



More Than Just A Ride

For someone without access to reliable transportation, things like libraries, parks, stores and even decent jobs can seem unreachable. That's why BJ's Charitable Foundation supports organizations like these that understand the importance of providing transportation as part of the network of services that help families build self-sufficiency and brighter futures.

Our House Inc., Decatur, GA ▶

Our House gives homeless families "the leg up they need to become self-sufficient," says Executive Director Tyese Lawyer. Often, that starts with free Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) cards. Families use these to attend regular meetings where they set goals, build skills and overcome obstacles. They're essential for job searches, too. As Lawyer explains,

"You can't find or get a job without access to reliable transportation."

So, Our House ensures that families have MARTA cards along with any résumé help and interview attire they need. And because you can't keep a job without reliable childcare, MARTA cards are also available so families can take advantage of the award-winning preschool, safe play space and medical care Our House offers.

Learn more about how Our House is helping Metro Atlanta-area families at www.ourhousega.org.



Photos by Thomas S. England

Our House is helping families in Atlanta-area shelters achieve self-sufficiency with high-quality preschool classes, safe daycare and personalized support services, including transportation to jobs.

Youth Development Program YWCA® Central Carolinas, Charlotte, NC ▶

Every day after school and during their summer breaks, 300 kids board a YWCA bus to one of its youth centers. Most are from families making less than \$10,000 a year. "Many come from generations of poverty," explains Anita Self, the Y's chief philanthropy officer. For kids without cars or money, libraries and museums are a foreign territory. "They don't think about going, and don't feel comfortable when they do." So before the children go on a field trip somewhere, they study up on the culture. "We teach them what they'll see, what to expect, how to behave — then we get on the bus." This educational focus has enabled some of the older children to take a field trip they might once have never imagined: a college tour.

Read more about how at-risk kids are broadening their horizons at www.ywcacentralcarolinas.org/programs/youth-programs.



The YWCA's Youth Development Program broadens kids' horizons and encourages active learning with field trips like this one to a wildlife habitat near Charlotte.

Since 2005, BJ's Charitable Foundation has given more than \$11 million to over 1,000 community organizations in the 15 states where BJ's Clubs are located. The bulk of its grants fund organizations that provide services in the areas of hunger prevention, self-sufficiency, healthcare and education to those in need. For more information and to apply, visit www.bjs.com/charity.