

DONATE A CAR Change a life!

#### Fall 2010

www.goodnewsmountaineergarage.com

## A Message from the Director Gratitude from the Garage

Thanksgiving has a special meaning to us at the Good News Mountaineer Garage. It was about this time of year, nine years ago, when we started giving out donated cars to low-income families. As we go on with our busy days — getting cars in, repairing them, and providing transportation to families to enhance their lives and finances — we need to step back and thank all of the generous people who made the decision to donate their car, truck, sports or luxury vehicle, recreational vehicle, camper or motorcycle. Their kindness has made this program a success.

In this issue, one of our repeat donors, Ricklin Brown, tells his story of the joy he and his wife, Sarah Sullivan, experienced by recycling their Jeep to a poor family who had no transportation.

We've also included a few of the many thank-you notes recipients have written to the donors of the vehicles they received. We hear story after story of how hard it was to get ahead with their lives without a vehicle — and how grateful these families are to finally have a safe, reliable vehicle. It literally changes their lives.

I truly believe people want to help others; I believe it is a part of our basic human nature. That's one of the many reasons we at the Good News Mountaineer Garage are thankful: we get to bring together the generosity of those who have with the gratitude of those who don't.

From our staff, our board of directors, and more than 1,300 recipients: Donors, we thank you. And, happy Thanksgiving!

— Barbara Bayes, Director

# One Car, Two Families Donation Makes a Big Difference

My wife, Sarah and I recently replaced one of our cars and decided to donate the older model Jeep Cherokee to the Good News Mountaineer Garage. This was the second donation for our family. We don't replace cars very often, and hoped our old Jeep would find a good home.

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## **Under the Hood**

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3 Thank-you Letters from Good News Mountaineer Garage Recipients



4 Get ready for the Annual Garage Ball!



**Ricklin Brown and Sarah Sullivan, donors.** 



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

# **Car Guy Tips** Pressure Primer

Do you know how to check the pressure in your tires? Aside from your brakes, your tires are one of the most important safety features of your car. Having the right amount of are in your tires will ensure that your car drives properly.

A lot of people inflate tires to the pressure listed on the tires themselves, but that's actually the wrong place to look. The number on the tire is the *maximum allowable* air pressure, not the *recommended* pressure, for that tire.

Check your owner's manual to find out what's recommended. This number can usually be found inside the driver's door.

Once you know the recommended amount of air pressure, use a tire gauge to check the pressure in your tires. If the number is lower than the recommended pressure, add air to the tires.

Don't forget that air pressure in your tires changes with fluctuations in the weather. If you checked your tires in July, when the weather was warm, your tires may be under-inflated now.

#### **Donation Makes a Big Difference**

Continued from front page

The folks at Good News made it easy. It's tax-deductible as a charitable contribution. They did all the paperwork. We signed our names and then forgot about it until the following message arrived from the new owner a couple of weeks later:

"I really needed this vehicle. My husband takes seizures and this will help him to get to and from his doctor's appointments. So we'll hopefully find out why. I also have an 11-month-old son who will appreciate the new ride. This means the world to me. I do appreciate it and desperately needed it. Plus, I'm going to go back to school so I don't have to wait tables the rest of my life. Thanks so much."

That card stopped me cold right in the middle of a work day. What do you say about something that was just taken-for-granted transportation for us but could generate that sort of heartfelt response from others? I did not stop to consider how blessed we were, owning two cars, until I got that card. Believe me, I got more value from that card than any dealer ever gave me on a "trade in." It's propped up on my desk as I write this and it will stay there a long time to remind me that, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." (Luke 12:48). I am humbled to think that our old car meant so much to that family. I am sure there are many more stories out there waiting to be told.

All it took was the gift of an old car to make a difference in somebody's life and to put some perspective back in our own.

— Ricklin Brown

# **Donate Your Vehicle**

*IT'S EASY* to donate your car, truck, van or fleet vehicles and help West Virginia families get back on the road to work. Call 1-866-GIVE-CAR or donate online at www.goodnewsmountaineergarage.com.

If your car can be repaired and provided to a family, you can deduct the fair market value as a charitable contribution, provided you file an itemized federal income tax return. West Virginia residents may also be able to receive a state tax credit. Good News Mountaineer Garage receives a limited number of state tax credits — so be sure to ask if they are available. If you have specific questions about how a car donation will affect your tax liability, you should consult an accountant or other tax professional. Tax information is also available at www.irs.gov.

This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the WV Deptartment 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.

## Recipients Express Their Thanks

1993 Ford Taurus GL donated by Ray Bayer of Hinton, WV.

#### Dear Donor,

I would like to show my appreciation for your generous donation. Thanks to your big heart I'm now able to take my boys to and from doctors appointments and sporting events. I also have a nice car to go to work. People like you make this world a better place. Again, thank you very much.



#### Dear Donor,

Hello, my name is Chris. Me and my family greatly appreciate what you have done. It takes a special person to donate their vehicle. With this vehicle I will be able to get back and forth to work and get more hours in. That is a good thing because I have a daughter and another one on the way. This vehicle will help out so many other ways and we thank you and God bless you.

#### Dear Donor,

I am very thankful for your donation. I am a single, 35-year-old mother of three children – 16-year-old, 12-year-old, and 11-year-old. I go to nursing school and my children are in karate and baseball and cheerleading. We can not thank you enough. This is truly a blessing.



### Good News Mountaineer Garage

2211/2 Hale Street • Charleston, WV 25301





1-800-448-3227

moo.9peregraaniefnuomewanboop.www Call now to donate, or visit us online:

Wrench yourself away from the humdrum and join us for a good time!

**ATTIRE: Garage Elegant (overalls** optional)

**SUGGESTED DONATION: \$35** 

and more (6:30 p.m.)

heavy hors d'oeuvres, bar, brake dancing and other fuelishness

LIVE AUCTION: Includes luxury cars, old pickup trucks and cars, art

WHAT: Music by the Carpenter Ants,



**Good News** alle alle  $\bigcirc$ Ø OTOR alle

#### Mark your calendar now for our **4th Annual Friend Raiser**

WHEN: November 6, 2010, 5:00-9:00