

Q & A with Dwight and Susi Churchill Donors of the 1976 Triumph Spitfire

How did you hear about GNG?

We originally heard about Good News Garage in People Magazine and then later read an article in the local newspaper.

Why did you decide to donate your classic Triumph to Good News Garage?

This was our second donation to Good News Garage. Last fall we donated our daughter's 2004 Subaru Impreza WRX. It sold at auction for an amount significantly more than we expected. We were thrilled with the tax deduction!

Are classic cars a passion of yours?

We have owned several older cars including a 1975 Triumph and a 1975 Mercedes 280. We will probably buy another classic car to tinker with in the future. Working on cars cleans your mind and is good therapy!

What led you to purchase this car?

We purchased the Triumph as a "project" car for our daughter's high school senior project. The idea was to have her learn how cars worked. For her project she rebuilt the entire brake system and the carburetor. She also tuned the engine and did some interior work. When she started the project she was interested in finding out what makes a car go, but after she was done she realized it's more important to figure out what makes a car stop!

What work did you put into the car?

Our daughter enjoyed her project so much that we decided to take the entire engine apart and rebuild it. At one point, we had every piece of the engine on the garage floor and we replaced every part whether it was needed or not. I realized that if I got to spend time with my daughter, it was the best money spent. We had a rule that we would only work on the car together, so we really rebuilt the car as a team. Once we reassembled the car we tried to start it and it wouldn't! We needed to back and retune the engine and after many tries it finally started up.

What impact do you hope donating your Triumph to GNG will have?

Susi: My hope is that the Triumph will generate enough income to provide reliable vehicles to several local residents so they can care for their families and get to work. There isn't a lot of mass transit around here and you really need a car to get anywhere.

Dwight: Hopefully this car will create interest and visibility for Good News Garage. If the Triumph causes people to turn their heads and say, "what is that organization about" then this would be great. I can't think of a better use for the car than donating it to Good News Garage.

Any words of wisdom?

If you take care of your car it will last!