

Care Car drivers needed

MILLERTON — The North East Community Center (NECC) is seeking new volunteer drivers for its Care Car Service, which aids local residents in need of transportation to medical, social-service and other essential appointments.

Care Car drivers use either NECC's vehicles or — thanks to a recent grant from the Foundation for Community Health — drive their own cars.

"The demand for Care Car trips is growing, and we need more vehicles and drivers," said Jennie Poidomani, coordinator of the Care Car program. "The new grant will make it possible for us to take on volunteers who want to drive their own cars, because we'll be able to reimburse them for mileage." Reimbursement is set at 50 cents per mile, up to 120 miles per week.

Why become a Care Car volunteer? "Drivers perform a very valuable service for residents here, especially given our lack

of public transportation," said Poidomani. "Our clients often have no other way to get to the doctor's office or the hospital for medical care."

Most trips are local, for example, to Sharon Hospital or Hudson River Healthcare in Amenia. The Care Car also takes clients to regional medical centers in Poughkeepsie, Hartford, Torrington and other cities, as long as a volunteer is willing to make the trip. Volunteers drive according to their own schedules, as often as they wish and as far as they want to go.

To become an NECC Care Car volunteer, you must be at least 21 years of age, complete an application and have a clean driving record. Volunteers who drive their own cars must also have a reliable, well-maintained car.

Interested in becoming a volunteer driver? Call Poidomani at 518-789-4259 or e-mail info@neccmillerton.org.