES

We asked our members to submit vanpooling related stories to feature in this anniversary publication. Here are a few we received.

### Great driver—

"I have been on the West Liberty van since 1982 and

have seen many drivers come and go. The driver we have now, Tom Shady, is one of the BEST! He is very considerate of all his passengers. I can count on a ride to work because it is rare if Tom doesn't go because of the weather, and I feel safe

riding with him. This past snowy winter, he even helped shovel his van passengers out of the parking lot when we got home. These are just a few of the reasons that Tom is a great driver." - Janet Ervin  
(continued on back)

### Changes Over the Years

- Started with 12 passenger vans; now have 15 passenger vans and mini-vans
- Center aisle seating
- Stability control system
- 3 point safety belts
- Pre-tax payroll deduction of fees
- Night vans
- Emergency Ride Home Program

# THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

## VP Communities

	1978	1988	1998	2008
<b>President</b>	Jimmy Carter	Ronald Reagan	Bill Clinton	George W Bush
<b>Vice President</b>	Walter Mondale	George Bush	Al Gore	Richard Cheney
<b>Song of the Year</b>	Just the Way You Are— Billy Joel	Don't Worry, Be Happy— Bobby McFerrin	My Heart Will Go On— Celine Dion	Rehab— Amy Winehouse (07 Grammy)
<b>Best Motion Picture</b>	The Deer Hunter	Rain Man	Shakespeare In Love	No Country For Old Men (07 Oscars)
<b>Top TV Show</b>	Laverne & Shirley	Roseanne	E.R.	Lost
<b>Best TV Drama</b>	Lou Grant	L.A. Law	The Practice	The Sopranos (07 Emmy)
<b>Best TV Comedy</b>	Taxi	Cheers	Ally McBeal	'30 Rock (07 Emmy)
<b>Cost of 1st Class Stamp</b>	\$.15	\$.25	\$.32	\$.41
<b>Cost of Gallon of Gas</b>	\$.63	\$1.08	\$1.06	\$3.47 (Sept. 08 average)
<b>#vans/#members</b>	4/48	31/440	46/650	85/877

Data from www.(year)flashback.com and www.iowastategasprices.com

Ainsworth

Amana

Anamosa

Cedar Rapids

Clarence

Columbus Jct

Conesville

Davenport

Durant

Homestead

Kalona

Keota

Lone Tree

Marengo

Marion

Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Vernon

North English

Olds

Oxford

Parnell

Riverside

Shueyville

Solon

Swisher

Tiffin

Tipton

Washington

Wayland

Wellman

West Branch

West Liberty

Williamsburg

Wilton

## MEMBERS' STORIES CONTINUED

### UIHC 1st 10hr/day van—

"With staffs need for economical transportation and UIHC's commitment to provide alternatives for their employees, (a Marion/Cedar Rapids van) started on Aug. 1, 2007 with 7 members from Marion/Cedar Rapids. Organizing and recruiting for this new idea by members who were given the opportunity to work a 4—10hr day schedule and opening the opportunity to all staff with the help of the transportation department has resulted in a very successful and cost effective way to work. (The Marion/Cedar Rapids van) not only encourages other staff to look outside the box and pool with others to start their own van, we are also proud to be the first 10-hour van at UIHC." - Pam Squires

### A more interesting commute—

"I have been driving the Wilton van since April 2000. To make the drive a bit more interesting on I80, I decided to keep track of the various state license plates I saw on the journey to and from work. In 2007, after six months of looking, I finally saw the last state I needed to complete seeing the 50 states—Rhode Island. Now I'm working on the Canadian provinces. There are only 13 but so far I've seen 3. This may be an even longer search."  
- Dave Myers



30

Years!

1978-2008

