Gratitude - Moving Forward

When I reflect on the previous year, I am filled with gratitude - pure and simple. Everyday, our staff works tirelessly towards improving the lives of local families living in poverty. There are no easy answers or fixes to reducing poverty, but your donations are making a difference. This year we awarded 221 vehicles to low-income families.

When working with our clients, it becomes very clear that the challenges they face are complex. Receiving a car is just one important step in their journey to financial independence. Families living in poverty face many challenges that may cause them to falter in their quest to succeed. We want to move people forward in all aspects of their lives, so they not only survive but thrive...and can then invest themselves by sharing with others in need. Good News Garage and our parent organization, Lutheran Social Services of New England, have embraced a new strategy that focuses holistically on the client. This new direction unites our organization’s strengths in a way that enables us to do even more for the people we serve.

At the heart of our strategy are our new mission, vision and values:

**Our Mission**
We are called to strengthen communities by empowering people to respond to life’s challenges.

**Our Vision**
We envision thriving communities where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential regardless of background or disadvantage. Together with our partners, we inspire people to help one another reach beyond their current circumstances and realize new possibilities.

**Our Values**
Faith in action:
- Courage
- Compassion
- Integrity

These new commitments will strengthen and potentially transform our existing programs at Good News Garage in 2014 and beyond. Our new strategy will create a stronger ladder to assist those in need in our community to reach beyond poverty.

Donors are still the engine that runs this organization and make a difference in the lives of so many. Your generosity of spirit and your compassion for those working towards a better future for themselves and their families continue to inspire our staff, make a real difference in the lives of those we serve, and transform our community.

Thank you!

Michael Muzzy
Director of Operations
Good News Garage Client Pays It Forward

In 2013, Angel Johnson was an intern in the State of Vermont REACH UP program. Improving her life was her main priority. Angel owned a car but recently discovered that it had a blown head gasket—a very expensive repair. This could have derailed everything she had worked for.

Her case manager at REACH UP recommended her for the Good News Garage (GNG) Vehicle Placement program in Vermont. Angel was approved to receive a car through the program and then did something quite remarkable. Instead of selling her old car and pocketing the cash, Angel donated her vehicle to GNG. Her donated car was then refurbished and given to another GNG client. Angel says that “her GNG car has eliminated the worry of meeting car payments, higher insurance and unexpected car repairs.” Angel is now well on her way to improving her life, and in return she also chose to help improve someone else’s life by donating her used vehicle to Good News Garage.

Angel is now working full time at the Vermont State Agency of Transportation.

College Senior Shares Her Passion for Volunteering

As an upcoming senior at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA, Megan Wanek was looking for a summer job where she could gain relevant work experience that aligned with her passion for helping others. Since her grandfather, Ralph Gerenz, served on the LSS Board of Directors, he encouraged her to check out LSS volunteer opportunities. When Megan accepted the GNG volunteer marketing assistant position, she had no idea how diverse her work experience would be. Tackling everything from developing a social media campaign, to running kid games at events, to visiting car dealers to updating client information, Megan was happy to take on anything that came her way.

“Volunteering with GNG was an invaluable experience and a lot of fun too. I was able to work on a variety of different projects in public relations and marketing and this gave me a broad perspective on what a career in these fields would require,” said Megan. “I also learned a lot about business and nonprofit organizations, which helped me apply what I was learning in class and gave me a jump start for future employment. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I had with GNG! I met some amazing people and it was a wonderful learning experience.”

Megan graduates with honors this May with a double major in English and Business. She will be working for HOPE International. We wish her the best of everything.
Unique Donations

New Hampshire to Auction 1987 Porsche 944 & 2005 Porsche Cayenne

When people think of donating their cars to GNG, Porsches are not what we usually receive. These Porsches are in great condition – a 1987 Maraschino Red 944 with only 69K miles and a 2005 Lapis Blue Porsche Cayenne with 135K miles! We are grateful to Bob Mitchell of Historic Motorsports for storing the 944 last winter. We will be auctioning both vehicles as a GNG fundraiser at the 37th Annual New England Auto Auction at the Owls Head Transportation Museum on August 16, 2014 at 9 am. Visit www.GoodNewsGarage.org or call: 877.400.6065 for more details.

Maryland Donation is ON FIRE

Sometimes the types of cars donated to our program surprise us. In December, Good News Garage received a generous donation of a 1965 Chevy C30 panel van. The van has been fully restored and includes its original siren! As you can probably guess from the picture, the van was used for fire and rescue. The donor knew that Good News Garage was the only place he wanted the van to go. Look for it at our summer events!

Your Specialty Donation Makes a Difference

Specialty cars like these Porsches and Chevy panel van may seem like strange donations but in fact are a real help to Good News Garage! The potential promotion and sale of these vehicles helps us to educate people about our programs AND raise money! If you are interested in donating a unique vehicle to GNG, please call 877.GIVE.AUTO.

Looking Ahead: What’s up in 2014

2013 was a very busy and productive year, and 2014 holds even greater promise. This year will be full of amazing possibilities to make an even more significant impact on our community.

Our MGB is Ready to Roll!

For those of you who follow Hemmings Sports and Exotic Car, you have probably seen the progress of our 1980 MGB restoration with Hemmings. The car was donated to Good News Garage seven years ago and Hemmings generously has been working to restore the classic ever since. Restoring a classic car to its former glory takes time and patience. All of the MGB parts and labor are donated by companies and volunteers. The MGB will be raffled in 2015 but you will see it in all its glory at this year's car shows and local events.

2014 Summer Events. We are excited to announce that you will see more of Good News Garage in the community! Look for us at local farmers markets, concerts, and New England car shows. Watch for an event calendar on our web site - www.GoodNewsGarage.org. Come by and say hello!

Car Seats Save Lives. This year GNG Vermont is launching our Safe Seat Initiative. The type of safety seat your child needs is based on age and weight. Knowing how to install a safety seat correctly is something every parent should know. All of our car safety seats have been updated in our Ready to Go vans, and we will be hosting public Safe Seats days in the coming months. Certified car safety seat experts will be on hand to answer your questions and to help you correctly secure your safety seat in your vehicle.

Volunteers Work Side by Side with Us to Serve Local Low-income Families. Our volunteers are as passionate and committed as our staff. In 2014, we are retooling our volunteer program to provide our volunteers with even more opportunities to impact their community. If you are interested in our volunteer programs, please contact our New Hampshire Volunteer Coordinator, Britny at 603.669.6937 or Vermont Volunteer Coordinator, Sophia at 802.864.3667. Our parent organization, Lutheran Social Services of New England also has volunteer opportunities available on their web site, www.lssne.org.
Good News Garage Welcomes New Marketing and Communications Manager

Alise Certa was hired in October to manage our Vermont marketing and communications work. Alise comes to us from Fletcher Allen Health Care with more than 20 years of experience in marketing, communications, and internet management. “I wanted to find an organization that had a direct and long-lasting impact on the people they serve. Good News Garage’s employees are passionate and committed to making the lives of people in their community better. I could have never dreamed of a better choice for my career,” said Alise. If you have marketing or communication questions for Vermont, please contact Alise at 802.864.3667 x13.

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