

December 18, 2011

CONTINENTAL MOTORS GROUP CAR GIVE AWAY

The joy of the holiday season began for eight area families on Tuesday, December 13 when they received a pre-owned car from the Continental Motors Group. As a kick-off to their 50th Anniversary Celebration the Continental Motors Group donated eight vehicles from each of their dealerships to the Naperville CARES Car Program.

The goal of the car give away was to provide vehicles to clients who lived in the areas where Continental had dealerships which included Naperville, Western Springs and Countryside. This past year, CARES expanded their Car Program to include residents of DuPage County through funding from the DuPage County Human Services Grant Fund. To aid CARES in confirming client eligibility and help clients provide required documentation, DuPage County residents living outside Naperville must complete their application through a DuPage County social service agency. So we had a number of DuPage County clients already on the car list but needed to find an agency that provided services in the Countryside area. CARES researched agencies and found Pillars which offers Head Start classes, mental health counseling, addiction services and transitional housing for about 10,000 families and individuals a year in the western suburbs of Cook County.

After getting the list of vehicles being donated by Continental, the CARES volunteers matched the cars with eligible clients and then contacted the clients to have them provide the six months of insurance that is required to receive a car. The clients also had to have the funding to pay for the title transfer, registration and tax.

On Tuesday evening the cars were presented to clients who came from Naperville CARES, HCS

Family Services, DuPage County Community Services Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Pillars and one client who was recommended by two agencies, DuPage PADS and the Veterans Assistance Commission.

What a wonderful evening filled with smiles and tears. Imagine not being able to afford a car but you need a car to get to work and you walk into a beautiful car show room and see eight cars lined up with big bows on their hoods. The clients, with license plates in hand, were all presented their vehicles and the staff of Continental Motors sat with each client going over the features of their new vehicle.

We have to thank John Weinberger, his wife Lisa, along with his founding partner and brother Herman, his sons Joel and Jay and his niece, Cheryl Nelson and the entire staff of Continental Motors Group for their generosity in helping to change the lives of eight deserving families.



On behalf of our board of directors, volunteers and clients we want to thank all our donors for their generosity and supporting our mission to provide short-term support and resources to meet the basic needs of local families in crisis.

We wish you and your families the joy and friendship of the holiday season.