

Press Release



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OATS, Inc. Celebrates Linn County Driver for 15 Years of Service

(St. Joseph, Missouri, June 3, 2010) – In June of 1995 Gayla Ross decided she was ready for a change. After 17 years of working in a pharmaceutical department, she was in search of something that would offer some variety and get her out amongst people. She answered a newspaper ad for drivers with OATS, Inc. and has never regretted the decision.

Gayla has enjoyed her position as a driver for OATS for the past fifteen years, due in part to her love of working with people. As a driver for Linn County, Gayla provides general transportation, delivering people to doctor appointments, taking them shopping and assisting them with other errands. She is pleased to help people who need transportation assistance.



When asked what she likes about OATS, Gayla says they are a really good company to work for. She feels they provide quality training and do a good job keeping staff updated. She also enjoys the people she works with and describes the team of drivers as “one big family”.

In her spare time, Gayla takes pleasure in an interesting hobby. For about three years, she has been making paper beads. Sometimes she makes the beads into necklaces for her grandchildren, but often she simply enjoys the process of creating them. Gayla also loves to read, and relishes any opportunity to spend time with her 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. When asked what she would do if she weren't working for OATS, Gayla replied “I would probably do volunteer work at a hospital or nursing home, because I really enjoy older people.”

Beth Langley, an associate of Gayla's for the past 15 years, describes her as “a great asset to the Northwest Region and the Linn County area” and says that Gayla is “a hard working and dedicated individual who takes wonderful care of her riders”.

For more information about OATS, Inc., please visit their website at www.oatstransit.org or contact Beth Langley, 2921 N. Belt Hwy., St. Joseph, MO 64506, 816-279-3131, blangley@oatstransit.org.

NOTICE TO ALL PRESS AGENCIES: Please do not refer to OATS as “Older Adults Transportation Service” as this is no longer part of the official name. OATS is a public transportation system that is available to everyone, regardless of age, race, gender, color, religion, or national origin, and in fact serves a wide diversity of clientele.

OATS is a private, not-for-profit corporation providing specialized transportation for senior citizens, people with disabilities and the rural general public in 87 Missouri counties. OATS is funded, in part, by an allotment of federal funds from the Missouri Department of Transportation and through contracts with various agencies. OATS also receives rider donations and private contributions, which are tax deductible. OATS is an equal opportunity employer M/F/H/V.

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