FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER HOSTS 2nd ANNUAL “TOAST TO TRANSIT” FUNDRAISER FOR KENDALL AREA TRANSIT

KENDALL COUNTY, IL – On October 10, 2013, the VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER (VAC) held its annual Kendall County fundraiser, the “Toast to Transit” at Oswego’s Fox Valley Winery in support of the community transportation program KENDALL AREA TRANSIT (KAT).

The evening saluted the program’s growth and success of providing transportation services to Kendall County residents, especially senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Paul LaLonde, Program Director of KAT, emphasized that “our mission is one of offering a freedom and peace of mind to those who otherwise may not have a ride to the doctor, work, or grocery store.”

Tom Zucker, Executive Director of VAC, delivered an important message: “There are many people in Kendall County that need the transportation services KAT provides, and I believe that is evident in how quickly the program has grown in the short time it’s been operating.” Mr. Zucker went on to emphasize that “it’s important to remember that KAT is an avenue for seniors, the disabled, and other residents without vehicle access to live an independent lifestyle. KAT helps people remain active members of the community.”

Sponsors of the “Toast to Transit” fundraiser were The Record Newspapers, Valley West Community Hospital, Kendall Printing of Yorkville, Hillside Helia of Yorkville, the Yorkville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Kendall County Senior Providers, and the Office Works, Inc. of Plano. Through the support of the sponsors, silent auction donators, and the many attendees, the event was a wonderful success, and VAC looks forward to building upon that success for future events.

All proceeds from a “Toast to Transit” will be used to help VAC provide community transportation through the KAT program. Every $100 raised will help provide six (6) rides to community members in need. All donations stay in the community to support local services and will help improve the quality of life in Kendall County.

VAC was incorporated in 1974. The organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. VAC has transit and/or nutrition programs in DeKalb, LaSalle, and Kendall Counties. The KAT program is a general public transportation service for all Kendall County residents but is particularly vital to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Since the KAT program began operations in early 2010, VAC has provided almost 60,000 trips to community members wishing to live a more socially integrated and independent life. In January of 2013, KAT added Park and Ride services in Oswego.

For more information on the “Toast to Transit” event, VAC, or KAT, please contact Paul LaLonde, Program Director, at (630) 882-6970.

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Guests of the “Toast to Transit” fundraiser enjoy each other’s company while sampling some locally crafted wine at the Fox Valley Winery in Oswego.

KAT Program Director Paul LaLonde (middle) speaks with Oswego Village Trustee Gail Johnson (left) and Executive Assistant Linda Ebinger (right) about the quick growth of the KAT system.
Guests gathered at the VAC “Toast to Transit” fundraiser, enjoying the wine tastings, food, live music, and each other’s company, all supporting the cause of KAT community transportation.

VAC Executive Director, Tom Zucker (right), speaks with Bette Schoenholtz (left), Executive Director of Senior Services Associates, Inc.
Local musician, Brian Basilico, provide live entertainment by performing classics from the Beatles, the Eagles, and Crosby, Stills, and Nash.

Guests bid on numerous silent auction baskets, donated by community businesses and individuals, including Tuffy’s Auto, Kay Jewelers, Fox Bend Golf Course, River City Roasters, Dojo Dynamics, Aurora Area Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, and Ellis House Equestrian Center, and Caring Hands Thrift Shop.