Media Contact:
Karina Zimney, Executive Director
Handi-Wheels Transportation
701-306-8661
karina.zimney@handi-wheels.org

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Handi-Wheels Transportation to Retire After More Than 50 Years of Community Service

Fargo, N.D.: After 51 years of helping people maintain independence and stay connected to their communities, Handi-Wheels Transportation has announced plans to conclude operations and retire its paratransit fleet later this month. The decision follows significant Medicaid policy and reimbursement changes that took effect October 1, 2026, creating challenges for independent medical transportation providers.

Handi-Wheels began in 1975 with a remarkable community effort: neighbors collected more than 1.7 million Betty Crocker coupons to purchase the organization's first wheelchair-accessible vehicle. That grassroots initiative grew into five decades of safe, reliable transportation, providing more than 200,000 rides in the past 16 years alone. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Handi-Wheels has helped people with disabilities, older adults, and residents with low incomes access essential services, maintain independence, and stay connected to their communities.

"While this chapter is coming to an end, we are incredibly proud of what our community built together," said Karina Zimney, Executive Director of Handi-Wheels Transportation. "This organization began with neighbors working together to solve a need, and that spirit of compassion and service never changed. We are deeply grateful to our riders, staff, volunteers, donors, and partners who made this mission possible, and their impact will continue long after our final ride."

Handi-Wheels is working with riders, families, healthcare providers, and community partners to identify alternative transportation resources and minimize disruption to essential services. Final service dates and transition information will be shared directly with riders, families, and care facilities.

As this chapter closes, Handi-Wheels honors a legacy of community generosity that connected generations of riders to care, independence, and one another.

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