



June 2009

LATEST NEWS

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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-Hamilton County Community Action Agency](#)

[Having the Courage to](#)

Welcome to the June 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: The Last 12 Months in Review

Where ERM has been...

As with many communities in the nation, transportation in Cincinnati is a major barrier to thousands of the low-income individuals needing to access health care, education, and employment. Even with the presence of public transportation and low bus fares, some low-income individuals find fares prohibitively expensive to use in meeting their work, health care, and educational needs.

Committed to making public transportation as accessible and cost effective as possible, Metro decided to make transportation more affordable to low-income residents. Consequently, Metro's public governing body- the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)- formed Everybody Rides Metro (ERM) as a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization in May 2006.

The mission of ERM is *"to provide reliable transportation to the economically disadvantaged of Greater Cincinnati, assuring access to employment, education, health care, and other vital services as they work toward self-sufficiency."* Critically, ERM's non-profit status allows it to raise money to provide transportation subsidies to low-income individuals so that they can more readily access the Metro bus system.

Change

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Everybody Rides Metro wants to thank outgoing Board members Robert W. Buechner, Suzanne Hopkins, Michael H. Setzer, Lamont Taylor, and Marsha Watts-Visher for their dedication and service.

ERM would also like to welcome new Board members Liz Carter, Gyasi Chisley, Hirsh Cohen, Steve Gibbs, Ed Humphrey, and Linnea Lose.

Three ERM Board members will continue to serve-- Peg Gutsell, William L. Mallory, Sr., and Paul G. Sittenfeld. Their continued dedication and leadership is most appreciated.

ACTIVITY REPORT

May 2009

Rides by Category:

Education	3,468
Healthcare	6,316
Jobs	26,041
Services	3,717

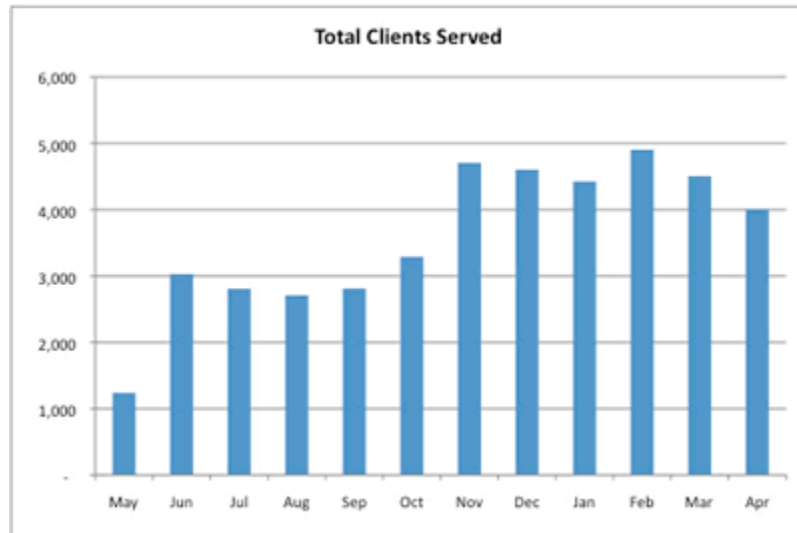
Total Rides Provided:

39,542

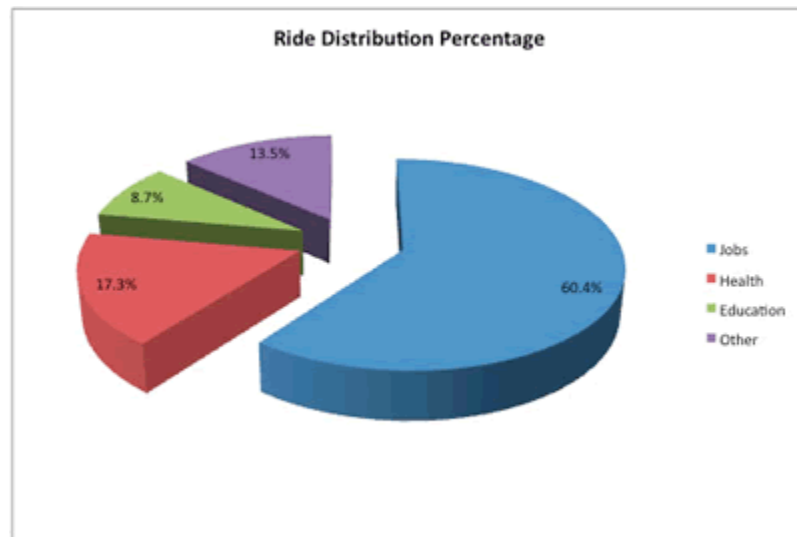
Total Clients: 5,134

Total Reimbursed to Agencies: \$43,588.20

Where ERM is now...



In the first month of its operation in May 2008, ERM started off by serving 1,238 clients and grew rapidly to serving 4,003 clients in April 2009.



In its first year of operation, Everybody Rides Metro (ERM) provided 60.4% rides for employment. The second largest demand for rides was for health care at 17.3% of total rides provided.

(includes transfers reimbursed)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR METRO MONTHLY PASS WINNER

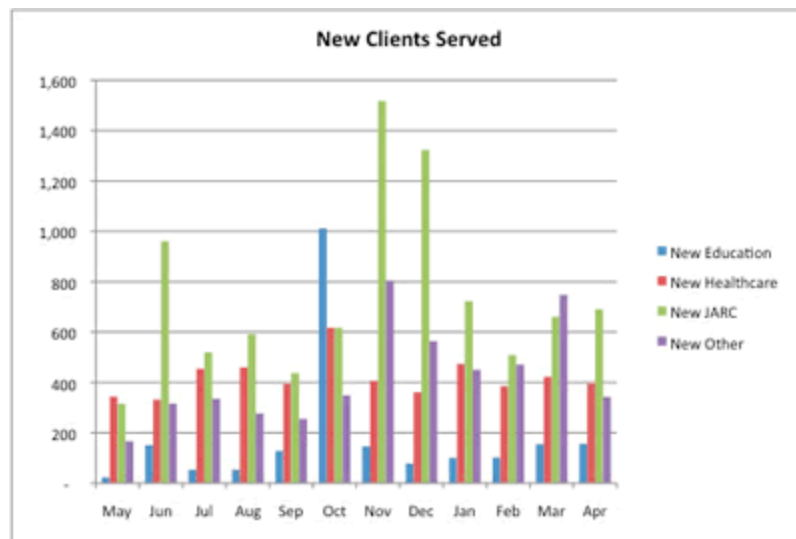


Last month, partner agencies who submitted client success stories with their monthly reports were entered into a drawing to receive a free Metro monthly pass. **Interfaith Hospitality Network** is the winner of that drawing. If you would also like a chance to win a pass, please send us stories about how your clients are using the tokens provided by ERM to get to jobs, education, health care, or other necessary services.

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 contact Rita



Since its inception in 2007 as a pilot program, ERM has served clients by providing rides for essential needs like education, health care, and employment. After ERM started distributing bus tokens to the clients through partner agencies, there has been a gradual increase in the number of clients who ride Metro buses for health care, education and other services. Tracking new clients to the ERM program reveals that 600 new clients use ERM rides to get to work, 400 to healthcare, 400 to other services, and around 150-200 to education.

Where ERM is headed...

Long-term funding for employment transportation is available from the federal JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) program. However, ERM has no long-term funding source for transportation to health care. ERM has two funding sources to meet current health transportation needs:

1. The City of Cincinnati, but these funds are limited and will not be available after December 2009; and
2. The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) through its *Weathering the Economic Storm* fund, which at current levels will only extend the availability of health care transportation until February or March 2010.

ERM is currently working to partner with The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati (HFGC) to bridge this gap in long-term health care transit funding. HFGC directs considerable effort to providing medical care for uninsured and underserved populations. The level of inadequate health care, lack of access to care, and the regular use of medical centers are much worse for these populations.

With the considerable overlap in both mission and populations served, a partnership between Everybody Rides Metro and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati makes health care for transit dependent individuals more accessible. This has significant returns in better health, lower missed work days, and lower use of high cost health services like emergency room and ambulance service.

Potts at 513-632-9246.
[Click here to email Rita.](#)

[VISIT OUR WEB SITE](#)



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEB SITE.](#)

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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Easter Seals Work Resource Center



The Mission of the Easter Seals Work Resource Center is to empower individuals with disabilities and disadvantages to increase their independence through employment.

Easter Seal WRC provides job training and social adjustment skills to more than 10,000 individuals in Greater Cincinnati through 17 programs and collaborative efforts. Participants include people with disabilities who need support to find and keep a job, people who are chronically unemployed or underemployed and youth transitioning to work.

All of Easter Seals WRC's programs have a common theme: work. Each service provides an integral step for developing the needed job and life skills to find and keep a job. Easter Seals WRC focus on three strategies: 1. Identify and create an individualized path to success; 2. Develop job qualifications and work-related life skills; and 3. Obtain and retain employment.



Easter Seals found a way to help the environment while continuing their mission to train individuals with disabilities to work in retail and construction when they began Building Value in 2004. Building Value is a material re-use enterprise that salvages quality building materials from demolition and remodeling projects. These materials are available to the general public in a discount retail store at 2901

Gilbert Avenue on Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can find items as large as kitchen cabinets, light fixtures, doors, windows and all types of hardware (screws, hinges, lock sets), lumber and molding. This program has had a major

impact on improving the local environment because more than 5,000 tons of building material have been diverted from local landfills.

Other items available at Building Value are made by participants of the program "Building Ability," which includes individuals with disabilities learning woodworking skills and building Adirondack chairs, corn hole sets, checkers/chess sets, porch swings, wine racks, candle holders, podiums, doll houses, outside swings, bookshelves and other items.

"At Easter Seals WRC, we believe work has the power to change the lives of people with disabilities and disadvantages," said Pamela Green, vice president of Development and Community Engagement at WRC. "We see everyday that access to transportation prevents so many people from employment and a path out of poverty. The Everybody Rides Metro JARC program has made it possible for us to tell the people we serve that if you get a job interview or employment, we will make sure you can afford to get there. We see it as a great investment in our community's future workforce."

Christ's Community in College Hill



The Christ Community in College Hill (CCCH) program began over 35 years ago when community churches decided to join forces to minister to those in need who live in their area. The program today serves those in the zip code 45224 which includes College Hill, North College Hill and a small portion of Finneytown.

The program began as a food pantry and has grown to include help with rent, utilities and transportation. CCCH helps residents to complete forms to become eligible for food stamps. A youth program for teens, that is year round, includes a program called Clean Cut. The teens who go with a supervisor and work mowing lawns and doing clean up are asked to give \$5 of their earnings to the program to help cover the cost of gas for the mower and van and to cover maintenance of the van.

A summer camp is provided for grades 1-8 for seven weeks. This provides activities for the area children that keeps the children relatively active during the time they are not in school.

Christ Community In College Hill is happy to partner with ERM to distribute tokens to those who need to get to work, to school or a medical appointment. They do ask for medical cards to show they have an appointment before giving them a token for this purpose.

A client at Christ Community in College Hill, Denorr Howard wrote, "I am a student at International Academy of Hair Design working to get a license in cosmetology. I want to thank Everybody Rides Metro for

helping provide free tokens to those that are in need. They have really helped me because I am not working at the current time and bus fare has gotten expensive. Receiving the tokens are a blessing and I know that there are many others that are blessed just as I am. I am a witness that if it's God's will; a way will always be made."

**Thank you,
Everybody Rides Metro Foundation**

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