



March 2009

LATEST NEWS

[Literacy Center West
Community Link](#)

**ABOUT
EVERYBODY
RIDES METRO**

Everybody Rides Metro is a foundation to improve sustainable lifestyles for the Cincinnati community through Metro. Everybody Rides Metro (ERM) is the first foundation in the nation to be formed by a regional transit authority.

Providing reliable transportation to help those in need connect to jobs, schools, healthcare, and vital human services.



**TANF BUS TOKEN
REPORT**

updated 3/9/09

There are four federally stated purposes of the **TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)** program :

(1) Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own

Dear Dave,

Welcome to the March 2009 edition of *The Journey*, the monthly newsletter of the Everybody Rides Metro Foundation. Each month, we will be featuring agencies who partner with ERM to provide their clients with bus tokens for medical, educational, and employment purposes. We have been inspired by their stories, and we hope that you will be, too!

Please take a moment to forward this email on to anyone you think may be interested. Use the "forward email" link at the bottom of this email to send it on to others.

**ERM Partner Agency Spotlight:
Literacy Center West
(Inspiring individuals to work, learn, grow)**



"Woody" is working on getting her GED through Literacy Center West, which will lead to a job and self-sufficiency.

The mission of Literacy Center West (LCW) is to provide G.E.D. preparation and job-readiness training at no cost to those who desire their services.

They seek to develop character and civic responsibility within those who participate in the programs and through positive interactions and relationship building with staff and volunteers. Their program will provide opportunities for economic advancement and career exploration.

The Literacy Center West is happy to be a partner with Everybody Rides Metro. They have been able to help many who need the tokens to get to training. The Next Level program is designed to help young men and

homes or in the homes of relatives;

(2) End the dependence of needy parents on governmental benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;

(3) Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and

(4) Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Below are up-to-date numbers of bus tokens distributed by Hamilton County Job & Family Services through the TANF program:

ACT - 6,500

Boys/Girls Club - 5,500

CAIN - 3,500

Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing - 500

Glad House - 1000

Healthy Moms and Babes - 500

Lighthouse Youth Services - 8,500

Norwood Service League - 500

Salvation Army - 5,000

St. Vincent DePaul - 2,900

SuperJobs - 5,000

University of Cincinnati

women between the ages of 19 -21 achieve their career goals. To do this, they set them up with a three part game plan: 1. Rapid Job Placement 2. Career Exploration 3.GED Preparation.

LCW knows many of their clients must have a job immediately. GED preparation class hours become flexible to fit around work schedules. Participants develop a career road map - setting short-term goals that will lead to the achievement of long-term goals. This is how dreams become goals and goals become reality.

Doris earned her GED through LCW and thanks to The Next Level program has been working in a day care since March, 2008. Originally she had planned to work for six months to build up her resume and then apply to Christ Hospital's day care center. She's now decided to stay in her current job for a full year to build her resume even further. She is enrolled in ITT Tech studying criminal justice.

Leroy first came to LCW for the Youth GED program. He struggled in the classroom. He had problems at home. He kept coming to LCW and finally, a couple long years later, Leroy passed the GED test and is steadily employed with a moving company.

These are just a two of the many clients who benefit from Everybody Rides Metro to get tokens to attend the classes and get to their jobs until they receive their first pay check. One of the mandatory steps in The Next Level participants' career road map is to purchase their own Metro pass once they have secure income.

ERM Partner Agency Spotlight: Community Link

Community Link provides "Ohio Works First" recipients with coordinated services to facilitate their transition to work placement and self-sufficiency. Community Link promotes an atmosphere of cooperation and respect.

Hamilton County Jobs & Family Services determines eligibility for the Ohio Works First program and refers the clients to Community Link. The first stop is Barrier Screening where a professional social worker identifies serious personal issues that are barriers to employment such as mental health/depression, substance abuse, or domestic violence. Other situational barriers to employment such as transportation and housing are identified. The customer may need clothing for a job interview, food or clothing for their children, and daycare needs.

The next stop is the vocational assessment that determines if a person needs a GED or already has a high school diploma. A case plan in accordance with HCJFS OWF Self-Sufficiency Activities Plan is developed and GED classes or other educational help are provided.

The Worksite coordination tracks and monitor consumers' participation at assigned worksite and re-engages non- participating members to return to the worksite.

Manager, Lisa Arnett says "Everybody Rides Metro has helped Community Link provide tokens for transportation to many who would not be able to get to the training or jobs that they really need. Everybody Rides Metro is a very important part of our program helping the customer to become self-sufficient."

Community Link is a collaboration of the following agencies: Talbert

University of Cincinnati
- 1,500

Urban Appalachian
Council - 1,500

Urban League - 1500

West College Hill
Neighborhood Services
- 1500

The Women's
Connection - 500

YWCA - 12,950

House, Easter Seals Resource Center, Recovery Link Inc. and the Alcoholism Council. Other agencies working in collaboration are Jewish Vocational Services, Crossroads and Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services.

Want your agency to be featured here?

We would love to speak with you further about what your organization does and how Everybody Rides Metro helps you with your work. Please contact Rita Potts at 513-632-9246 or rpotts@go-metro.com to set up an interview.

**Thank you,
Everybody Rides Metro Foundation**

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