

RIGHTEOUS RIDES' NEWEST HUB: CHARLOTTE



"I recognized trends reflected in these stats, trends that usually indicate what's going on in the missionary world. For example, requests for shorter term usage reflects a trend towards more frequent, shorter furloughs. I also saw that 45% of missionaries desired to have a van out of one of our eastern hubs yet only 19% of our vans were located in those hubs. This required missionaries to drive long distances to pick up a van from an alternate location, either a central or western hub. This data and conversations with various staff led Mark and me to feel God's tug and pray seriously about starting a Righteous Rides hub to service the Charlotte, NC, airport. It didn't take us long to say 'yes' to the opportunity of serving missionaries coming into our area!"

MORE ACCESS FOR EASTERN STATES

Meet our newest hub coordinators, Mark and Janice Phillips, who will be serving missionaries coming to the Carolinas and surrounding states. Both Mark and Janice grew up on the mission field, Mark in Rhodesia and Janice in Venezuela. The need for missionary transportation is nothing new to them. In fact, Janice's brother, Fred Tuggy has served for many years at Righteous Rides headquarters as a missionary mechanic. *"It was Fred's passion for the ministry that hooked me,"* says Janice.

In 2015 Fred invited Janice to help him transport a Righteous Rides van from Oregon to Missouri. Upon their arrival at Righteous Rides headquarters, Janice toured the shop, met several of the staff, and began to understand why Fred was so passionate about the ministry. Janice tells more of the story:

"Fred suggested I inquire to see if I could assist even though I live in South Carolina. Thanks to the Internet, I've been serving ever since! My current tasks include compiling stats on missionary information we receive through the online van requests."

The new hub's location, 85 miles south of Charlotte's international airport, is the reason it is referred to as the CLT Hub. Its first van arrived June 26 and was released to a missionary family two weeks later. As hub coordinators, the Phillipses are building a team who are catching the vision and raising funds to grow the hub. They're delighted to see support in their area coming from friends, pastors, members of various churches, local business owners, and mission board leaders. Mark and Janice are *"excited to see where God will take us on this righteous ride!"*



What missionary transportation looked like for Janice's family when they came to the U.S. from Venezuela for furlough in 1958. A tent on top of the bus served as sleeping accommodations for her parents at night, and each of the kids had a seat to himself!

