

## Here We Grow Again!

Helping Hands, Orillia is excited to introduce the newest addition to our fleet! We were funded by the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (NSM LHIN) recently to purchase a new multi-purpose van with hydraulic lift. This vehicle is now on the road, serving clients in our community.

Why are we so excited? This van can accommodate up to seven walk-on clients or 2 to 3 wheelchair clients or any combination thereof, simultaneously. This will give Helping Hands greater capacity and



versatility to meet our clients' changing needs. This van is equipped with an auto-floor track system which gives us the ability to configure different seating plans. The hydraulic lift will provide Helping Hands with the ability to safely and effectively load clients whose weight and mobility device restrictions may have been a challenge in the past, with our existing fleet capacity.

Lisa Mossman, Coordinator of Transportation states, "Transportation needs in our community are evolving. Having the versatility to serve clients with greater needs is critical to Helping Hands' mandate to

empower clients' abilities to live independently and maintain their quality of life. Ensuring clients have access to transportation is crucial to that independence." Lisa recognizes that this investment will play a big role in ensuring our organization can meet the future needs of our community, supporting important stakeholders in healthcare such as OSMH and Couchiching Family Health Team. "Transportation has been identified as a key enabler to the healthcare system, by providing timely discharges from hospital and ensuring clients can get to their appointments affordably and safely."

Additionally, this important service supports many of the community programs that Helping Hands provides, such as the expanded Transitional Bed Program, Meals on Wheels and Supportive Housing in Orillia and Coldwater. Due to the fact that Helping Hands relies heavily on volunteers to provide transportation services, we are able to offer highly subsidized rates for those members of our community, who cannot afford private sector alternatives or whose mobility needs exceed conventional alternatives. As an example, our in-town rates for anywhere in Orillia are just \$5.00 per ride.

We are excited about the potential this new vehicle brings to our organization and the clients we serve. **We are honored to be entrusted to provide this important service to our clients, transporting them to their medical and dialysis appointments, adult day programs and social events, shopping and fun!**

For further information on these services, please visit our website at [www.helpinghandsorillia.ca](http://www.helpinghandsorillia.ca) or contact:

**Lisa Mossman, Coordinator of Transportation**  
**705-325-4299 Ext. 249**