

NEWS RELEASE

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603 West Park Street, Sheldon, Iowa 51201
Phone 712-324-5061 or toll free 1-800-352-4907, Ext. 105

NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE “CHARITABLE CHARIOTS” DONATE CAR

NCC’s Charitable Chariots program, a SkillsUSA Service Learning Project, donated a 2004 Explorer to a family that had been identified by the Auto Assistance Committee (AAC) on Friday, October 28. The AAC is a group of service agencies from across Northwest Iowa who have joined together in order to make the best possible selections for the recipients of the cars donated from NCC. The applicants must fill out a form and complete an interview with the committee to be eligible for consideration of the car give-away.

The recipient of this car was Chase Meyer, Spirit Lake, Iowa. He is the father of one daughter, Lilly. Meyer said, “Thank you to everyone who worked on this car. They did an amazing job. I didn’t have a car, so getting to work was a real issue for me. This will help me to be able to get a steady job and paycheck. Then I will be able to live in a better place. I just want to say a bunch of thank-yous to everyone involved!”

Tim Card, Mentor-Parent Partner Lakes Region, commented, “I am Chase’s mentor and I believe this is the beginning that Chase needs to be a better parent. He has been stuck living and working in places that really didn’t work for him and this is the first step in his journey.”

Ruben Furias, NCC Automotive student, said, “Giving away the car gives me butterflies. It is a really good feeling to do something for the community and knowing the car is going to someone who really needs it.”

The Charitable Chariots Program is a service learning component of NCC’s Diesel Technology and Automotive Service Technology programs. Students from the two programs join together along with Iowa based businesses to repair and service automobiles for the purpose of donating back to area families in need. To date, eighteen vehicles have been donated to needy families in Northwest Iowa.

Mark Steinle, NCC Automotive Instructor, explained the reason Charitable Chariots was started. “The instructors in the two programs wanted to stress to students that they not only participate in community service, but community service in their given professions. When our students graduate we want them to be well-rounded professionals and that includes giving back to their communities.” Steinle continued, “So we added a service learning component to the curriculums of both of the programs. We are trying to teach that life is not all about a paycheck. Giving back to the community you live in is a good life lesson.”

Krista Card, AAC committee member and Mentor-Parent Partner Lakes Region, said, “NCC’s Charitable Chariots program is something that changes lives and is a true blessing. It’s a great program and reaches out to a lot of people. It’s a beautiful thing.”

Area sponsors of this vehicle include: Iowa Auto Recycle Association, Johnston Automotive, and Arnold Motor Supply.

If you are interested in donating to the Charitable Chariots program please contact Mark Steinle at Northwest Iowa Community College. You can call him at (712) 324-5061 or email him at msteinle@nwicc.edu.

For information on any of NCC's 40+ programs or to receive your free copy of the NCC Viewbook, contact the Admissions Office at: studentservices@nwicc.edu, (712) 324-5061, 1-800-352-4907, or visit our website at nwicc.edu.