



## 15,000<sup>th</sup> Ride Provided in the Souhegan Valley



On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Souhegan Valley Rides (SVR), more commonly known as “The Blue Bus”, provided its 15,000<sup>th</sup> ride. To commemorate this milestone, Milford resident Mike Ploss was honored as the 15,000<sup>th</sup> passenger. Ploss, a regular rider on “The Blue Bus”, has needed to use paratransit services for over eleven years. In talking about the need for everyone to be able to get around, he noted that “Milford is a great town. I’m able to live here because of the bus service.”

Ploss was presented with a gift basket filled with local produce and gift cards donated by Lull Farm of Milford, Shaw’s of Milford, Walmart of Amherst and Longhorn Steakhouse of Amherst. Echoing the sentiments of the entire Souhegan Valley Transportation Board of Directors, Rebecca Crowther said “These businesses are very supportive of our efforts and we really appreciate all their help and interest.”

Souhegan Valley Rides is the regional dial-a-ride bus program that has served the communities of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford since 2008. With steady growth over the past six years, Souhegan Valley Rides recently expanded to Mont Vernon and Wilton. Vehicle and call center operations are subcontracted from the Nashua Transit System. Currently, the bus service is available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm including travel time to and from the Nashua Transit System garage. The focus for this service is on providing curb-to-curb transportation to non-emergency healthcare appointments and assisting those in greatest need – senior citizens, residents living with a disability, and residents who are unable to drive. Other residents may use the service on a space available basis. In addition to healthcare related transportation, rides are available within the six towns and to and from Nashua for access to social service appointments, local senior activity centers, town facilities and libraries, and shopping.

Availability of this regional transportation resource is the result of collaboration between the six participating communities, the Nashua Transit System and the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. Expansion to Mont Vernon and to Wilton was partially funded, respectively, by the Milford Hospital Association, and the Wilton Lions Club and Milford Rotary Club. For more information about the Souhegan Valley Rides bus service, please visit [www.SouheganValleyRides.org](http://www.SouheganValleyRides.org); pick-up a brochure in the participating communities at the local town hall or library; email any questions to [Info@SouheganRides.org](mailto:Info@SouheganRides.org); or call 673-8482 to speak with a SVR volunteer.