



Our TRANSPORTATION ISOLATES rural Vermonters

My name is Mike. I use a wheel chair, and am an advocate, minister, and expert ham radio operator.

I am a very social person.

I want to meet people and form friendships, but I can't do that when I can't leave my home.

Rural Community Transit has an accessible van I can call, but they're expensive and Medicaid will only pay for the ride if the destination is to see my doctor. There is no other taxi service, and Section 8 limits my choices on where I can live.

Being in a rural community can be isolating for people like me. I have no one to share my day with. I talk to my lovebird, Bacall. She may not "speak people," but she's an excellent listener.

Transportation should not be a luxury for only the rich or well-located, but a public service that every Vermonter, in every town, can access.

Mike Gruteke. 2020. Derby Line, Vermont.



"C'mon, Bacall!

Let's shake things up,

and go to town."



"HELLO, NEIGHBOR."

Stories from real Vermonters brought to you by the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council