



## Over Seven Decades Strong...

### *Nearly half a century in DeKalb County*

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Carole was born in New York City over seven decades ago and moved to DeKalb County in her mid-twenties. Nearly half a century later she can proudly say she's been living here ever since. Recently she's been spending a lot of her time helping out at the Toco Hills Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC). As one of the youngest members of the NORC, she's regularly offering other people rides and helping to bring opportunities to others who can no longer drive their own cars. Transportation is important to her because it comes up so much through her involvement with the facility. She's often reminded that transportation really means independence. People of all ages require regular access to basic destinations such as the supermarket, the dry cleaner, a library, and ice cream shops. We all need access to reliable transportation so we can live decent lives. Seniors especially need access to medical appointments and the pharmacy. "Just as much as that though," Carole says, "people need access to other people. People need opportunities to connect."

As we each grow older, at some point we'll lose the opportunity to drive our own vehicle. This can create extremely tough situations if we're left without other options. "When I was a child, I walked to school," she recalls. "Opportunities to safely live like that are rarer these days." She says she loves living in her part of DeKalb County, but like much of the County, "it would not be easy to live in this area without a car." She's hoping that this transportation plan will address these kinds of issues. She's hoping that the plan can incorporate better access for people of all ages, including those that are too young or too old to drive. She's interested in improving walkability, access to shuttles, and access to quality housing options that offer people transportation choices as they age. In the meantime, she'll keep helping out others in her community and thinking about her ten and half grandkids, "...if you count the one on the way."