

Release Date: February 12, 2009
For immediate release

\$1 Million Committed to Senior Transportation ***Beverly Foundation Award Program significantly expanded***

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—The Board of Trustees of the Beverly Foundation today announced a five-year goal of \$1 million in awards to services and programs that provide transportation to older adults. STAR Awards for Excellence will be given to innovative and cutting-edge senior transportation programs. Matching/Mentor Awards will be presented to long-time managers of senior transportation services.

“Needs for transportation by older adults who no longer drive are increasing dramatically at a time when state and local budgets are seriously threatened,” said Don Pearson, Chairman of the Board of the Beverly Foundation. “Our goal is to help communities and transportation managers meet this critical transportation challenge.”

The Foundation funds the STAR Awards for Excellence in conjunction with its STAR Search Survey of Supplemental Transportation Programs (STP) for seniors. The nationwide survey was first undertaken in 2000, has continued annually since that time, and has gathered data on 830 STPs from 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Beverly Foundation’s Matching/Mentor Awards Program was initiated in 2008. Its purpose is to build capacity in the field of senior transportation by transferring the wisdom and experience of seasoned senior transportation managers to the next generation who will assume responsibility for carrying the senior transportation agenda forward.

The Beverly Foundation Board of Trustees expanded its award program to celebrate success and nurture innovative endeavors and new ideas—which, taken together, will contribute positively to the growth and expansion of transportation services for older adults.

Information about the application process for both the STAR and Matching/Mentor Awards will be available in March 2009 on the Foundation’s Web site.

About the Beverly Foundation

The Beverly Foundation, headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a non-profit operating foundation that undertakes research, demonstration, and assistance to encourage and facilitate mobility and transportation for older adults. The Foundation is a co-sponsor of *The STP Exchange*, a Web-based resource for peer-to-peer communication and networking among organizations and programs that provide transportation for older adults. Membership is free and open to professionals, providers, and community groups.

Helen K. Kerschner, Ph.D. is President and CEO of the Beverly Foundation and serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. For more information about the STAR and Matching/Mentor Awards Programs and to learn about STPs please visit www.beverlyfoundation.org.

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