



# A DRIVER'S STORY

Public  
**Vanpools**  
Leading  
the **Way**

## DAY OF APPRECIATION

Celebrating 41 years of employment would be one thing, but recognizing 41 years of volunteer work is so much more. That is the amount of years the five Huron vanpool drivers being recognized by CalVans have been driving. They have safely carried their passengers 836,000 miles, providing 249,000 passenger trips while eliminating 9.9 million miles of travel that the passengers would have otherwise made if it had not been for the ability to ride a vanpool.



Left to right: Genoveva Mora, Tomasa Cruz, Carolina Martinez receiving on behalf of Raquel Hernandez, Gavina Ignacio, and Juan Felix.

The drivers don't simply show up to drive. They take on the responsibility of gassing and cleaning the van, as well as waking up before anyone else so that the riders can be picked up in time to be at the jobsite. The jobsite is not a paved parking lot, but a field someplace in the valley. Leaving their home in the dark, they arrive at the field just as the sun comes over the hill to

begin the day's activities. This can range from picking tomatoes, onions and almonds to pruning trees as well as removing weeds from the fields. They start early to avoid the afternoon heat, which can reach 100 degrees in the summer.

When asked why they volunteer to be drivers they give a range of reasons. The primary reason is that it gives them the ability to get to work, this is important, as many in their community do not have reliable transportation that insures they can get to work each day. Without work there is no income. They also appreciate the air conditioning and comfort, and the fact that they have someone to call if they have any issues with their van. Getting to work on a regular basis in a safe and efficient manner insures that they are able to maintain employment.

By becoming approved drivers they are seen as leaders in the community, someone who helps those they transport get to work and maintain a steady income, allowing them to provide for their family and community. **Contact CalVans at 866-655-5444** if you would like to become a driver and start your own vanpool. A regular driver license and a physical is all it takes get started.

