

SUCCESS STORY: ADULT LIFE PROGRAMS, CATAWBA COUNTY, NC

BACKGROUND

Adult Life Programs is a non-profit organization that offers adult day services and transportation to individuals in Catawba County, North Carolina. The organization currently has 33 employees, all of which have common interest in community involvement and care for their community. Having a low participant-to-staff ratio that provides services ranging from First Aid to caring for those who struggle with Alzheimer's disease allows individuals who need adult day services to stay active in their community.

When Executive Director Mark Bumgarner discovered how running vehicles on propane autogas would reduce both emissions and fuel costs, he knew starting an autogas program would be a smart choice for Adult Life Programs.



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Earlier in 2019, Adult Life Programs began looking for an alternative fuel option for their fleet of vans as a way to set an example in reducing emissions. Through their search, the non-profit decided to work with Alliance AutoGas (AAG) and beginning an autogas program. "A top priority for our organization

is to be a leader in the community. We saw an opportunity to set an example for the area in being more environmentally conscious with our fleet, and we are happy that the decision was made," says Bumgarner.

WORKING WITH ALLIANCE AUTOGAS

After deciding to implement an alternative fuel program, Adult Life Programs started working with AAG in April of 2019. AAG converted a Ford E350 Passenger Van and two Ford Transit Passenger Vans for the organization. Alliance AutoGas member Blossman Gas was chosen as the refueling partner in this project.

Bumgarner adds, "Our drivers were hesitant at first, however, they were pleased to discover how simple the refueling process is. The Blossman Gas store in Hickory has been very accommodating to our autogas needs and answering any questions we have." When speaking on serving Adult Life Programs, Jimmy Daley, manager of Blossman Gas in Hickory added, "It has been a pleasure for our store in Hickory to take care of Adult Life Programs' autogas fuel needs. They provide important services to our community, and we want to make sure they can continue providing those services. Blossman looks forward to helping the adult day services bring better air quality to the community while saving on fuel prices by using autogas."



Mark Bumgarner,
Executive Director
Adult Life Programs

FLEET STATISTICS

FLEET TYPE:

Adult Day Services

AAG PARTNER:

Blossman Gas, Inc.
(www.blossmangas.com)

AUTOGAS VEHICLES IN

FLEET:

1 Ford E350 Passenger Van
2 Ford Transit Passenger Vans

ANNUAL AUTOGAS MILEAGE:

1,800

AUTOGAS FUELING:

Local Blossman Gas Branch in
Hickory, North Carolina

TIME OPERATING ON

AUTOGAS:

~1 year

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RESULTS AND AUTOGAS BENEFITS

Bumgarner shares, “With the help of AAG, we are able to provide transportation to those who need it. We have found out first-hand that autogas is a reliable fuel for the individuals who need our adult day services.” Not only do individuals who participate in the adult day services receive care from Adult Life Programs, they also help give back to the community. “Adult Life Programs is very active within the area, from helping with our local soup kitchen to participating in the Meals on Wheels program. When those who are active in our programs find out we are helping in our community, they are eager to be a part of those efforts,” says Bumgarner.

To date, Adult Life Programs has used over 1,200 gallons of autogas, which according to EPA calculations is the equivalent to planting 338 trees that grow for ten years. One major bonus of vehicles converted by AAG is the bifuel system, meaning they can run on propane as well as gasoline in the event that the driver is out of range of an autogas refueling location, providing drivers with added security and eliminating range anxiety.

MOVING FORWARD

Bumgarner shares, “Our vans are on the road 2-3 times a day, 5 days a week. We continue to look at ways to grow our programs, and with that includes analyzing our fleet and utilizing propane autogas. We are grateful for the opportunity to set an example for the area in being more environmentally conscious with our fleet, and we hope to expand soon on our autogas program.”

William Adair, an Alternative Fuel Consultant for AAG says, “Adult Life Programs has an outstanding team that is committed to serving the Catawba County community. The staff at Adult Life Programs is great to work with in regards to their autogas program. Hopefully the program will be expanded upon in 2020.”

