

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK

8/17/13

# Evan Long drives cancer patients to appointments

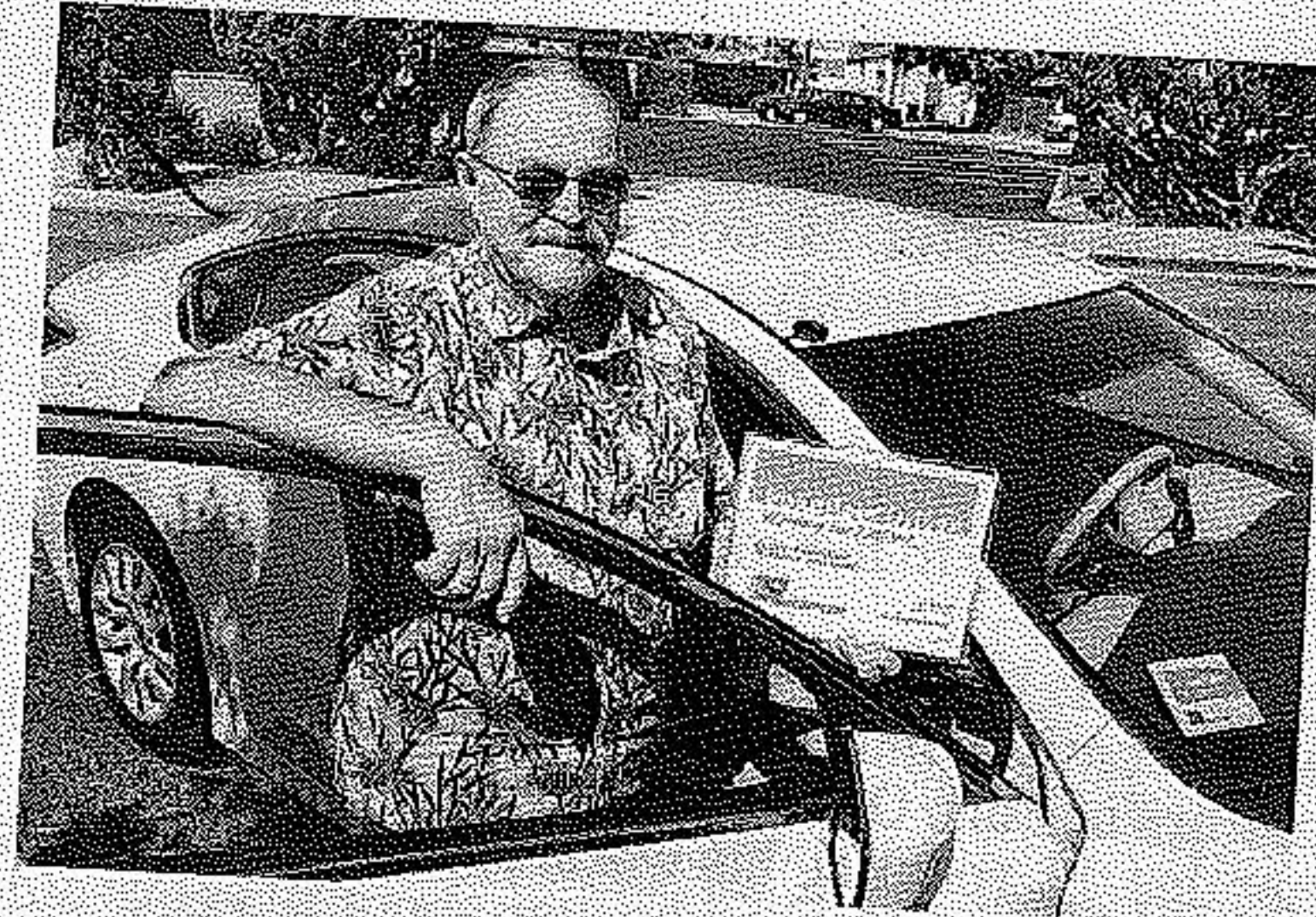
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## HOW TO VOLUNTEER OR GET HELP

New volunteer drivers go through a 2-hour teleconference training. Every three years, they get re-certified. To volunteer or if you are a cancer patient and need a ride, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

together over a nine-month period to Old Tucson, San Antonio, the Mall of America and to Iowa to visit her brother. When they returned home, she began to spiral downward, quit eating and lost weight.

After she died, he went to



Evan Long, 78, of Visalia volunteers as a driver for Road to Recovery, a service that gives cancer patients rides to appointments and treatment centers. More volunteers are needed in Tulare County. TERESA DOUGLASS

Like most volunteer drivers for the American Cancer Society, Evan Long's had a brush with cancer.

Three of his four brothers died from lung cancer over a span of 30 years. He found himself helping the widows.

"I was not a professional," he said. "I was just a brother-in-law who would help."

Of the five boys, his surviving brother was the only one who didn't smoke cigarettes. But Evan Long did.

"I quit smoking before my

Long had retired from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention in 1990 after a 40-year career. And he served on the Visalia City Council from 1991-1999.

But Bakke was talking about volunteering. She wanted him to be the coordinator who organizes volunteer drivers with cancer patients who needed rides to medical appointments. He agreed.

drive patients sometimes as far away as Terra Bella to treatment in Porterville. But at other times, volunteers go short distances such as from Quail Park Retirement Community down the street to Sequoia Regional Cancer Center in Visalia.

The longest drive is to Children's Hospital Central California.

"That's a favorite of mine."