

# The DALLAS POST

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"Sponsorships are needed to make this thing work."

Carl Yachim, proponent of RIDE program



FOR THE DALLAS POST/ CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Carl Yachim, Dallas, hopes to start a "free" ride service for the elderly and disabled in the Back Mountain area.

## RIDE wants to take you there - FREE!

By DOTTY MARTIN  
For The Dallas Post

Carl Yachim spent 15 years driving his father wherever he needed to go. Although the elder Yachim was fairly independent, a stroke left him unable to operate a vehicle.

Getting Michael Yachim where he needed - and wanted - to go was left to the younger Yachim, his wife Donna and their two children.

"During that time, I saw a lot of people who were not able to drive themselves where they wanted to go," Yachim said. "And I saw a large population of elderly people."

It was that - elderly people who could not independently get where they wanted to go - that got Yachim thinking. How much more independent would these people be - and feel - if they could just get a ride somewhere?

Thus, RIDE - Reaching Independently Disabled and Elderly - was born. Although not yet operational, RIDE is in the very early stages of becoming a local non-profit agency that will provide free transportation to elderly residents and people with disabilities.

Yachim, of Midland Drive in Dallas, has spent the last several weeks securing and completing documentation from the state to operate a non-profit agency. He will spend the next several weeks attempting to secure sponsorships.

"Sponsorships are needed to make this thing work," said Yachim, who is employed full-time at Keystone Automotive Warehouse. Those sponsorships range from \$500 for a small business to \$1,000 for a corporation.

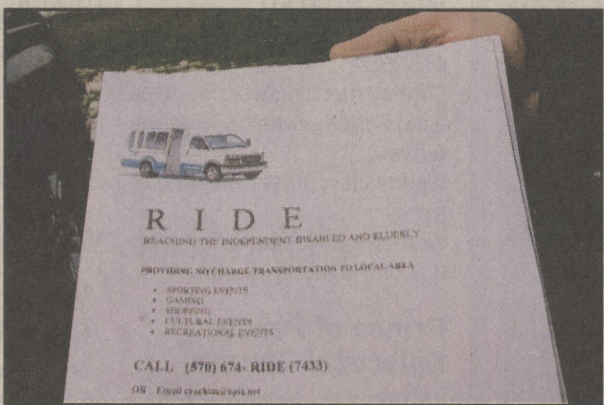
In exchange for monetary donations, sponsors will receive their business logo on vans Yachim hopes to purchase as well as a mention in a monthly newsletter that will be distributed to people who use the RIDE service, to state agencies and to area businesses.

Yachim acknowledges the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Transportation Department that provides transportation to medical appointments but recognizes there are places other than a doctor's office that people would like to go.

"There are a lot of people who can't drive themselves who might like to go to the casino," Yachim said of Mohegan

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Posters such as these have been hung around the Back Mountain area, encouraging businesses and individuals to become sponsors for the soon-to-be-created RIDE program.



## Senator Baker honors Dallas Lifesmarts students



FOR THE DALLAS POST/ JONATHAN J. JUKA

Senator Lisa Baker presents certificates to Lifesmarts students at Dallas High School. From left, are Drew Slocum, Kathy Wega, Katie Gilligan, Nick Hetro, Senator Lisa Baker, Dan Anderson, Amy Scafella, Kevin West.

## Being life smart

Dallas High School students who competed in the state LifeSmarts competition in Harrisburg in February had the opportunity to meet Senator Lisa Baker last Friday. The students were especially thrilled with certificates presented to them by the senator. LifeSmarts is a national competition that challenges the knowledge of high school students in five areas: personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology and consumer rights and responsibilities. After qualifying for the state competition, team captain Amy Scafella, Dan Anderson, Drew Slocum, Katie Gilligan and Nick Hetro won third place, narrowly missing the championship round. The team was coached by Kevin West with assistance from Kathy Wega.



Senator Lisa Baker speaks to Lifesmarts students at Dallas Senior High School.

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## She's played Carnegie Hall at 10

By DOTTY MARTIN  
For The Dallas Post

Although she may not have much to be mad or unhappy about, 10-year-old Nicole Slavoski says playing the piano always makes her happy.

"It just cheers you up," Nicole said of the instrument she's been playing for five years. "If you're unhappy about something, it cheers you up. And, if you're mad or angry, playing the piano makes you happy."

The biggest event of Nicole's piano-playing days occurred on April 7 when she performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

After competing in a recital/tryout at Marywood University in January, Nicole

"It just cheers you up. If you're unhappy about something, it cheers you up. And, if you're mad or angry, playing the piano makes you happy."

Nicole Slavoski  
Piano student

earned the right to perform in an honors recital at Carnegie Hall with 35 other students.

Making the opportunity to visit New York City a family event, the Slavoskis - mom Linda, dad Michael, brother Matthew, sister Lauren and Nicole's piano teacher, Irina Manasyan, and her daughter - piled into a limousine early in the morning and headed to the city for Nicole's 10:30 a.m. appearance.

Playing "Knight Rupert" by Robert Schumann, Nicole ad-

mitted to being "very excited but a little nervous." And, although there were "a lot of people there," she was able to pick out her family members who were seated in the balcony of the hall. Also in the audience that day were her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ferraro of Nanticoke and Mr. and Mrs. John Slavoski of Sugar Notch.

"It was a beautiful day," Linda Slavoski said of the trip. "It was exciting and there was some beautiful music played



Ten-year-old Nicole Slavoski had the opportunity to play the piano at Carnegie Hall in New York City earlier this month.

by the students." Except for two vocalists who were accompanied by their piano teachers, all of the students who performed that day were pianists.

This, however, was not the first time a Slavoski graced the stage at Carnegie Hall.

Twelve-year-old Matthew, who also started playing the piano at age 5, performed there two years ago. Nine-year-old sister Lauren, who has been playing the piano for four years, is already looking

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