

Job Rides, Inc. – A Mission to Improve the Lives of Iowa Workers

Job Rides is an Iowa-based nonprofit whose mission is to provide people with equal access to employment through transportation. Job Rides partners with businesses, organizations, and individuals to provide affordable, reliable rides for those who need it most. Work is one of the keys to a better life, and Job Rides’ motto is “Helping people get to work.”

Job Rides, Inc. is a tax-exempt public charity under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Job Rides is incorporated in Urbandale, Iowa, with operations currently in the Greater Des Moines metro area.

Job Rides was founded by Bill Raine, president of Raine Recruiting, LLC. From his leadership of a staffing agency, Bill was aware of the challenges confronting people who found jobs but lacked reliable transportation to their workplaces. A vision of Job Rides was born in 2019, and over the next two years it was incorporated, seated a board of directors, obtained vans and arranged contracts with area manufacturers to begin transporting workers.

The impact of Job Rides in its first year of operations is illustrated in this table:

RIDERS	OPERATIONS – VANS/DRIVERS	SUPPORTERS / FUNDS
100 riders found and kept full-time work in 2022	9 Drivers (one driver started as refugee rider in early '22)	Executive Director and Board of Directors are all-volunteer
150 – Average number of daily riders as of December 2022	5 Vans - January 2022 8 Vans – January 2023	Website and accountant are in-kind services
~ \$2.5 Million Rider Income	1,200 Gallons Gas / Avg per Month 60,000 Miles logged in 2022	501(c)3 Tax-exempt status
24 riders, with steady jobs, moved to apartments from being homeless in 2022	\$170,000 Driver Payroll (only pay drivers & p/t coordinator)	Support received from more than 85 individuals, private and corporate foundations
Job Rides continues to pick up employed riders if they change housing	3 Shifts / 2+ vans / 7 Days a Week 24 Pickup Locations	Partnered with Community Foundation for donations and GIVEEdsm platform

Job Rides Operations

Contracts are established with manufacturers to transport employees from specific pick-up points to workplaces. Job Rides serves a diverse and underserved workforce; riders are primarily immigrants, refugees, homeless shelter residents, and those in work release or reentry programs. Drivers cover routes six days a week for three shifts to companies in Des Moines, Ankeny, Grimes, and Norwalk. Job Rides receives a weekly fee of \$50 for each employee transported. The employers agree to the Job Rides “hand up guarantee” which states that the company agrees to not charge more than 50 percent of the fee to the rider. The collected weekly fee of \$50 per rider only partially covers expenses of driver wages, van maintenance, insurance, and fuel, making donations and grants critical to our mission.

Board of Directors

Bill Raine – Cathy Raine – Edgar Ramirez – Noah Tabor – Jeff Stange – Kathleen Till Stange – Jeff Williams

Demand for services has grown steadily since Job Rides launched in January 2022, with a wait list of companies seeking workers and individuals seeking work and rides. This unique program has great potential to lift lowans from poverty through stable employment. Workers with consistent and reliable transportation are far more likely to remain in jobs and improve their standard of living.

Dee Zee, Inc., a Des Moines-based manufacturer, contracts with Job Rides for multiple shifts. Sarah Tighe, MA, Talent Recruiter, shared the following testimonial:

Job Rides has been a lifesaver for us at Dee Zee. We can't thank Bill and his team enough for seeing that there was a need for a program like this in the Des Moines area. We have been working closely with Refugee Services throughout Des Moines to provide arriving refugees with job opportunities. These employees have become amazing assets to our company, but after a few months if they do not have a license and car, they have no way to get to work due to no longer being eligible for transportation through government services.

Job Rides found a solution that we are incredibly grateful for, as are our employees. It gives these individuals more time to get acclimated to the area until they are able to get a license and transportation for themselves. A huge thank you to Bill and his team for being so helpful and easy to work with, while providing such an essential program to our area. Without this program, we would lose a lot of incredible staff.

Another testimonial comes from Edgar Ramirez, Workforce Liaison for the Bureau of Refugee Services (BRS) at the Iowa Department of Human Services. Edgar is now a board member and offers this insight on the great demand for transportation services in Iowa.

The main focus of my position is to connect employers to refugees and vice-versa. However, between the two there are barriers that often make these connections difficult or nearly impossible. One barrier that is often identified during conversations with employers throughout Iowa is the lack of transportation. Often places of employment are located far from job seekers' homes. Public transportation is not adequate or available. Job Rides' purpose helps eliminate the lack of transportation and enhances quality of life for underserved populations by making the connection to quality employment a reality.

Job Rides operates on revenue from riders, support from private donors, and corporate and foundation grants. Donations and grants are essential to grow the organization and meet the demand for transportation services in Iowa. I am happy to talk with you personally about Job Rides' impact and potential.



Bill Raine, Executive Director
Job Rides, Inc.

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Profiles of Job Rides' board of directors: jobrides.org/about/

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