



This is one of two new vans placed into service by HealthCo, Inc. to increase transportation service. The new ten-passenger vans are equipped with wheel chair lifts, and each vehicle can carry two wheel chair clients at a time.

(Staff Photo)

## Transportation Capability Is Doubled By Agency

HealthCo, Inc. in Soul City has doubled its transportation service. The major reason for the service expansion, which became effective May 21, was to make it easier for patients to visit the regional community health center, according to Phillip L. Williams, executive director.

The current transportation plan provides separate coverage once a week for three general areas in Warren County and covers Vance County the other two days. The new plan will provide coverage for the same three general areas of Warren County, only the service will be there twice a week each instead of just once.

This adjustment will allow patients more flexibility if they use the HealthCo transportation service. It will give them another day to schedule a visit, and it will open more seats for other people wishing to take advantage of the service. Coverage for Vance County will increase from two days a week to four days a week.

The new transportation plan was structured to enable the center to pick up individual patients on a limited same-day basis.

Because HealthCo is one of the few agencies with the capability to transport wheel chair clients, it plans efforts to accommodate others in the area. The program hopes to make this service available to as wide a range of people as possible. Those requiring wheel chairs for mobility will find the service especially useful.

The recent delivery of two new ten-passenger vehicles equipped with wheel chair lifts is one big reason the center was able to increase transportation services.

The vehicles were obtained through a program administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and funded in part by the Urban Mass Transportation Section of the U. S. Department of Transportation. The State and HealthCo each provided ten percent of the total cost, with the remaining 80 percent coming from the federal government. The total acquisition cost was \$40,000 for the two-vehicle package.

Each vehicle can carry two wheel chair clients at a time. A wheel chair occupies two passenger seats, so with both wheel chair slots in use, the vehicle will carry six walk-on passengers, and with one wheel chair slot in use, the vehicle will carry eight walk-on passengers.

Each vehicle is equipped with a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, air conditioning and seat belts. The vehicles are also equipped with built-in steps for walk-on passengers and the ceilings are high enough to accommodate the tallest patients, for the maximum in safety, comfort, and con-

venience.

The following transportation service plan now in effect for HealthCo patients indicates that patient pickup time will vary based on the number of persons requiring transportation and their locations. The normal arrival times for patients are 9 a. m. and 12:30 p. m., except on Wednesday, when the arrival times are 11 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. The plan describes the following pickup points.

Monday morning — Vance County and Henderson. Afternoon — Hecks Grove, Lickskillet, Inez, Arcola, Grove Hill, Largo and Warrenton.

Tuesday morning — Oine, Manson, Drewry and Warrenton. Afternoon — Vance County and Henderson.

Wednesday morning — Macon, Littleton, Wise, Churchill, Eaton's Ferry, Norlina and Warrenton. Afternoon — Oine, Manson, Drewry and Warrenton.

Thursday morning — Vance County and Henderson. Afternoon — Macon, Littleton, Wise, Churchill, Eaton's Ferry, Norlina and Warrenton.

Friday morning — Hecks Grove, Lickskillet, Inez, Arcola, Grove Hill, Largo and Warrenton. Afternoon — Vance County and Henderson.

Individuals or organizations may contact Ms. Deborah C. Davis at 456-2181 or 492-7768 for more information, or may write to HealthCo, Inc., P. O. Box 425, Soul City, N. C. 27553.

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