

JUST ONE THING

Submitted by: Allen Reetz, areetz@coopfoodstore.com

Company/Organization: Hanover Co-op Food Stores & Auto Service Centers

Type of Organization: For profit

Number of Employees: 358

Category: Community

Challenge or Opportunity: The Hanover Co-op saw a challenge faced by people facing poverty in our communities. Too often, people who have a car, but little extra money, are unable to afford unexpected car repairs. Something as simple as a car inspection, broken seat belt, or bad brakes can cause them to miss work, causing a downward spiral and mounting problems.

Approach or Solution: The Co-op has two auto service centers. Our mechanics know that for some people, the cost of common car repairs can leave no money for rent, food, or medicine. So they launched Co-op Car Connects. Listen Community Services helps folks in-need daily. Listen directs the clients to us. Our team quickly repairs and replaces parts at little or no cost.

Impact: The impact we have seen, time and again, is deep relief in the faces of people who were desperate for a car repair and got it. Car Connects has helped over 60 people get to work, afford other important purchases, and of course, drive safely. For our mechanics, fixing cars is more than a job, it is a way to help those in need live a more secure life.