

Naperville CARES
2011 Volunteer of the Year
June 16, 2011

Lack of reliable public transportation is one of the stumbling blocks many of our clients face while trying to get or keep a job. During the past eleven years, the Naperville CARES Car Program has helped over 500 households attain a car and this year's Volunteer of the Year has been a big reason our program has been so successful.

Known as Mr. Burt by many of the clients who have received a car from CARES, Burt Toepp works tirelessly to provide a vehicle to our clients. Working with his team of Marv Smith, Joe Landry and John Tarpey, cars are picked up from donors, inspected and then either donated to a client or sold if the car is too old or expensive to fix. Burt has spent countless hours at the Secretary of State's office waiting to transfer ownership of the vehicle to our clients. He has learned how to attach new license plates to all types of cars in all types of weather. He also takes the time to review the instruction and maintenance manuals of the cars with their new owners. Burt is responsible for all of the happy pictures of our car recipients that are on our website and Facebook page.

Burt has also been very actively involved with Loaves and Fishes, often taking on leadership roles with various projects. These days you can find him delivering food to the complexes that are part of the Loaves and Fishes home delivery program. You can also find Burt playing poker with residents of the assisted living center. It is actually very difficult to get a meeting with Burt because his schedule is so full of volunteer responsibilities.

We cannot thank Burt enough for his energy and devotion to the mission of CARES to provide short-term financial support and resources to meet the basic needs of families in crisis. Please help me in congratulating our 2011 Volunteer of the Year, Burt Toepp.