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A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to Work *This Couple Will Be Sharing Much More Than a Ride*

February 9, 2007 - Pittsburgh, PA; We've all heard of a match made in heaven, but a match made in a *vanpool*? That's how it happened for one special couple. However, their story doesn't start in a vanpool—it begins much earlier. As children, Heather and Mike attended the same church. They went to different schools, so they didn't see each other very often over the next 20 years. Like most young people, they were busy with their own lives.

Jump ahead to 2003. Heather starts a new job in downtown Pittsburgh, and decides to make her life a little less hectic by riding in a vanpool to work. She doesn't know it yet, but she's about to become reacquainted with someone from her past, someone who would become a big part of her future.

Mike had already been riding the van for 3 years. He didn't even recognize Heather her first day. Heather had remained active in the church and through that, got reacquainted with Mike's family. Heather and Mike began sharing a seat on the van.

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Over the years, as happens in many vanpools, the riders began sharing stories and got to know each other pretty well. Many became good friends, and in February of 2005, the group went out to celebrate Mike's birthday. Mike and Heather had such a great time together that they started dating. "We spend two hours a day commuting to and from downtown Pittsburgh. It's nice to be able to share that time together," Mike said.

Less than a year later, the couple became engaged and they were married on October 14, 2006. "I never expected to find my husband in the vanpool!" Heather said.



The happy couple on their wedding day.

Photo: Bruce Duncan

Believe it or not, this is not the first time this has happened. Over the 30 years the CommuteInfo vanpool program has been in existence there have been other marriages and many, many friendships formed.

CommutelInfo is a program of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, operated in partnership with transportation management associations, transportation providers, businesses and non-profit service organizations throughout Southwestern PA. The CommuteInfo program is designed to serve commuters and employers as a clearinghouse for information about transit, carpooling, and vanpooling. The program serves employers and commuters in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

For more information about CommuteInfo and commuter alternatives, please visit www.commuteinfo.org, or call toll free **1-888-819-6110**. For more information, please call Lisa Kay Schweyer, SPC CommuteInfo Program Developer, at 412.391.5590 x375.

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