

## **SORTS History**

The Southern Oklahoma Rural Transportation Services (SORTS) operated by Big Five Community Services, Inc. began in 1985. Areas served include Bryan, Carter, Coal and Love Counties. The primary goal of the program is to provide access to mobility for those with no way to travel. Over 75% of our riders are transit dependent, having no way to travel to obtain basic necessities. The program has linked people to medical services, shopping, recreation, employment, education, nutrition centers, handicapped workshops, and other human service agencies for needed services. Economic growth for our area is bolstered by bringing shoppers to businesses, creation of job opportunities, and quality of life are all made possible through transportation.

The program is funded in part by a Section 5311 Grant from the Federal Transit Administration passed through the State of Oklahoma's Department of Transportation. The federal funds provide 80% of capital and administrative expenses, and 50% (less fare revenue) for the operational expenses. Cash match must be produced on the local level to qualify for the federal funding. Sources of local match come from city and county entities, United Way, special sales tax revenue in Love County, a Special State Revolving fund made possible through our legislators, and contracts with other social organizations.