

# THE SUN

## Wheels of Hope marks 600th ride

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LAWRENCE — The Merrimack Valley Project recently announced that Wheels of Hope, a regional transportation program that provides free rides to treatment, rehabilitation and recovery centers throughout the state, reached a significant milestone by providing its 600th ride this calendar year.

“The lives of many people of the Merrimack Valley have been devastated by the opioid crisis,” said Amy Tuneburg, a licensed independent social worker who works in the Merrimack Valley. “Transportation to treatment has been a long-standing gap and Wheels of Hope does an excellent job filling that gap. Wheels of Hope now provides essential transportation to folks looking to engage in recovery when they need it and is helping to break down barriers to treatment for those people who are ready.”

Wheels of Hope was originally launched as a six-month pilot service in 2020 as a collaboration between Lawrence-based Merrimack Valley Project, Boston-based Health Resources in Action, which operates the Massachusetts Helpline, and Lowell-based Lucos Transportation to establish a program where individuals without transportation to treatment could call the helpline and arrange for a free, safe and secure ride to a treatment facility that best fit their needs.

To use this free service, call the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline at 800-327-5050. Visit [HelplineMA.org/WheelsofHope](https://HelplineMA.org/WheelsofHope) to learn more.