

Our Drivers Change Lives ...one ride at a time!

The story of Gisele and Roberto is one example from many that tells how truly vital volunteer drives are in the lives of our seniors.

It began many years ago over a traffic argument on a busy boulevard in Mexico City. Gisele was following Parisian road courtesy rules when merging into a lane of traffic. This did not work for Mexican drivers as Roberto tried to explain. They still laugh over their versions of how they met but this year Gisele and Roberto celebrated 67 years of marriage.

After an active and vibrant life health issues made it necessary to simplify their lives. They downsized from a family home to a condo and minimized their driving to include only important appointments and grocery shopping. When the doctor told Roberto to stop driving, he said it was "his worst punishment". Roberto had been "crazy about driving ever since he was eighteen". He was devastated to lose his freedom and independence. However, knowing it was time for him to give up the keys, Roberto took their doctor's advice to call Saanich Volunteer Services for support.

Roberto and Gisele rave about the drives they have enjoyed over the years. Gisele said when you take a taxi, they often don't talk to you, but every Saanich volunteer driver has gone out of their way to engage with them. "They share their warmth and friendship with us. They are interested in us and we really appreciate that they are always so helpful and polite. We feel like we are connecting heart-to-heart with a friend, and it is wonderful." Roberto shares these sentiments and appreciates the door-to-door service and conversations that give him lasting memories. Both agree that Saanich Volunteer Services volunteers are invaluable. **"There is no price for the warmth we receive."**

Saanich Volunteers Services is proud to be able to offer this service. It is all made possible because our dedicated volunteers know that neighbours helping neighbours is what enhances our lives and community. Isn't it true that from time to time "we all need a little help from our friends?" That is why we are here.

The services we offer would not be possible without the support of our entire community. Like many small volunteer organizations, we depend on the generosity of our neighbours. It is through donations that we can pay for the services we offer.