

Stakeholder Spotlight

continued

driving leftover food from lunches at their high school to people in need.

Inspired by their vision to “pay it forward,” Chris returned to his office with a request. If the students could get to class, would the WMST team of instructors be willing to volunteer their time?

Hearing the youths’ story, the WMST team eagerly volunteered. Incredibly, a call came in that day from someone in the community. They offered to drive the students in every weekend for the classes and the drive lessons.

You might wonder if these youths ended up being as committed. “The truth is, these students never missed a class, never missed a drive, and they passed every exam,” Chris said. “They had such a remarkable attitude and determination. They showed up positive, happy, and

humble for every lesson.”

The students became close friends. The WMST staff and instructors grew quite attached to them as well.

In the summer of 2018, Chris went to local motorsports event with his own children. He went to a concessions stand for food. After

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waiting in line, he was greeted by a loud and cheerful server. He then turned and called out to his work colleagues to come over and say ‘hi’. To Chris’ surprise, it was the three students the WMST team had volunteered to teach. The students now have jobs, and they rideshare to work in the one car they were able to get between them.

“The best part is they still use the same car to deliver the food

they promised to provide their community,” Chris said.

Chris and his staff say they have gained much insight from this experience. “The education we provide goes beyond preventing injuries and fatalities. It gives students the ability to set themselves up for success.”

“In return, they can give back to their community,” he said. “With each opportunity, we get to share knowledge and best practices. We have a real chance to help someone unlock their true potential.”

For more information about how you can help provide driver training for underserved youth, contact Chris Johnson, CEO & Curriculum Developer for WMST LLC, at 425-252-9913 or drive@gowmst.com.

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