

# Good News Garage



A member of Ascentria Care Alliance



Good News Garage has been changing lives for 21 years by providing transportation assistance to residents of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Vehicles provided by Good News Garage allow working individuals to access employment, educational and training opportunities, childcare, affordable housing and other essential life activities, moving them toward self-sufficiency.

In Vermont and New Hampshire, Good News Garage has partnered with the states' departments of human service using TANF funds to make this happen. Good News Garage partners with local garages and auto parts stores, so those TANF funds are helping not only clients who receive a car, but businesses within our communities.

In 2016, Good News Garage placed 202 individuals in vehicles. People like Erika Paine, a mother of a six-year-old girl, who lives in Vergennes, Vermont. Erika had a job working for the Addison County Land Trust, but she relied on friends, family, and when the schedule worked, the bus. Erika received a vehicle from Good News Garage in October 2015 and was then able to drive to Boston for training for her job. Once she received that training, she was able to take on more responsibilities at work resulting in a raise of \$1 an hour. That has since increased to over \$2 an hour increase, which Erika attributes to owning a car. As a result of having a car, Erika has reduced the amount of assistance she receives and is able to provide a better life for her daughter. Boston is 200 miles from Vergennes, but without a car or living near a common carrier transportation provider, it might as well have been 2,000 miles.

This is a story we hear over and over from clients. That without a car, people are unable to move forward in their lives simply because they lack transportation but once they receive a vehicle their future takes off. That with a car they are able to take a job working second shift, because they don't have to work around the hours when the bus runs. They are able to work more hours or find a better job. They are able to move to a better, cheaper apartment, because they no longer have to live near the bus line, where rental housing can be more expensive.

Consider these statistics for clients one year after receiving their car:

- 72% report an increase in income
- 70% are no longer receiving state assistance
- 94% of clients report that they still own their car