



December 2008

LATEST NEWS

[Urban League of Greater Cincinnati](#)

[OMEGA 1 CINCY INC.](#)

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.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Everybody Rides Metro offices will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 for Christmas. In addition, we will be closed Thursday, January 1 and Friday, January 2 for New Year's.

PARTNER AGENCY SURVEY

Dear Matt,

Welcome to our first electronic edition of *The Journey*, the monthly newsletter of the Everybody Rides Metro Foundation. We are excited to take advantage of this technology to share our news and events with you. Please email mbennett@go-metro.com to let us know what you think about the new format of the newsletter.

Please also take a moment to forward this email on to anyone you think may be interested. Use the "forward email" link in the bottom right-hand corner of this email to send it on to others.

Happy Holidays from all of us at Everybody Rides Metro!

ERM Partner Agency Spotlight: Urban League of Greater Cincinnati



Photo of the graduating class on December 4, 2008.

This month's first ERM Agency Spotlight shines on the region's oldest and largest community-based organization devoted to empowering African American individuals and families to enter the economic and social mainstream.

The Urban League of Greater Cincinnati offers youth and adult education, job training, business development, leadership development and the shaping of public policy to demonstrate their commitment to The Urban League Vision: visualizing strong African American families and individuals who are fully educated, employed, empowered, healthy with quality housing, and whose contributions are valued and recognized as benefiting the total community.

Their holistic approach to helping the community starts with a weekly orientation to help people find out what programs are available to assist them.

Another program is called ACE (Accelerated Call Center Education) which

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first Partner Agency Survey. The results of the survey will be used in our end-of-year report to the City of Cincinnati and will also help to determine the direction of Everybody Rides Metro in the coming year. We are in the process of analyzing your responses and will make a summary of the findings available on our web site in January.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to the generous folks at Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired who helped test our web site for accessibility. They helped to make sure the ERM web site works properly with text readers and other software for the visually impaired.

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is customized to provide intensive training in computer skills, customer service and "multi-tasking" in a simulated call center environment. This four-week, day or evening program is designed to qualify graduates for high-end, entry-level employment in the call-center industry. Many of these participants depend on the Everybody Rides Metro program to help them get to their training because the bus is the only transportation some have available. They will also use the bus to get to their new customer service job once they have graduated .

Each ACE class is made up of various ages, some entering the work force for the first time while others are reentering after many years at home. They bond with the staff and other participants; they encourage each other and are happy to have had the experience this course offered and look forward to landing jobs they need to begin new directions in their lives. This course gave them self-esteem and the tools to be confident that they will get those jobs soon.

If other agencies need to contact Urban League for more information about the training they offer, Steven Tucker, Reginald Brazzile or Robin Ewing will be happy to help. [Click here to visit the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati web site.](#)

**ERM Partner Agency Spotlight:
OMEGA 1 CINCY INC**



Sharon Robinson and Anthony Jarrell of OMEGA 1 Cincy, Inc.

Now ERM turns its spotlight to an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of incarceration through education, mentoring and support.

OMEGA stands for "One Man Eager to Get Ahead". Their mission is assisting the parent left behind in keeping the family together while the other parent is incarcerated. They also assist ex-offenders in job search, healthcare, education and housing to help ensure they don't go back into the system.



OMEGA depends on many community partnerships to achieve its mission. One is the Excellence of Youth program for children between 12 and 18. Messer Construction Company is sponsoring a



dinner for OMEGA Crew Mentoring to interest youth in the construction business and OMEGA has applied for a \$25,000 grant so they allow their young clients to participate in apprenticeships to learn constructions jobs.

Another group OMEGA is partnering with is Foster Care Kids to provide computer experience to youth whose parents are incarcerated. Volunteer Eddie Wright heads up this program using a computer lab at the group's location at 4949 Paddock Road. Full Circle Group Inc. and CEO Linda Blair provide computers for the lab and each child who takes classes receives a personal computer to use at home. Full Circle Group also teaches some of these students how to rebuild computers.

Everybody Rides Metro helps OMEGA by connecting their clients to educational opportunities such as the School of Court Reporting downtown. Sharon Robinson works for OMEGA trying to find funding to continue the transportation program for children and spouses of those incarcerated. Said Robinson: "It's important that they find more funding to continue serving this important need. ERM is helping the local transportation for those who are trying to get to jobs and various appointments."

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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