

# FUELING FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TRANSPORTATION

Many people in Story County face transportation barriers, making other needs, such as food, a steady income, and childcare, less accessible. While Ames offers several forms of public transportation, many needs still go unmet—especially for those with specific work schedules and for residents of other Story County communities where options are far more limited. However, since beginning the Wheels for Work program, more than 80 families have been able to achieve long-lasting independence by having their own vehicle.

It didn't take long after arriving in Ames for Johnson to realize that Wheels for Work could offer real, lasting impact in Story County. "We had seen the impact that it had in Webster County, heard the stories about changing people's lives, and knew there was likely a need here as well. After communicating with the team at United Way, they indicated that there was [a need] but there wasn't really a way to address that, so it felt like a good fit."

## IMPACT



80+ families have received donated vehicles



100% of recipients reported improved access to needed services over one year

## WHY IT MATTERS



100% of recipients were able to maintain employment or school enrollment over one year



50% reported a promotion or pay raise at their job within 12 months of receiving a vehicle

## Removing Roadblocks

Between night shifts and newborn appointments, Emma's days were already full – and without a car, every trip meant asking for rides or piecing together other ways to get around.

That all changed this month when she received the keys to a 2005 Mercury Sable through the Wheels for Work program. The look on her face said it all: relief, gratitude, and excitement for the road ahead.

Now, Emma has the freedom to get to work, make appointments, and take care of her family on her own schedule. One set of keys has opened the door to greater independence and peace of mind.

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible car donation can contact Nick or Casey Johnson at Ames Ford at (515) 233-1913.

Learn more at:  
[uwstory.org/financial-empowerment](http://uwstory.org/financial-empowerment)



**UNITED WAY**  
Story County