



THE JOURNEY

eNewsletter

May 2009

LATEST NEWS

- [Women's Fund Grant](#)
- [The Center for Respite Care](#)
- [Charlie's 3/4 House, Inc.](#)

PLEASE DONATE



[CLICK HERE TO DONATE.](#)

Your tax-deductible donation helps to provide reliable transportation for those in need of employment, education, healthcare, and vital human services.

NEW PARTNERS

ERM would like to welcome the following new partner agencies:

- [Cincinnati Union Bethel](#)
- [Families Forward](#)
- [Mt. Healthy Alliance, Inc.](#)
- [Serenity House](#)
- [Talbert House Adolescent Outpatient](#)
- [Tapp House](#)

Dear Matt,

Welcome to the May 2009 edition of *The Journey*, the monthly newsletter of the Everybody Rides Metro Foundation. Everybody Rides Metro exists to help social service agencies serve their clients. We take this opportunity to share with you the care and concern each agency provides to their community.

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 Foundation Awarded \$18,101 Women's Fund Grant

Grant will subsidize public transportation for women working toward economic self-sufficiency



Everybody Rides Metro (ERM) foundation has been awarded the Economic Security Grant of the Women's Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Foundation.

The \$18,101 Women's Fund grant will allow Everybody Rides Metro and four partner agencies to work together to develop a local strategy to help address long-term, comprehensive transportation needs of women with children. The grant will fund six months of transportation for a pilot group of 55 women, all of whom are working to achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment. The program, set to begin in June, also will help participants develop budgeting skills to set aside financial resources to ensure access to public transportation.

"Metro's vision of assisting women with their transportation needs dovetails directly with our study of the status of women and girls in Greater Cincinnati," said Vanessa Freytag, Executive Director of The Women's Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation. "We found transportation was one of the major hurdles to economic self-sufficiency for low-income women. Metro's well thought out program, which provides both financial assistance and incentives to move forward on the self-sufficiency path, is a plan we are very excited about!"

"Our hope is that this program will provide a model for addressing this need broadly in our community," said Ted Bergh, executive director for Everybody Rides Metro.

ERM is the first and only charity in the nation to subsidize public transportation for low-income riders.

SPECIAL THANKS

Everybody Rides Metro wants to thank **Freestore Foodbank** and **St. Vincent de Paul** for meeting with our guests from Richmond, Virginia. **Kathy Shaw Clary**, Director of Marketing and Public Relations and **Joan M. Straszewski**, Marketing Project Coordinator from the Greater Richmond Transit Company visited Everybody Rides Metro on May 14, 2009, to learn more about the foundation with the possibility of duplicating an ERM Foundation in Richmond.

ACTIVITY REPORT

April 2009

Rides by Category:

Education	4,566
Healthcare	5,433
Jobs	22,356
Services	5,170

Total Rides Provided:
37,525

Total Clients: 4,913

Total Reimbursed to Agencies: \$41,477

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARTNER?

OR, IF ALREADY A PARTNER, INTERESTED IN BEING FEATURED IN THE JOURNEY?

We would love to speak with you further about what your organization does and how Everybody Rides Metro can help you (or has already helped you) with your work. Please

The Center for Respite Care



The mission of the [Center for Respite Care](#) is to provide quality medical care to homeless people who need a safe place to heal, while assisting them in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

People who are homeless experience a high rate of unresolved health conditions and complications, repeat emergency room visits and extended hospital stays due to improper healing. The Center for Respite Care is a 14-bed, 24-hour facility providing medical and nursing care to sick homeless people to promote effective healing. The recovery period at the Respite Center also provides an ideal opportunity to begin the critical first phase of treatment for illness and injury for patients who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

The patients are referred by local hospitals, the medical van and other health care providers for the homeless. They receive clothing, meals, personal care supplies, help with medical appointments, assistance in finding housing, job training, legal services, counseling /religious services, benefit services such as applying for Social Security or food stamps.

One client of Center for Respite Care had a serious case of frostbite. Freezing rain splashed off the sidewalk as he gingerly walked to their door with bandages on his feet. The frostbite was a result of working as a parking garage attendant. Today, he is healing, but still faces toe amputation. He lost his job because of the injury. This was a situation where the client had been working until he lost his job because of the injury. Follow-up medical care was necessary.



Another client, Ben, lost his apartment and found himself at a homeless shelter after an accident shattered his shoulder and left him unable to work. The doctors at the hospital had told him he might lose his arm. Several surgeries and many months of healing were his only hope. Despite the pain and possible further damage to his shoulder and arm, he had to remove his bandage each day to wear a coat because the shelter was closed during the day. Fortunately, he was referred to the Center for Respite Care shortly after it opened. The care and coordination provided

with your work. Please contact Rita Potts at 513-632-9246. [Click here to email Rita.](#)

VISIT OUR WEB SITE



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Please visit the ERM web site, where you will find interesting and helpful information: get the latest news, calculate your carbon footprint, find out how partner agencies use Metro bus tokens to help their clients get to essential services for sustainable lifestyles.

VOLUNTEER



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by the staff at the Respite enabled Ben to make it through the reconstructive surgeries at the hospital, saving his arm. After his shoulder and arm were finally healed, Ben left the Respite for the last time and moved again into his own apartment.

Robin Donovan, Communications and Outreach for the Center for Respite Care, says, "Transportation is essential to our clients because of our residential location. The Everybody Rides Metro program helps clients get to medical appointments, job training, housing searches, and other important appointments."

Charlie's 3/4 House, Inc.



The sole purpose of [Charlie's 3/4 House, Inc.](#) is to provide acceptable and affordable housing for alcoholic men in early stages of sobriety, while they work on their recovery from alcoholism and find suitable employment.

Founded in 1979, Charlie's 3/4 House, Inc. began with one man offering a newly recovering alcoholic a safe place for a short time. Today, Charlie's 3/4 House, Inc. provides transitional housing for approximately 200 residents per year, with occupancy throughout the year consistently over 96% and a waiting list of 8-12 men. They are a non-profit organization with a full time support staff located on a bus line with access to downtown. Charlie's provides on premises A.A. Meetings and access to off-premises meetings. The house holds 50 people in four buildings with 16 apartments. The residents average 12 to 16 per month moving on and others coming into the program. The average stay is 6 weeks to two months, but some have stayed for two years.

Residents are encouraged to find jobs by reporting to Belcan Corp each morning where they may find work for the day. These temporary jobs sometimes turn into permanent ones. Unfortunately in this economy, most of them are permitted to work as part-time employees with no benefits.

James Nortker, Director says, "Everybody Rides Metro has been such a blessing to the residents because the staff can spend more time with them to focus on life quality issues and not worry about providing transportation. Transportation was always a top priority and since we became a partner in ERM, this has relieved the pressure of fund raising for tokens and lets us redirect efforts to helping with other things. We sometimes run out of tokens before the end of the month but are very grateful to be a part of a great program."

Each year, of the 200 different residents, over 100 of them meet Charlie's definition of success and return to the community. Success in this case means the resident maintained over 90 days of continuous sobriety, secured gainful continuous employment, is financially supporting himself, and is living on his own or with family.

One such resident relayed his thanks to everyone at Charlie's for his recovery. His success was a result of enduring difficult times in sobriety with the support of Charlie's staff. He learned from real life experiences, truth with no sugar coating from a staff that had "walked the walk." The staff at Charlie's became his friends and helped a friend become a success.

Thank you, Everybody Rides Metro Foundation

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