



## News Release

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### **Medical Motor Service of Rochester & Monroe County, Inc. Awarded \$100,000 Grant from Golisano Foundation to Build a Driver Education Initiative**

Rochester, NY – February 13, 2024 – Medical Motor Service of Rochester & Monroe County, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing transportation services to children, adults, and senior citizens with specialized needs, is honored to announce it has received a grant of \$100,000 from the Golisano Foundation to maintain, improve, and expand transportation services by implementing an internal education to certify drivers, replacing vehicles nearing end of life, and upgrading technology. The Golisano Foundation is one of the nation’s largest foundations dedicated to supporting programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

Tim Kohlmeier, Executive Director of Medical Motor Service said, “Medical Motor Service is grateful for the confidence in our operation that this investment represents. MMS is a critical resource to the IDD, and Mobility challenged in the Greater Rochester Community. These funds will go a long way in refreshing and restoring our essential resources - employees and transport vehicles – that make MMS seem like the family we are with our clients.”

Transportation for people with IDD, and those with disabilities in general, has experienced consistent barriers. The US Department of Transportation in 2022 noted “...an estimated 25.5 million Americans experience a travel-limiting disability. Mitigating transportation-related barriers for people with disabilities would enable new employment opportunities for approximately two million people with disabilities and save \$19 billion annually in healthcare expenditures from missed medical appointments alone.”

Erica Dayton, Director of the Golisano Foundation, said, “We commend Medical Motor Service’s extraordinary dedication to providing accessible transportation services for residents across Monroe County. The ability for older individuals, children, and those with disabilities to access essential transportation to health providers and a multitude of other community services, is key to their independence, their health, and quality of life. We are proud to help Medical Motor Services continue to make these outstanding services available to those in need in our community.”

What is today’s Medical Motor Service was first founded by the Public Health Nursing Association during the influenza epidemic. The agency originally relied on volunteer drivers to



transport doctors and nurses to area flu victims. The first full-time driver was hired in 1922, and for many years the agency was totally supported by charitable donations, as there was no government aid for specialized transportation. In 1931, the demand for the small agency's services grew, and it was expanded to serve area hospitals, clinics, and social service agencies. It was at this point that it was formally incorporated as 'Medical Motor Service'. If a member of the public is interested in MMS' transportation services, please call us at 585.654.6030 x 245, email us at [trips@mmsnys.org](mailto:trips@mmsnys.org), or visit our website at [www.mmsnys.org](http://www.mmsnys.org).

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*The Golisano Foundation is one of the largest private foundations in the U.S. dedicated to making the world a better place for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Foundation is devoted to opening doors to opportunity, changing negative perceptions and stereotypes, and forging unprecedented partnerships to ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have pathways to personal dignity, independence, and the best possible expression of their abilities and talents throughout their lifetimes. Founded in 1985 by Tom Golisano—entrepreneur, philanthropist, civic leader, and founder of Paychex, Inc. —the Foundation “imagines the possibilities,” advocating for families, fighting for their dignity, and giving people with IDD the opportunity to thrive in their communities. With more than \$60 million in gross assets, it awards about \$3 million annually to non-profit organizations in Western New York and Southwest Florida.*

*Medical Motor Service of Rochester and Monroe County, Inc. is the only not-for-profit specialized transportation organization in the Greater Rochester Area. Our mission is to provide specialized transportation for community organizations, as well as individuals with disabilities and special needs to improve their independence and quality of life. Our vision is to improve independence and quality of life for everyone regardless of ability.*