



## Reality Check

Imagine going into work thinking you'll be working the usual eight hours, only to learn unexpectedly you'll be pulling a double shift. Those eight hours soon turn into sixteen long hours and that still doesn't include the hour commute home. One hour might not seem like a lot, but if you're tired, sleepy and hungry the last thing you want to do is drive.

This story is a reality for Gilbert Valle; CalVans vanpool 342. Valle clocked out that day knowing very well that his vanpool would be gone by the time he reached the parking lot. But he wasn't a bit worried. A few years back, when he was in a carpool, he would've looked through his phone to find someone to get him home; someone who would be willing to go two hours out of their way.

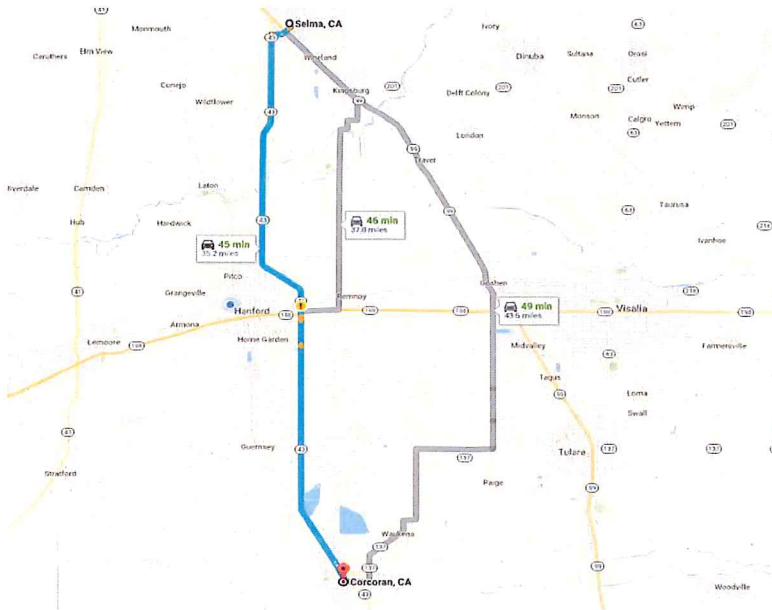
Today, and just like any other day since Valle has been part of a CalVans vanpool, he knows he can count on CalVans on-call staff to pick him up.

"CalVans is an awesome program!" he exclaims. "Today I was left behind and CalVans comes, picks me up and takes me home. I don't have to call my wife; she'd have to drive almost an hour to pick me up."

Valle has been commuting from Selma to Corcoran for more than 18 years; it wasn't until four years ago when he was introduced to CalVans, that he joined a vanpool. He explained that before CalVans he would drive his own car, as gas prices went up he looked for different ways to save money. It was then that he and three of his co-workers started a carpool. Every week they would rotate vehicles in order to save money. Since he's been part of a vanpool, Valle has saved \$500 a month on gas, not to mention vehicle maintenance.

"This company [CalVans] it's worth it. I like it! Our vanpool is a 24-hour vanpool," he mentions "What benefits me is that I get to rest. I work a lot, 16 hour shifts; it's a 45 minute trip so I take a nap."

The vanpool that Valle belongs to is a 24-hour vanpool. This means that his vanpool has three shifts; a morning shift, afternoon shift and night shift. His van commutes an average of 240 miles a day in a seven day work week. It runs about 1,680 miles per week!



Being part of a vanpool has many advantages; it's comfortable, and one gets to relax after a long day's work. The savings are great, with discounts and subsidies offered to each vanpool and individual riders.

Imagine a \$500 per month savings for you! The money saved can be used for vacation, a new house, or even start a new business. Give us a call to find out more at 866-655-5444 or check out our cost calculator at <http://www.calvans.org/why-us/cost-calculators/monthly-van-cost> to see your savings.



## Perfect Match

Norma Sanchez has been part of a vanpool for 11 years, 9 of them as a volunteer driver. Before ever joining a vanpool Norma like many of us would commute in a single passenger car.

After hearing about the benefits of vanpooling she decided to give it a try. She vanpooled for two years before hearing about CalVans. The vanpool group held a meeting to determine if they would stay with the company they were with or switch to CalVans. The decision came down to a couple of choices; comfort and were they willing to continue to pay more for their captain chairs in their current van or sit in bench seats that came standard in a CalVans vehicle? Half of the vanpool joined CalVans with its bench seats and quickly realized they were saving more, and still very comfortable.

This week (Norma) Vanpool 236 welcomed a returning vanpooler. Denise Vasquez, who'd ridden with CalVans in the past, when it was known as KART (Kings County Rural Transit). A change in jobs had forced her to leave the vanpool.

For the past 3 years Denise had been working in Fresno, without access to vanpool. When she heard about a new job opportunity in Downtown Fresno she decided to apply. Denise says that "A huge part of my motivation to apply for the job in Downtown [Fresno] was because I already knew there was a

vanpool going downtown and I said, I'm going to apply and maybe get on that vanpool!" Denise got the job and was a perfect match for the vanpool 236 schedule.

The process is simple, Denise gave us a call letting us know she was interested in joining a vanpool, we put her in touch with the vanpool that best met her needs and the connection was instant!

Norma has had different people join her vanpool and commented that they'd all been good people to vanpool with. Norma says, "I am fortunate to have a good group, they all pitch in \$2 to help pay for my part of the ride." She, like the vanpool riders, appreciates the service and personnel "they are very helpful." Norma doesn't see herself leaving the vanpool life anytime soon, "once you ride in a vanpool, you never want to go back to driving your car!"



Norma Sanchez, CalVans volunteer driver

If you'd like to join a vanpool our staff is ready to help you find your perfect match or you can also start your own vanpool! We're here to guide you every step of the way. . We have a very useful cost calculator at <http://www.calvans.org/why-us/cost-calculators/monthly-van-cost> to help you make the decision. Give us a call at 1-866-655-5444 or visit our website [www.calvans.org](http://www.calvans.org)

## CalVans

### **Driver Appreciation Day and Resource Fair**

April 9, 2017 | 1pm-4pm

King City Town Square

CalVans hosted an event for our volunteer drivers in King City and it's surrounding areas. The event was put on to show our thanks to our CalVans agricultural and farmworker volunteer vanpool drivers and their families. We had several agencies from the area attend the event, there was music, bounce castles for the children, giveaways and food was provided.

With the help of Carmen Mora, the coordinator in the Greenfield area we selected 10 exceptional volunteer drivers, they have either been with the company the longest, maintain a clean van, or turn their payments in on time. We prepared a bag of CalVans merchandise, a certificate and a gift card to give our volunteer drivers. Half of the drivers showed up with their families, that week it rained so a lot of our drivers made up the day lost during the week and worked on Sunday. Our ten exceptional volunteer drivers are:

**Abel Perez Zavila** – Longest time using CalVans (7 years)

**Roberto Silva** – Longest time using CalVans (6 years) & Payments on time

**Leticia Raya Nunez** – Longest time using CalVans (6 years)

**Vicente Hernandez** – Longest time using CalVans (5 years)

**Jaime Perez Aguilar** – Longest time using CalVans (4 years)

**Miguel Lorenzo Hernandez** – Cleanest van & Payment on time

**Florencio Martinez** – Cleanest van & Payments on time

**Socorro Vasquez** – Cleanest van

**Francisco Heredia** – Payments on time

**Francisco Rodrigues** – Payments on time

We had over 100 people attend the event and seven agencies from the area shared information with the attendees. Each agency had about 5 minutes to give a brief description of their agency and the services they provide for the community. It was a very fun and successful event.

Pictures can be found on our Facebook page CalVansAgVanpool and the video of the event can be found on our YouTube channel CalVansVanpooling or on our website [www.calvans.org](http://www.calvans.org) >

<http://www.calvans.org/why-us/video-gallery>

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**Photos**

