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**PRESS RELEASE**

**June 2, 2023**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**APPLE COUNTRY TRANSIT – ONE OF THE SAFEST RIDES IN THE STATE!**

***Radio Copy:***

- We want to give a big shout out and congratulations to the bus drivers at WNCSource Transportation. They just received the 2023 Safety Award from the North Carolina Public Transportation Association.
- WNCSource Transportation operates Apple Country Public Transit. The award is for Public Transit Companies that operate Urban/Regional/Small Urban Fixed Routes that travel under 1 million miles a year who have the safest driving records.
- This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that WNCSource Transportation and Apple Country Transit have earned the designation of being one of the safest transit operators in the state!
- Apple Country Transit operates general public transportation on Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM and provides complementary Paratransit service for the disabled and elderly in Henderson County.
- WNCSource Transportation also offers non-emergency medical transportation, rural shopping routes, and community transportation for the elderly and disabled in Henderson County. Call (828) 698-8571 for one of the safest rides in town!

***Newspaper Copy:***

Each year, the NC Public Transportation Association recognizes public transit operators across the State that demonstrate exceptional commitment to safe transportation. WNCSource Transportation, which operates Apple Country Public Transit, was recently presented the NCPTA 2023 Safety Award for Urban/Regional/Small Urban Fixed Routes under 1 Million Miles.

This is the third year in a row that the Henderson County-based nonprofit transportation service has won the NCPTA Safety award. “Here at Apple Country Transit, we have tried to embrace a culture of safety, training, and exceptional customer service. This award is the culmination of our efforts to provide safe public transportation in our community” said Transportation Director Jeff Roper. All WNCSource Transportation drivers undergo PASS (Passenger Assistance Safety Sensitivity) and Defensive Driving Training. They have annual ride-along evaluations and receive training in assisting disabled passengers, crossing railroad tracks, and handling on-the-road emergencies.

WNCSource Transportation which employs nine drivers and six busses, is contracted by Henderson County to operate Apple Country Transit’s three hourly public transit routes each weekday from 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM and complementary Paratransit Service. In addition, WNCSource Transportation also offers rural routes, Medicaid and Same Day/Next Day medical transportation, shopping/grocery routes, and community transportation for elderly and disabled residents. Call (828) 698-8571 for one of the safest rides in Henderson County!

County Manager John Mitchell said “We applaud WNC Source on winning the 2023 Safety Award, for the third year running. The County is proud to partner with this organization who clearly

demonstrate a commitment to safety and public service in their delivery of safe public transportation to the community.”

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WNCSource is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization based in Hendersonville, NC that assists low income and underserved people in Western North Carolina. Our programs include Children’s Services, Housing, Transportation and Older Adult Services. Working together with our communities and partners, WNCSource improves people’s lives by creating pathways to self-reliance and healthier living. For more information, please contact: Terri Bowman, [Tbowman@wncsource.org](mailto:Tbowman@wncsource.org) or call (828) 693-1711.

Pictures attached to email:



Pictured L-R: Chris Todd, Business and Community Development Director Henderson Co.; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director Henderson Co.; Jeff Roper, WNCSource Transportation Director; Bonnie Wilson, WNCSource Transportation Support Specialist; and Bill Gibbs, WNCSource Maintenance Coordinator

GroupSafetyAward.jpg



Pictured L-R: Chris Todd, Business and Community Development Director Henderson Co.; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director Henderson Co.; Jeff Roper, WNCSource Transportation Director

Safety Three-Peat.jpg