

**I CARE, INC**  
Volunteer Drivers for Seniors  
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**History:** In 1997, a task force of concerned citizens met to discuss the lack of affordable transportation for senior citizens. They founded I CARE, INC. in 1998. That year, DeKalb County Human Service Manager Margie C. Holmes commented: “At every public hearing and in two major studies of the needs of the elderly during the last ten years, transportation has emerged as the number one need of senior citizens... I CARE is ingenious and a very important part of the solution.”

**Purpose:** The purpose of the I CARE volunteer program is to provide transportation and companionship for senior citizens of all faiths living in DeKalb County. The program is designed to enhance and promote the quality of life, independence, and dignity of those served. Services are available to those citizens who need more assistance than public transportation can provide.

**Mission Statement:** To serve DeKalb County senior citizens in need of free transportation to medical appointments. Our clients are unable to use other transportation services for financial and medical reasons, and many have no family members in the area to help them. I CARE volunteers use their own vehicles and set their own schedules. Each volunteer also provides caring companionship, usually waiting at the medical office for the client, then driving him or her safely home.

**Clients:** DeKalb County residents, 55 years or older, are eligible. The service is free: however donations are accepted. Clients need to call us at least one week in advance of their appointment to request a ride, and should schedule their appointments between the hours of 10AM and 2PM whenever possible. Clients are asked to bring cash to pay for parking fees. We regret that we are unable to accommodate wheelchairs.

**Volunteers:** I Care’s dedicated volunteers use their own vehicles to transport these senior citizens. They set their own schedules, with some driving as often as once per week, while others drive once per month. Our office emails volunteers in advance with a proposed driving assignment. Volunteers decide to accept or decline drives based on their own schedules.