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**AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE COALITION OF  
LINCOLN AND KNOX COUNTIES  
IDENTIFIES TRANSPORTATION AS A KEY INITIATIVE**

**Damariscotta, Maine – July 3, 2008:** Transportation is identified as a common need and thread weaving through all of the agencies, organizations, businesses and the lives of community members who have become a part of the Aging and Disabilities Resource Coalition of Lincoln and Knox Counties. Although anecdotal evidence suggests that lack of a coordinated transportation system to and from the Damariscotta and Waldoboro service centers and the peninsula communities these towns serve are a barrier to older individuals and those disabilities leaving their homes not only for medical appointments and grocery shopping but also to participate in community, social and cultural events, to go to church, the library or even the beauty parlor, barber or the Y.

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Based on the Coalitions desire to systematically address the perceived issues surrounding consumer transportation in Lincoln and Knox Counties an ADRC Transportation Sub Committee/ Taskforce was convened to brainstorm options and possibilities for creating a model rural transportation network in the Damariscotta and Waldoboro regions. Solid evidence and data are needed document the need for enhanced transportation resources in the area and to support the funding, development and implementation of any rural based model transportation program. The model might include the services of a mobility manager to oversee and coordinate a volunteer driver system. Other possibilities are being researched and explored.

To assist the ADRC's Transportation Taskforce move forward with the Coalitions Transportation Initiative your help and input is needed. To this end a Consumer Transportation Needs Assessment Survey has been developed. The purpose of this survey is to better understand and to assist in the development of a strategy that will meet the current and future transportation needs of people who live in Damariscotta, Newcastle, Nobleboro, Waldoboro and the surrounding peninsula communities. Surveys can be picked up at Spectrum Generations Coastal Community Center in Damariscotta, Town offices, physician's offices, area churches and libraries from July 25 until August 29, 2008 or accessed on-line at: [www.spectrumgenerations.org](http://www.spectrumgenerations.org). Be a part of the solution, please take the time to

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pick-up and complete the Transportation Needs Survey. Completed surveys can be mailed to: Martha Cushing, Coordinator SpectrumLink, PO Box 2589, Augusta, ME or left in the big brown transportation survey envelop at the location where you picked up the survey.

The Aging and Disability Resource Coalition of Lincoln and Knox County was created in order too improve awareness of and access to, long-term supports and resources for older adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers so that people may live as independently as possible for as long as possible. The Coalition meets on a bi-monthly basis to identify and respond to unmet needs of elders and people with disabilities in Knox and Lincoln Counties. The Lincoln and Knox Coalition is supported by SpectrumLink-Aging and Disability Connections a program funded by a Federal Grant awarded to the State of Maine and Spectrum Generations, The Central Maine Area Agency on Aging. The ADRC of Lincoln and Knox County is made up of area Social Service organizations including: The Elder Network; New Hope for Women; Broad Bay Congregational Church; Kno-Wal-Lin; Miles Home Health and Hospice; Coastal Transportation; Healthy Lincoln County; Methodist Home, Spectrum Generations Coastal and Knox Community Centers, Waldoboro Recreation Association, the Ombudsmen's Program, M4A, and other area providers of services for people age 60 and older and Adults 18 or older with a disability or chronic condition.

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For more information about the transportation needs survey or becoming a member of the Aging and Disabilities Resource Coalition of Lincoln and Knox Counties please contact Marsha Cushing, Coordinator, *SpectrumLink* at 1-800-282-0764 extension or [mcushing@spectrumgenerations.org](mailto:mcushing@spectrumgenerations.org).

**### END ###**

**If you'd like more information about the Lincoln and Knox County ADRC, SpectrumLink, the ADRC's transportation initiative, or to schedule an interview with ADRC Coordinator Marsha Cushing please contact Marianne Pinkham at (207) 563-1363 or e-mail Marianne at [mpinkham@seniorspectrum.com](mailto:mpinkham@seniorspectrum.com).**

**The public is invited to call the Agency's Consumer Helpline at 1-800-639-1553 for more details; or to join the Senior Spectrum Volunteer Corps. The agency's website is located at: [www.seniorspectrum.com](http://www.seniorspectrum.com).**