

NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHARITABLE CHARIOTS HELP GROWING MILFORD FAMILY

NCC's Charitable Chariots program, a SkillsUSA Service Learning Project, donated a 1997 Chevy Venture van to a family that had been identified by Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO) on Tuesday, March 1.

The recipient of this car was Josh and Karisa Robbins, Milford, Iowa. They have two boys, Brayton and Bryzon, and are expecting a third child soon. Karisa said, "We are very grateful for everything the students have done for us. It's just amazing the students do something like this." Josh followed up by saying, "This is the difference for having employment or staying at home. This takes a huge load off our minds and we are very appreciative."

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. Families that receive the donated vehicles are selected by area social service agencies like UDMO.

TJ Thayer, Outreach Director for UDMO - Dickinson, O'Brien & Osceola Counties, said, "NCC's Charitable Chariots program is something that will change lives. The goal is to give opportunities and a good start in order for people to better themselves. A reliable means of transportation is essential to that goal. A lot of people may take it for granted that they have reliable transportation to get to and from work, drop off kids at school or day care. There are a lot of people where that's just not the case."

CJ Bauman, In Home Family Services Supervisor - Boys Town, Spencer, Iowa said, "Words cannot explain how grateful we are for this program. It is just remarkable."

Along with the donation of the car NCC students from the Diesel Technology program "passed the hat" and raised enough money to donate a \$100 prepaid gas card to the recipient of the car. Karisa commented, "It's great that the students care so much. It's great they show that much kindness to other people."

Charitable Chariots was started with the first vehicle donated to charity in 2009. To date, seventeen vehicles have been donated to needy families. The vehicles are serviced and repaired by NCC students. Mark Steinle, NCC Automotive Instructor, stated, "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. So, we added a service learning component to the curriculums of these two programs. The service learning opportunity we chose was to take a donated car, fix it up, and give it to someone in need." Steinle 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 Iowa businesses that helped in refurbishing this car were Arnold Motor Supply, Sheldon Auto Parts, Oldenkamp Detail, Larry's Repair all of Sheldon, Iowa, and Lems Auto Salvage, Doon, Iowa. Thank you."

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 or call (712) 324-5061 or 1-800-352-4907. Or visit our website at nwicc.edu.

Photos: Charitable Chariots - 2016: (L-R) Karisa Robbins, Josh Robbins, Brayton Robbins, Mark Steinle, NCC Automotive Instructor

Charitable Chariots Family – 2016: (L-R) Josh, Brayton, & Karisa Robbins