



June 2018

Journeys

A Newsletter of Travelers Aid International

MEMBER NEWS

Wilkes-Barre's CEO Begins Uber Pilot

Beginning in July, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.-based [Commission on Economic Opportunity](#) will begin a pilot program to use Uber to transport families to its food pantries.

The one-year pilot project will begin with four food pantries with an objective to provide services to a minimum of 100 families over the first three month period. In the 2018 Community Needs Assessment conducted by CEO, 37 percent of respondents cited that transportation was the primary obstacle to obtain healthy and nutritious food for children and families.

Using special Uber software, an agency employee will be able to control all the rides. The agency will be able to dispatch Uber drivers to pick up approved clients and request a return ride home. A client does not need a smartphone to use the service. Uber is waiving its 10 percent administrative fee that is normally charged to use their business platform.

CEO's research found that the Uber ride fee will be \$14.50 versus \$24 per taxi ride.

Travelers Aid Arrives in Hartford

Travelers Aid International has won a contract to provide information services at [Bradley International Airport](#), outside Hartford, Conn. Travelers Aid will manage an existing volunteer Ambassador program that operates one information booth. There are currently 50 volunteers at the airport.

During a summer transition period, Travelers Aid will work with the current program manager, RSVP Connecticut. Experienced Travelers Aid program managers will assess the operation and it is hoped a local program manager will be in place in September.

Under the scope of the contract, Travelers Aid will expand the hours of operation, increase the availability and visibility of the Ambassador volunteers and recruit additional volunteers.

Bradley will be the fifth airport program directly operated by Travelers Aid International. The other four include JFK, Newark, Reagan and Dulles. With the addition of Bradley, there are now 18 U.S. airports in the Travelers Aid network.

Daystar Life to Break Ground on New Home

On Aug. 4, [Daystar Life Center](#) will begin construction on a new \$2.3 million building in St. Petersburg's Midtown area. The building is expected to be completed the following fall. The new Midtown building will be 10,000 square feet, more than twice that of the current center, which will remain open downtown.

A \$1 million donation from Kevin and Jeanne Milkey is funding the bulk of the project. Kevin Milkey is a Daystar board member.

Phoenix St. Vincent de Paul Opens New Facility

The [St. Vincent de Paul Society](#) in Phoenix opened a new 40,000-square-foot building on its main downtown campus in May. The building houses a new family resource center, expanded shelter for the elderly and disabled, and homeless services. The facility is part of a \$16 million capital project, completely funded by private donors and foundations. In addition to the new building, the project includes the recently opened Rob and Melani Walton Urban Farm and upcoming expansion of the Virginia G. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic.

OUR NEWS

2018 Conference "Best Ever"

The 2018 Travelers Aid International Annual Conference held earlier this month in Chicago drew more than 100 attendees. Post conference surveys gave the event the best marks in the last five years. One long-time attendee noted "this one is the best."

The conference staged in conjunction with Heartland Alliance and Travelers Aid/Chicago featured 19 educational sessions along three tracts: Leadership, Social Services and Transportation. There were 15 member agencies attended, including [Families Forward Philadelphia](#) for the first time in recent years. A former member, [Primavera Foundation](#) of Tucson, also attended as a guest. A number of Heartland Alliance employees also attended the conference.

Next year, Community Link will host the June event in Charlotte. Dates and hotel information should be announced in the late fall.

The conference presentations are available on our website, <https://www.travelersaid.org/2018-agenda>.

MILESTONES

New Hires, Promotions and Honors

Family Aid Boston - Long-time President Richard Ring is retiring this week. He joined the agency in 1995 and he had been working with Boston's homeless community since 1970. A search committee has not announced Rich's successor

HOPE Atlanta - Executive Director Ed Powers has announced his intent to retire at the end of the year. He joined what was then Travelers Aid of Atlanta in 1994. A search firm has been retained to find Ed's successor.

Travelers Aid of the Inland Empire - Therese Andrews, executive director of the Travelers Aid agency at Ontario International Airport, will retire this week. She led her agency for the last 9 years.

Travelers Aid/Dulles Airport - Two promotions were recently made at Dulles International Airport. Erin Lewis, the assistant program manager, was promoted to fill the empty program manager position. Volunteer Coordinator Peter Lauten was promoted to fill Erin's former position.

[The digital Travelers Aid International Membership Directory has been updated on our website.](#)

FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

July 9, Baltimore Catholic Charities, Golf tournament, Chartwell Country Club. [Learn more.](#)

July 12, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Ella Bing Anniversary Fundraiser at Epicurean Hotel. [Learn more.](#)

July 20, Family Guidance Center, 24th Annual Gold Rush Gala at RSA Activity Center. [Learn more.](#)

July 23, Upward Transitions, Kendra Gives Back Party, Kendra Scott Classen Curve. [Learn More.](#)

Aug. 11, Halifax Urban Ministries, Golfn' 4 Homeless Prevention. [Learn more.](#)

Sept. 8, Baltimore Catholic Charities, 11th Annual Biennial Dragon Boat Races, Rash Field, Baltimore's Inner Harbor. [Learn more.](#)

Sept. 8, Family Guidance Center, 5K/10K Walk/Run at The Shoppes at East Chase. [Learn more.](#)

Sept. 8, St. Vincent de Paul Marin County, Pennies from Heaven annual fundraising dinner with auction. [Learn more.](#)

Sept. 14, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Beer & Bow Ties at Orio. [Learn more.](#)

TAI HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Dave Asselin, President/CEO

dave@travelersaid.org

202-546-1127 ext. 101

Andrea Itkin, Senior Director, Transportation Programs

andrea@travelersaid.org

202-546-1127 ext. 103

David North, Director, Social Services Programs

dnorth@travelersaid.org

202-546-1127 ext. 104

Thomas J. Smith, Director, Communications & Development

tom@travelersaid.org

202-546-1127 ext. 102

STAY CONNECTED:

