

## Linking People to Jobs – How Transit Works

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*Doll uses Evening LINK to help her get home from her job at Big Lots.*

After being laid off from her first job, Doll spent time caring for her sick mother until she passed away. Earlier this year, she decided it was time to find a new job. Doll has a disability and with the help of MHMR got a job at Big Lots. The final challenge for Doll was to figure out how to get home from work at night.

Doll, who lives in north Waco, shares this challenge with as many as 26% of residents living in parts of north and east Waco who do not have access to a vehicle. Waco Transit's bus service stops running at 7:15 p.m., leaving many without a way to get to or from work at night.

For now, a solution exists. Doll was excited to learn about the Evening LINK; the first-ever evening transportation service available Monday – Saturday from 8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Evening LINK is a project of Workforce Solutions, in partnership with Waco Transit and several other local agencies.

The Evening LINK is successfully addressing a growing need of residents working non-standard hours. Jobs in the food service, retail, health and medical, and manufacturing industries often require employees to work nights. The Evening LINK provides approximately 400 passenger trips a month using three vehicles and a reservation system to get workers in the greater Waco area to and from work safely, reliably, and affordably. Eighty percent of passengers are employed full time and 90% report that the service is extremely important to keeping their job. More than 60 businesses have employees who have used the Evening LINK.

Doll has been riding the Evening LINK five nights a week for the last three months. The service is helping her meet her goal of “living a healthy and independent life.” At 40, feeling independent is important to Doll and she expresses her excitement about her new life by saying, “My disability may slow me down, but it won't stop me.”

For more information about LINK, please visit <http://www.mylinktransit.com/>.