

Ride To Work - New Logo....

Our new logo (above) is based on our belief, as a ministry, that Work is part of God's loving plan for each of us. While we do not proselytize, we do pray for (and with, when they want) our riders. We greatly appreciate our church partners who support us financially and send us riders who are, with God's help, working toward self sufficiency.

.....and a New Website

If you haven't already, please check out our new website (rtwministry.org). It is much easier to navigate, has some wonderful videos about our efforts, and all the latest news to keep you informed on what is happening with Ride To Work Ministry.

Helping Riders Get Cars

A reliable vehicle is essential to our clients who are working to rebuild their lives: getting jobs, showing up on time, sticking to budgets. In addition to providing rides, Ride To Work helps deserving riders obtain a reliable vehicle.

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE:

If you have a used car, truck, or moped that's in good running condition please consider donating it to Ride to Work. We will handle the paperwork including a tax deductible receipt. Go to: rtwministry.org.

Ride To Work Finances

Ride to Work is on track to provide 2,500-3,000 rides in 2026 at a cost (net of rider payments) of about \$100,000. Thanks to generous donors and an exciting "matching" program we are actually 'in the black' so far this year. To donate to Ride To Work visit rtwministry.org or send a check to Ride To Work Ministry, P.O. Box 1345, Seneca SC 29679

Educating Riders on transportation, finding a good used car & maintaining their car

Over 80% of Ride To Work riders hope to get a car and nearly 60% of our graduates get a vehicle or fix their car in order too get to work on their own. We believe it is important for these riders to find the best vehicle and be able to successfully maintain it.



Thanks to our 'car guys': Board member Rob Birmingham and Volunteer Steve Chase (photos above), we have added an "Education" section to our website and to provide the tools our coaches need to help our riders make smarter transportation choices. The tools include:

- Transportation options (ranging from a car or moped to electric bike) and the cost & state regulations for each.
- What to look for in a used car; when to 'walk away' and what the right price should be for a particular car using carvaluescout.com



- Areas of regular maintenance to prolong your car's life
- The pitfalls of Buy Here/Pay Here used car dealers

A used-car dealer asks, "What monthly payment can you afford?" That is often the wrong question. A low payment stretched over a high-interest loan means a buyer can pay for the same car two or three times. Ride To Work wants riders to ask better questions: What is the vehicle's total cost? Can I afford insurance, gasoline, taxes and repairs? Am I prepared for routine maintenance? Is the financing helping me—or trapping me?

As Rob says "Education is an important part of our mission and our goal is more than just helping someone get to work but to also help them gain the knowledge, skills, and independence to keep them moving forward. A vehicle may solve their problem for a few years, but knowledge can help solve transportation problems for the rest of their lives".

RTW Board Changes

Ride to Work Board members (all unpaid volunteers) have backgrounds in business, accounting, science, charity, computer technology and education. In addition to Ride To Work they also volunteer at other agencies, including the Golden Corner Food Pantry. All have a passion for helping people become self sufficient and believe that having a job is a key part of God's loving plan for our lives. Here are a couple of recent Board changes:

Luis Zenteno is taking over as Vice President (from longtime Board member Ron Kaufman, who will remain on the Board). Luis will lead



future donor communication efforts. Luis retired with his wife Laura in our area after a distinguished career as Director of Science and Technology with Corning Incorporated in NY. He has been a coach for the past 2 years and already has helped several riders graduate.



Lisa Dandre moved to Seneca last year from Illinois after a career in Education. She is our new Board Secretary and is already putting her skills to excellent use as a very effective and enthusiastic coach. (Photo above - Lisa on right with her graduate Amanda)

2026 Graduate update

Through 8 months of 2026 we have carried 37 riders with 19 graduating. Here are a few comments from our graduates:

Kelly rode with us for 2 months and graduated in March. She says *"Thank God for all those who have come together to make this program alive and working . I am so grateful for the chance to have my own transportation. This has significantly improved my life and with the generosity of your program I can now independently do things for myself. I can make money for myself because I do not have to rely on variable resources to make it to work on a daily basis. My experience has been amazing, and my coach Mrs. Katie has gone above and beyond to make this as great of an experience as she can. She truly puts her whole heart into the work she does. This is the greatest program and I cannot wait to see how many more lives you get to improve through this most kind act of Faith, Love, and selflessness."*



John (above left with coach Alun) rode with us for about 6 weeks and graduated in April. He says *"The support I received from Ride to Work came at a time when I truly had nothing, and it made a lasting difference in my life. Beyond just helping me get to and from work for six weeks, they gave me something even more valuable. guidance, stability, and a sense that I wasn't alone. Their financial coaching helped me start thinking differently about my future and gave me tools I will continue to use. Because of their support, I was able to stay employed, rebuild my footing, and move forward with confidence. I'm deeply grateful to everyone involved for their generosity, time, and belief in people like me."*



Ariana (above right with coach Katie) rode with us for 3 months and graduated in May. She says *"I just wanted to say thank you so much for everything y'all have done for me...for giving me rides, supporting me and giving me the opportunity to be a part of this program. I honestly don't know what I would have done without all the support and guidance y'all have given me. It means more than words can explain. Thank you for believing in me and helping me better my life"*

Ride to Work Ministry Nonprofit Inc.

Mission: Provide temporary low cost rides to/from work for residents of Oconee County, South Carolina so they can transition to stable employment.

How it works: Applicants must have a job, no other means of transportation, a talk/text phone, and a success plan for getting off Ride To Work as soon as possible. They apply on-line at rtwministry.org. A volunteer meets them to make sure they are 'job ready' and coaches them throughout the process. We offer rides for \$5 per ride (for up to a few months) until the rider can find their own transportation. We use a local driver service (at ~\$25-45 per ride) and subsidize the difference with donations.