

Wheels to Prosper Fuerst Automotive donates to Wheels to Prosper in hometown

Imagine life without a car or a reliable source of transportation. In today's world this means much more than mere inconvenience. Often one's survival depends upon access to a vehicle, whether it is getting to work, taking the kids to school, making it to a job interview, or simply picking up food for the family. The lack of adequate transportation creates hardships and real disadvantages for those who are already struggling.

Fuerst Automotive, located at the corner of Broadview and Wallings Rd in Broadview Hts, was excited to join in and be a part of a nationwide program that was launched in 2011 called "Wheels to Prosper". This program awards a deserving individual who needs help but is still thinking of others by giving back to the community. A fully inspected, fully repaired car is donated to the individual, helping that person get back on his or her feet again. April 8th 2017, Fuerst Automotive delivered a car to such a person, Kenneth Smolinski of Seven Hills, Ohio. During the month of March they started accepting nominations to find a deserving person. Fuerst Automotive chose three independent non-bias judges. Two of the judges were each given a folder each containing the same nominations. Each judge would have to choose one deserving person. Then the third judge would make the final decision between the two. Well, they never made it to the third judge, both judges chose the same person as their choice for their candidate.

Kenneth Smolinski has a lifelong track

record of being a selfless individual and putting others needs before his own. Kenneth's story began as a young boy sent to the corner store to buy ice cream for the family's Thanksgiving dinner. Instead, he gave the money to a mother with two young children who used the money to buy needed food. When he came home empty handed, he simply said, "Their need was greater, and it was the right thing to do." He served our country proudly in Vietnam. While serving he sent his earned money home to help his parents buy a home in Garfield Hts. so his parents would be able to move from a decaying neighborhood in which they lived. These are just small examples of Kenneth's service before self. Kenneth's goal is to earn Continuing Education credits to become recertified as a Registered Nurse to resume his nursing career. Kenneth's true passion is helping others.

Bob and Sheri Stout, owners of Fuerst Automotive, would like to recognize their co-sponsors who had a big part in making this very special program happen. Their involvement shows how working together in a community can strengthen the bond of its residents.

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (Auto Tech and Auto Body); Jerry Gonda and Joe Lamitric (Career and Technical School Foundation); Ryan and Mica Lange (Allstate Insurance); Shawn Medina (Next Level Auto Detailing); Gioninos Pizza.

A special thank you also to the three judges, Jim Speno, Robert Burris, and Mary Ann Walter.



Kenneth Smolinski of Seven Hills was the winner of the Fuerst Automotive donation of a refurbished 2006 Honda Civic 4-door sedan.



Fuerst Automotive owners Bob and Sheri Stout congratulated Ken Smolinski as the recipient in the Wheels to Prosper event.

National Day of Prayer hits its 14th year in Independence!

Although this worldwide event has been taking place across the nation since Harry Truman signed the bill in 1952, it was 2003 when the NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER was first observed in the city of Independence. It started as a simple, one hour service over the lunch hour in the auditorium of the Freedom II office building. Like an Ohio snowball on the move, more people became involved, new leaders stepped up, advertising increased, various venues were selected and the National Day of Prayer for Independence has morphed into a plethora of options touching every pocket of our city on May 4, 2017 (always the first Thursday of May).

Who better understands the value of prayer than the great folks at Cornerstone of Hope whose grief counseling center helps hundreds of people each year. They are hosting the 10:00 AM prayer segment at 5905 Brecksville Road led by Ty Morgan.

People will begin gathering before 11:00 AM in the White Oak Room of the Civic Center around round tables of nourishment: spiritual nourishment as clergy from our churches lead in prayer followed by physical nourishment as lunch is served. There is no charge but RSVP must be called in to (216) 524-4131 by 4.26.17.

But is there an on-ramp for young people to be involved? Absolutely! It will be students who actually LEAD the prayer service at 12:50 PM in St. Michael Church

Sanctuary. Students will gather around the flagpole between the Independence Middle School and high school at 7:00 AM led by Ashley Tengler, director of Campus Life.

Your eyes just may tear up as men and women in uniform (police, fire fighters and veterans) walked across the grass to the Veterans' Memorial on Brecksville Road. Who better to lead that 5:30 PM segment this year than retired police chief Fred Wright.

The business community is such an integral part of our city and certainly in need of prayer. Businessman Lawrence Liptak will lead the 2:00 PM prayer segment in his company's office building, All Crane Rental, 4700 Acorn Drive, off Oak Tree Blvd.

What's different this year is that the 7:00 PM gathering will splinter out to the various local Independence Churches. Attend the church of your choice after verifying that church will participate. Confirmed at this point are St. Michael's Church and Rockside Church.

Serving as a reminder to the entire city to stop and PRAY, the bells of area churches will ring at the noon hour. Every segment is free and open to the public. The full schedule is available by logging on to www.rocksidechurch.com or check the add in this issue. God loves to hear from and speak to His created ones - US! The only thing that could make this day better would be for YOU to be there!!



Ryan Lange of Allstate Insurance in Broadview Hts donated \$250 in a Gift Card for gasoline to Smolinski.

Photos by Nick Cancilliere

VOTE TUES. MAY 2ND