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## **Heineberg Community Senior Center Introduces Burlington's First Senior Transportation Program**

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**August 10, 2021, Burlington, VT** – Heineberg Community Senior Center (HCSC) announces Burlington's first Senior Transportation Program, filling a vital gap in physical, social, and emotional services for our community's aging adults. Essential support for this program came from Age Well and Burlington's CORE Adult Center. Together, the three organizations will launch the program with a celebratory ribbon cutting, Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

Through this new Senior Transportation Program, Heineberg Community Senior Center and the CORE Adult Center will offer Burlington community members age 60+ safe, reliable handicap accessible transportation for a variety of weekly shopping trips, all-inclusive day trips, and for the first time, a "Senior Center Loop" connecting the two senior centers and aging adults in every part of Burlington.

"We have received requests for rides to our Center, shopping, and day trips for years," shared Heineberg Community Senior Center's Executive Director, Beth Hammond. "Unfortunately, the cost of purchasing and maintaining a handicap accessible bus had been cost-prohibitive, causing far too many aging adults to remain home, risking isolation, missed doctor's appointments, and food insecurity. Now, with the support from Age Well and Burlington's CORE Adult Center, we are thrilled to connect and serve our community in this valuable new way."

Jane Catton, CEO at Age Well stated, "We couldn't be more delighted to support the efforts of Heineberg Community Senior Center through this financial contribution, as they continue to grow and develop their transportation program. As the Area Agency on Aging supporting the Chittenden County service area, our goal is to concentrate resources in order to develop greater capacity and foster the development and implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated system to serve older individuals. The team at Heineberg Community Senior Center does just that, and has shown such growth in their capacity to help older adults. The new bus, and their vision for transportation, will only benefit the many they serve and we are honored to have been able to contribute to their mission to do so, in collaboration and partnership."

The **Heineberg Community Senior Center**, established in 1971, is an independent, non-profit center open to the public. Our mission is to promote social, physical, and emotional well-being to over 650 community members age 50+. We offer programs, events, meals, and activities for participants to learn new skills and to take a proactive role in their quality of life.

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