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NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHWEST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE “CHARITABLE CHARIOTS” DONATE CAR

NCC’s Charitable Chariots, a SkillsUSA Service Learning Project, donated a 2001 Buick Le Sabre to a single mother and client of “The Bridge” located in Orange City, Iowa on Monday, November 24.

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. SkillsUSA is a student run organization that promotes professional development, community service, and technical training.

Families that receive the donated vehicles are selected by area social service agencies like The Bridge. This is the eleventh vehicle donated by NCC since 2009, and the third donated through The Bridge.

Gina Roberson, Life Skills Coordinator, The Bridge, said, “We are so appreciative of an opportunity like this. We have women coming to us from all different kinds of life situations and this is a great opportunity for them. It will make it easier for them to get a job if they have reliable transportation.”

Along with the donation of the car NCC students from the three programs “passed the hat” and raised enough money to donate a \$100 prepaid gas card to the recipient of the car. Charlotte Richards, Direct Care Coordinator, The Bridge, added, “That donation from the students is huge. That just shows the caring hearts of NCC students and what it means to go above and beyond expectations. It demonstrates the values of the students and the College.”

Scott Moffatt, Diesel Technology student, Sioux City, said, “I think it’s a great feeling to donate my time and skills to a great project. What little bit we gave when we passed the hat won’t hurt us and it made me feel great!”

Charitable Chariots was started with the first vehicle donated to charity in 2009. To date, eleven vehicles have been donated to needy families. The vehicles are serviced and repaired by NCC students. 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.”

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 nwicc.edu.

Photo: Representatives from The Bridge: (L) Charlotte Richards, Direct Care Coordinator, (R) Gina Roberson, Life Skills Coordinator. Scott Moffatt, man in Front row on the far left wearing the John Deere green cap.