

## Support helps defray cut in state funding for New Canaan's Getabout

Getabout, the van-based transportation service for New Canaan's senior and special needs residents, has announced that it has received a major grant from the First County Bank Foundation. The amount totals \$5,000.

"We welcome this wonderful donation from First County Bank Foundation — increasing its annual generosity — particularly because it comes at a time when the State has reduced its funding for Getabout and other local transport organizations," said Getabout Board President Bob Witt of the grant. "Getabout would be unable to serve New Canaan without the great support of local residents and organizations and we are delighted to again have First County as a benefactor of our much-needed service."

The Getabout learned last month that, due to Connecticut's budget difficulties, the State has reduced its annual support of Getabout's free Medi-Rides service to neighboring towns, by a total of some \$5,800.

"The First County Bank Foundation is proud to support the vital mission of Getabout, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of all New Canaan residents," said New Canaan branch manager, Michael Victor, who has worked closely with the Getabout team.

"We continue to be impressed with their commitment and hard work," said Reyno A. Giallongo, Jr., president of the bank.

Created to distribute funds to nonprofit organizations supporting community and economic development for children and families, the First County Bank Foundation is marking its 10th anniversary and the bank's 160 years of service. First County Bank, headquartered in Stamford, is an independent mutual community bank with 15 branches in New Canaan, Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, Norwalk, and Westport, offering deposit products, mortgages, trust and investment services, business banking services, and online banking.

Getabout is a public-private partnership providing local transportation to New Canaan's seniors and other special needs residents, on a day-in-advance reservation basis. With a fleet of two wheelchair-accessible multi-passenger vans and two mini-vans, Getabout provides more than 10,000 individual rides to local residents annually, at a flat one-way suggested fee of \$3 within New Canaan. Although partially funded by the Town of New Canaan, Getabout, a 501C charitable organization, relies primarily on private contributions to subsidize the difference between its \$3 rate and the actual \$16 cost of each ride—costs that have spiked sharply due to higher gasoline prices.

Getabout also offers no-cost non-emergency medical rides, with 24-hour advance reservations, to medical offices in New Canaan and the adjacent towns of Darien, Norwalk, Stamford and Wilton. Transportation is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information and reservations are available at 203-972-RIDE (203-972-7433).