

Good News Mountaineer Garage gives a hand up, not a handout

Katy is a single mother with a one year old baby. She relied on family members, friends, and neighbors for rides to the grocery store and doctors appointments. She made the 30-mile commute to work with a co-worker. But when Katy moved in with her grandmother, she lost her ride to work and her job. She had to apply for public assistance. The WV Works program helped her get her GED and her caseworker referred her to the Good News Mountaineer Garage.

A family from Frederick, Md., donated a 1996 Nissan Sentra. Katy got the car and her old job back.

The Good News accepts

donated cars, repairs them and provides them to low-income families so they can get off welfare.

Started six years ago in Charleston, the Good News began providing cars throughout West Virginia in January, 2006. The program has provided 74 vehicles to families in the Eastern Panhandle area.

"We give a hand up, not a handout," said Barbara Bayes, Executive Director. "This program is for people who want to work and support their families, but need reliable transportation to get there."

If a donated car goes to a needy family, taxpayers can deduct the fair market



value, which is the highest allowable deduction allowed by IRS. If the vehicle needs too many repairs

or costs too much to operate, it is sold for a fair market price and that's the donor's tax deduction.

"Most of our vehicles go to help people in need," said Marie Galazzi, Director of the Martinsburg Office. "If we can't use the vehicle, we do everything we can to get the best price so donors get the maximum deduction."

Galazzi and her assistant Brian Timmons work hard to make sure the process is as hassle free as possible. More information is at the website www.GoodNewsMountaineerGarage.com or call 1 (866) GIVECAR (448-3227).