



The Good News

DONATE A CAR *Change a life!*

Spring 2011

www.goodnewsmountaineergarage.com

News from Our President

Signs of spring are here: daffodils are blooming and the days are getting longer. I anticipate the new starts this season brings. Good News Mountaineer Garage is embarking on several new starts, too.

After more than nine years in operation, and with gratitude to a major supporter, we will soon purchase a piece of property on Charleston's West Side that will eventually locate our offices and cars in the same place. The staff looks forward to a more efficient use of space, and we also hope that this visible presence will be a part of new growth and development on the West Side.

Another new beginning: a pilot program to provide vehicles for sale to low-wage workers. Through our planning process, we recognized a need to provide reliable, low-cost cars at reasonable prices to workers who did not qualify for our other programs. We have ten cars available for purchase, and have partnered with two nonprofits to identify individuals who qualify for this program. The cars come with some maintenance education and a warranty.

As Spring continues to blossom, I look forward to the new beginnings at Good News Mountaineer Garage.

Kate Fitzgerald, President, GNMG Board of Directors

Earth Friendly: The Value of Recycling Older Cars

Many of us have worried about automotive emissions and other environmental impacts of our car-driven society. The government responded with the Cash for Clunkers program.

This program's purpose was twofold: to jumpstart the automotive industry and to get low-mileage-per-gallon vehicles off the road. While the automotive industry may have benefited, did the environment? Would it have been better to provide a similar tax break to donate those vehicles to programs like the Good News so people with low incomes and no transportation could get to work?

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**1-866
GIVE
CAR**

1-800-448-3227

Car Guy Tips

We could all use some help when it comes to maintaining our cars. Here's a tip from the Good News Mountaineer Garage. At Good News Mountaineer Garage, we care about the condition of your car. We think everyone in West Virginia should have access to reliable transportation regardless of their income.

Sometimes driving on rural West Virginia roads can be tough on your tires. Would you know how to change a tire if you needed to?

First of all, if you're driving on the highway, make sure your car is pulled safely off of the road. If you have flares, set them up behind your car so other drivers will see you from a distance. If you don't have flares, turn on your flashers.

Apply your parking brake and put the car in "park."

When you remove the spare tire from the trunk, you should find a jack and other tools necessary to change your tire. Place the jack under the car frame closest to the tire you are changing. If you're unsure about where to place the jack, check your owner's manual. Raise the jack until the car is supported.

Remove the hubcap and loosen the nuts by turning them counterclockwise. When they are loosened, crank or pump the jack until the tire is completely off of the ground.

Once the tire is completely off the ground, you can remove the nuts the rest of the way and remove the tire.

Align the new tire and tighten the bolts by hand. Next, slowly lower the car to the ground. Once your car is safely on the ground, use the wrench to tighten the nuts again.

These tips should help get you and your car safely back on the road.

Earth Friendly *Continued from page 1*

Actually, it makes more sense, environmentally, to keep an old car running, according to *Earth Talk Magazine*. Manufacturing a new automobile has significant environmental costs. Between 12% and 28% of carbon dioxide emission generated during the life cycle of a typical gasoline-powered vehicle occurs during its manufacture and transportation to the dealer. Hybrid and electrical vehicles, even though they have better gas mileage and lower emissions, may have a negative effect on the environment due to the battery toxicity concerns. Additionally, the raw goods used to make any new car, hybrid or traditional, impact the environment. Add to this the environmental cost of adding cars to ever-growing junk heaps.

We don't mean to discourage anyone from getting a new or newer car, but to point out that donating your old vehicle when upgrading is an environmentally good thing to do and allows those without transportation to get to work.

We will fix your donated vehicle if the necessary repairs are reasonable and if there's a likelihood that the repaired vehicle will last two years with normal use and maintenance.

Be Green, recycle your old car, get a tax break, and help someone get to work to support themselves and their family. And enjoy your new car!

Save \$\$\$ on this Year's Taxes!

Donating a vehicle can be a great deal for the donor as well as for the person in need who receives the vehicle. But, from the taxpayer's perspective, not all donation programs are equal.

At many charity auction sales, the vehicles go for much less than fair market value. So, in 2005, the IRS changed the rules on what could be deducted for vehicle donations. The GOOD NEWS: they exempted donated vehicles that are "sold or transferred to needy individuals in direct furtherance of a donee organization's charitable purpose." So programs like Good News Mountaineer Garage, which directly transfer your donated car to a low-income family "at a price significantly below fair market value," still allow donors to deduct the fair market value for their donated vehicle. In addition, tax credits may be available through the State of West Virginia's Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP).

If we cannot use the donated vehicle because of excess repair cost, or if it is a luxury car that would be too expensive for our recipients to maintain, we sell the vehicle; but we work hard to get the fair market value. We have our own live auction, list on e-Bay, and also use public auction formats.

Good News Mountaineer Garage does all the necessary paperwork, including supplying the donor with IRS form 1098-C, which is required for the donor to deduct the value of the donation.

It's just a good deal all around; save your tax dollars and help a family get to work so they can become taxpayers too!

1994 Plymouth SV
donated by
Richard and
Carolyn
Holsclaw



Thank you so much for this chance to get back on my feet. The van is a true blessing! I'm so excited to be able to not "bum rides," have to walk, and can do things with my children. You know the first thing we're gonna do is take a ride-just cuz we can!!

God Bless You All! Thanks again, Shelly

You have no idea what this gift means to my children and myself. We have never received such a generous gift. We thank you truly from the bottom of our hearts and hope that someday we may do this for another family in need.

Dear Donor,

I want to let you know that your donation of the car has provided my family a means of safe transportation. If not for people with great hearts, like yourself, we would not be able to afford a vehicle to continue working and providing for our children.

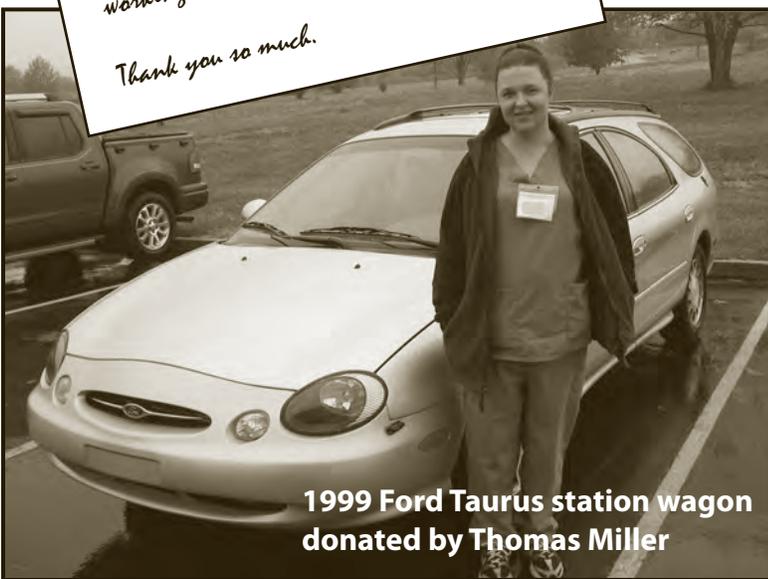
Thank you so much.



1997 Ford Taurus Station Wagon donated by
Michael Deavers

To whom it may concern:

You have no idea what you have given my family. Because of your kindness, someone else can have a better life. This is like Christmas for me. Blessings for you and your family.



1999 Ford Taurus station wagon
donated by Thomas Miller

Your car could change the life of a West Virginia family. If you would like to donate a used car to Good News Mountaineer Garage, check out our website at www.goodnewsmountaineergarage.com or call us at 1-866-GIVE-CAR.

**1-866
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CAR**
1-800-448-3227

**Now is the perfect
time to donate!
WV State Tax Credits
still available!**

This program is presented with financial assistance from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources. Good News Mountaineer Garage is registered with the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office, and is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

One Donor's Story

In April 2010 I had the opportunity to purchase a new car. However, nothing was really wrong with my old Subaru, especially as I had just completed some work on it. I was aware of Good News Mountaineer Garage through Grace Murphy and our Professional Business Women's Association.

I called the number, and Brian Timmons returned my call and asked if he could come out that day and pick it up. I said I wanted to clean it up first, and asked if there was someplace I could bring it. He said he needed to come and pick it up, so we arranged a date. After washing and cleaning the car, I set about going through my records and noting where the car had been serviced for the next owner.

Brian came at the time arranged, and talked me through the papers, and then away went my old car. I knew it would go to a good new owner who would make use of it. Brian made the process very easy, and my accountant was pleased with the paperwork I received.

Several weeks later I received a hand-written note and a picture of the new owner and her child. I was touched and knew the car had a good home.

I hope more people think about someone who may need a car to get to a job and become self-sufficient. What an easy thing to do: to donate a good vehicle through Good News Mountaineer Garage to help a fellow West Virginian in need.

Christina M. Lundberg, Center Manager/Business Coach
Small Business Development Center of the Eastern Panhandle

Call now to donate, or visit us online:
www.goodnewsmountaineergarage.com

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