



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **GLOUCESTER COUNTY SHUTTLE CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY WITH FREE RIDES**

"The need for this service was real, and our residents and employers are benefitting." Freeholder Director Robert M. Damminger is speaking about the Pureland East-West Community Shuttle, which is celebrating its one year anniversary on June 1. The shuttle, led by the United Way of Gloucester County and supported by the South Jersey Transportation Authority, Heart of South Jersey, the County of Gloucester, NJ Transit and Cross County Transportation Management Association, is funded by a grant from the Pascale Sykes Foundation after a Gloucester County study identified transportation as a roadblock to success for residents.

To celebrate the one year anniversary, all riders will receive one free trip on June 1. Those riders will also receive a free one-way coupon to give to a friend so loyal riders can share the experience with others. Michael Gower, Executive Director of the United Way of Gloucester County, is hoping to show even more residents the value of the shuttle. "Since the launch in June 2015, our ridership continues to grow exponentially. Every chance we get to share this service with Gloucester County residents is a chance to highlight the power of the partnerships United Way makes in the community, and the value we bring to residents. We are so grateful to our partners for making this initiative such a success."

Fran Sykes of the Pascale Sykes Foundation thinks the first year of the shuttle has been a great achievement, stating, "The Pascale Sykes Foundation is proud to partner on the Pureland East-West Shuttle. The shuttle provides transportation for anyone and everyone. It runs from the Avondale Park and Ride through Rowan University to Pureland, making it convenient for anyone going to work, to school, medical appointments, to visit relatives or just to ride and enjoy the scenery." She is proud of the literature provided on the shuttles for riders, containing everything from recipes to information about community services. It's also only one dollar per ride, making it affordable for all. "Try the shuttle. It's a great experience."

Other shuttle partners shared their positive thoughts on the success of the initiative.

Stephen F. Dougherty, Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation Authority said, "We're happy to announce that as we approach our one-year anniversary, the Pureland East-West Community Shuttle

continues to grow, with ridership tripling from our first month of operation in June 2015 to more than 2,100 riders in April 2016."

Paul Blackstock of The Heart of South Jersey makes it a point to find out how the shuttle is impacting the community. "As a member of the collaboration, I make an effort to ride the shuttle on a regular basis to speak with the riders that utilize the service. Those that I spoke with had high praise for the service and the drivers. Many simply use the service to get to their place of employment which several have stated that they would not be able to do without the shuttle."

Warren Strumpfer, a community volunteer and frequent rider of the shuttle, can't speak highly enough of the service, and particularly of the care of the drivers. "The South Jersey Transportation Authority shuttle management and drivers truly fulfill the slogan "Excellence in Transportation" that's on the side of their vehicles. It's apparent that the drivers frequently communicate with management to continue to improve the quality of service. These drivers really add value to the riders. It's truly a great service."

### **About Pureland East-West Shuttle:**

The Pureland East-West Shuttle launched in June 2015. The route takes riders from the Avondale Park and Ride in Sicklerville to the Pureland Complex in Logan Township, with stops in Williamstown, Glassboro, Mullica Hill and Swedesboro.

As part of this initiative an internal shuttle is available for those who are traveling into the Pureland Industrial Complex for work. This circulator bridges the gap from the end of the run to the local businesses.

The Pureland East-West Shuttle operates Monday thru Friday from 5:00 am to 7:30 pm and connects with 11 NJ Transit Bus Routes to provide more than 125 possible connections. The shuttle's low fare, \$1.00 per trip, and reciprocal transfer agreement with NJ Transit, makes the Pureland East-West Community Shuttle an economical and easy way to travel throughout Gloucester County and southern New Jersey.

For more information, visit: <http://www.driveless.com/PurelandEastWestShuttle.html>