

Maria Teresa's Babies Early Enrichment Center

CHAMPION SINCE 2014

HIGHLIGHT

A family-owned business located in Crystal City, Maria Teresa's Babies (MTB) Early Enrichment Center serves as an example that not all businesses need a large number of employees to offer a transportation benefit.

Choosing to implement and utilize alternate transit options has been an important business component for owner, Tony Saba, to ensure employee satisfaction.

CLIENT OPPORTUNITY

MTB Early Enrichment Center is a daycare and educational environment for pre-school children up to age 5. Situated along 23rd Street in a residential neighborhood, owner Tony Saba believes that young infants and pre-school children are much better served when they are a part of a warm community.

While the daycare has a residential vibe, it is located along a major thoroughfare which includes several major bus routes. While Saba confirms that many of his employees already opted to take public transportation, Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP) was able to recognize even more opportunities and benefits for Saba, his business and his employees.

CHALLENGE

Tony Saba first contacted Arlington Transportation Partners in 2013 when he was looking to expand his business and property.

The County originally stated that with this expansion they would need to supply 18 parking spaces; however since most of his employees already elected to take multi-modal options, it was felt that the requirement would be a disservice to the neighborhood with regards to overall aesthetic and to the mission of ACCS to reduce SOV in Arlington County.

BASICS

Champion Level

Gold

Urban Village

Crystal City

Industry

Education

Staff

18



CHAMPIONS SOLUTION

With support from many community officials and residents, MTB Early Enrichment Center is currently working with the County Zoning Board to redefine zoning laws – not just for their business and neighborhood, but to better serve a car-lite Arlington County.

ATP's Champions program serves as a solution for MTB Early Enrichment Center in the sense that it allowed them to demonstrate their commitment to a car-free lifestyle. As a Gold Level Champion, it is clear that MTB Early Enrichment Center already works hard to promote alternate transit option. Champions also allowed Saba a chance to learn about SmartBenefits, an IRS-compliant program that allows employees to deduct a pre-tax amount from their salary to devote towards use on public transportation in the DC metropolitan region.

Located exactly .8 miles from both Crystal City Pentagon City Metro Station, implementing a pre-tax benefit with the help of ATP has given Saba's employees a sense of security so a commute home doesn't turn into finding cash to pay the fare each day. This pre-tax option also benefits the individual employee at the end of each tax year.

PEOPLE STORY

Tony Saba is a shining example of business owners in Arlington County who not only cares about his employees, but also the goals of his community as he promotes public transportation in the office himself. Recently, he walked an employee to Crystal City Metro Station to explain available bus routes and how to load money on a SmarTrip card.

MTB Early Enrichment Center is also looking to officially adopt the MetroBus stop in front of the daycare since they already clean and tend to it daily, a courtesy they extend to help maintain an overall clean neighborhood and environment for the children.

ARLINGTON IMPACT

All 18 staff members at MTB Early Enrichment Center utilize public transit, not adding any additional cars or congestion to the roads here in Arlington County.

The amenities and benefits offered by Tony Saba directly assists Arlington County's long term goal of shifting SOV rates from 60% to 40%.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Arlington County Commuter Services

Arlington Transportation Partners, a division of Arlington County Commuter Services within the Department of Environmental Services, provides transportation expertise and services to businesses, residential communities, developers, and hoteliers in Arlington County, Virginia.



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