

2018 Paratransit & Contracting Driver of the Year

Myron Hubbard of SCR Medical Transportation

By Bridget Ann Peery

Myron Hubbard has never viewed his work as just a paycheck, but rather as a blessing. And as a result, he says he has never had a job he has not enjoyed.

Hubbard, 64, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and grew up in Chicago from the time he was six years old. Early in his career, he worked in childcare for close to 25 years before transitioning to the transportation industry in 1999.

He has been with SCR Medical Transportation in Chicago for the last eight years, an experience that continued to build on his talents and which now includes being named the TLPA Paratransit & Contracting Driver of the Year.

"I enjoy my job because I'm working for a company that puts people first and tries to provide sensitive care and responsive service to everyone who encounters us," Hubbard says. "We're people helping people, and I love the fact we are helping people with special needs."

For Hubbard, it has always been about helping those in need. Prior to changing professions, Hubbard worked in the Chicago Catholic school system and spent several years with the Salvation Army, looking after children who had been neglected and abused.

"It was a wonderful job, one of the most rewarding," says Hubbard of his years in childcare. "Every day I would come to work, I had an opportunity to bring a smile to a child's life that maybe hadn't had the opportunity to smile before."

He eventually changed gears, moving over to the bus company Greyhound in order to save for retirement. Hubbard drove for Greyhound for 10 years before starting with SCR, which he applied to almost entirely by accident, believing it was another company. But once he started with SCR, he felt a sense of home and knew he wanted to stay.

"First and of foremost importance is safety. It's more important to arrive alive than on time," Hubbard explains. But just as imperative as safety are the impressions he leaves with clients.

"I always try to treat my clients like they're the best people in the world," Hubbard says, remembering one client he picked up from the beauty parlor. She was looking around at the others ladies, beaming, as if to say, "Yes, this is my driver," Hubbard recalls warmly. The level of care and attention that Hubbard embodies is the reason he has trained SCR's drivers over the years, which is well into the thousands, says Michael Staley, director of operations at the company.



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"If you had to describe somebody that you wanted all of your drivers to emulate, I think you've found the person to make that happen," Staley says of Hubbard.

"Often times, there are individuals that are a cut above that never get that recognition. And to have the opportunity for somebody who exemplifies the characteristics that ceremony Mr. Hubbard does, to be honored in such a way by such an

organization, is truly an honor for SCR and Mr. Hubbard."

For Hubbard, it is simple, he says: He trains drivers as if they would be transporting his mother, who, in fact, has been a client with SCR for the past

10 years. Making sure his clients are safe and feel comfortable is paramount to providing good service, and Hubbard has always taken pride in doing so. Outside of work, Hubbard continues to give in other ways. He has been coaching AAU basketball teams since the 1970s, focusing on positively directing youthful energy, and singing in St. Ailbe's Inspirational Choir, right around the corner from SCR. Hubbard's life mission has been to help others, in both his professional life and his personal life.

"It doesn't matter how much we've amassed. It matters how much we have helped, how much service have we provided to our fellow mankind," Hubbard says. "So I try to do as much as I can."