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**Naperville CARES Reaches Milestone Donation**

By: BuddinghAssociates  
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Al Dinon of Naperville CARES, Mark Leonardelli donor and Burt Toepp of CARES

Even during the country's economic recession Mark Leonardelli has still found a way to help out those less fortunate. In fact, he is the 1000th person to do so for Naperville CARES. Mark has donated his car to Naperville CARES helping the non-profit organization reach the milestone of 1000 cars donated.

Naperville CARES has been collecting donated cars to give to CARES clients for the past nine years, averaging 100 car donations a year this year will include a milestone donation.

"We are excited to reach this milestone, grateful to all of our donors over the years, and encourage people to continue supporting others in the community by donating their old cars," executive director, Janet Derrick said.

"Naperville CARES is a great non-profit organization and I am honored to be the 1000th donor. I know that CARES will give our van to a deserving Naperville family – one that needs our help," said Leonardelli.

What makes the CARES car program different from others organizations requesting donated vehicles, is that CARES is one of the few not-for-profits that actually seeks to repair donated cars and give them to people who need them; some other organizations prefer to sell the cars for cash. Every CARES donated car that can be made roadworthy is given to a local family.

The money used to make any necessary repairs on donated cars comes from the sale of cars not able to be economically fixed to wholesalers and from a grant from the United Way of DuPage.

The tax law for automobile donations states that a charitable organization must ascertain the fair market value of the automobile at the date it is donated. If that amount is greater than \$500, then the charitable organization must complete IRS form 1098-C, and provide a copy to the donor for use in filing their personal income tax return.

If the car is given to a needy person to drive, the fair market value at the date of the donation is the amount that can be claimed as a charitable contribution by the donor. If the fair market value exceeds \$5,000 a written appraisal must be obtained. If the car is sold or scrapped by the charitable organization, then the donor can claim only the amount the charity realizes from the transaction.

Derrick said that once a car is donated, Naperville CARES sends a thank you note and lets the donor know whether the car was given to a needy family directly or was sold or scrapped. If it was sold, CARES informs the donor of the amount received from the sale.

Naperville CARES (Community Acting in Response to Economic Stress) is a volunteer-driven organization providing assistance to Naperville families experiencing economic crisis. Naperville CARES' mission is to provide resources to people within the Naperville community who need assistance to avoid homelessness and attain self-sufficiency. 2009 marks the 10 year anniversary of the organization – celebrating a decade of caring for the community.

For more information about this program please contact Naperville CARES at (630) 369-0200 or visit the website at [www.NapervilleCARES.org](http://www.NapervilleCARES.org).

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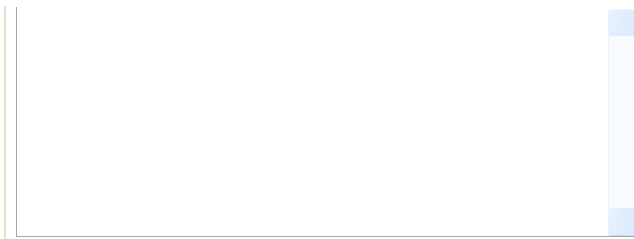
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