



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Students in Northwest Iowa Community College's Collision Repair & Technology, Diesel Technology, and Automotive Service Technology Programs and Iowa Businesses Join Together to Donate Automobiles for Charity

On Saturday, June 14 in Carroll, IA, Northwest Iowa Community College's (NCC) Charitable Chariots program and business partner Iowa Automotive Recyclers (IAR) will donate a 1999 Dodge Durango to an individual in need. Recipient for this vehicle was determined by the Family Resource Center of Carroll.

The presentation ceremony will take place at Quandt's Auto Salvage of Carroll, IA Saturday, June 14 at about 5:00 p.m. Quandt's Auto Salvage is hosting the IAR Annual Conference, a two day event for association members. Representatives for Charitable Chariots, IAR, Family Resource Center, and the donation recipient will be present at the ceremony.

The Charitable Chariots Program is a service learning component of NCC's Collision Repair & Technology, Diesel Technology, and Automotive Service Technology programs. Students from the three programs join together along with Iowa based businesses to repair and service automobiles for charity.

Charitable Chariots was started with the first vehicle donated to charity in 2009. To date, nine vehicles have been donated to needy families. The vehicles are serviced and repaired by college students at NCC. Steven Youngs, Collision Repair Instructor, stated, "The instructors in the three 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. So we added a service learning component to the curriculums of these three programs. The service learning opportunity we chose was to take a donated car, fix it up, and give it to someone in need." Youngs continued, "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."

The Charitable Chariots program has three other vehicles in the process of being fixed right now. One of the vehicles in project development is a van equipped to handle two passengers in wheelchairs. In order to accomplish that goal the Engineering and Welding Program students will contribute their skills to the design and engineer the van for that purpose. Youngs stated, "This is a request from a social service agency who works with a married couple, both in wheelchairs. It is a tall order, but a great opportunity to collaborate with other Programs at the College."

Students from the three programs partnered with several Iowa businesses to accomplish this great community service project. For example, Johnston Automotive, an auto parts supplier in Sheldon, IA, donates a brand new battery in every vehicle donated to the Charitable Chariots program. The Iowa Automotive Recyclers Association, a statewide group of auto salvage yards, provides \$1,100 annually for servicing the vehicles and fills every request for parts made to make sure the vehicles are safe and service free for quite some time.

Youngs commented on the location of the giveaway, "Normally we like to keep the donation fairly local. The reason we are giving away a car in Carroll is IAR has been such a great partner and they have helped the program a lot. So when they asked if we could give a vehicle away at their annual conference we were happy to oblige."

If you are interested in donating to the Charitable Chariots program please contact Steven Youngs at Northwest Iowa Community College. You can call him at (712) 324-5061 or email him at syoungs@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 or call (712) 324-5061 or 1-800-352-4907. Or visit our website at www.nwicc.edu.