

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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March 10, 2008

TMACOG Now Accepting Donations of Cars and Trucks

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is now accepting donations of all types of vehicles. Donations will support the work of TMACOG's Commuter Services department which provides transportation to low-income working families in Lucas County. TMACOG can accept donations of any type of vehicle: cars, vans, SUVs, pickup trucks, even boats, motorcycles, or RVs. TMACOG is a non-profit organization; people who make donations are eligible for tax deductions.

To donate a vehicle, contact TMACOG at 419.241.9155. TMACOG will take it from there, arranging to tow the car if necessary, and handling all the paperwork. For more information on the program, see www.tmacog.org/givetoledowheels.htm.

"TMACOG provides basic transportation for income-qualified working families," said Tom Kroma, chair of the TMACOG Commuter Services Council and assistant chief of staff at the City of Toledo. "To work and support a family, you have to be able to get to the job and that is the fundamental service TMACOG provides."

TMACOG's Commuter Services department provides transportation to working families through two programs: CommuterLINK and the Car Buy program. CommuterLINK provides short-term transportation to people getting established in a job. To be eligible, participants must be working 30 hours a week at a job not accessible by TARTA, and receiving Ohio Works First benefits. Many people who use CommuterLINK later become clients of the Car Buy program. TMACOG began the Car Buy program in 2001 when it became clear that public transit cannot always serve the transportation needs of a family that has a parent working and children in daycare or school. To help qualified people get

to work or accept work at locations or times when buses don't run, TMACOG helps participants purchase a roadworthy used car. At the start of the 12-month program, participants get possession of a vehicle and begin monthly payments. At the end of 12 months, they take title to their vehicle. More than 465 cars have been delivered to families since the program began.

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