

Donated Motor Home Helps People Get Good Jobs

By Tina Derby

They had enjoyed many great times together in their camper, June and her mother, Princess Winona (June's mom was Native American). Princess Winona loved people and she loved to travel, so that's why a motor home was almost a necessity. The first one they owned was purchased back in the early 1990s. After many years of faithful service, however, that first vehicle was replaced by a new 26' motor home, which June and Princess Winona purchased in 2001, when Princess Winona was over 90-years-old.

Sadly, Princess Winona passed away in January 2003, so the new motor home never saw much use. After the passing of her mom, June realized that to keep the motor home would be pointless, as things just wouldn't be the same without having her mother as a travel partner.

So, the question then became, "What to do with the vehicle?" Because it had been used so little, it was still in excellent condition. Of course, the option to sell it always existed, and, like most of us, June could have used the money. However, after seeing some information about Good News Garage in her local Lutheran church bulletin, June decided that to donate the motor home would be the most satisfying thing to do with it. Maybe, she thought, someone who really needs it could get some good use and good times out of it.

The donation process turned out to be as easy as June could have hoped. After a quick phone call to the Good News Garage offices in New Hampshire the vehicle was picked up and driven to the Manchester office where it was polished and prepared for the sale process. The motor home was then put through the local Capital Auction (where all auction-level donated Good News Garage vehicles are sent). The funds from the sale of the motor home then helped Good News Garage to pay for its operating expenses, such as rent and electricity, so that it could continue its mission to get people off of public assistance programs and back to work.

Good News Garage (GNG) is a 501(c)3 charitable non-profit organization that is part of Lutheran Social Services of New England. GNG takes donated vehicles (including cars, vans, trucks, motor homes, motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATVs, boats and more), fixes up the ones that are useable by its clients, then gets those vehicles to people so that they can get off of public assistance programs and to a good job. All vehicles that are not useable by GNG clients are put through a local auction or are sold for parts, the proceeds of which help to pay for GNG operating expenses. The donors of vehicles that are given to GNG clients are usually able to deduct from their taxes the FAIR MARKET VALUE (BLUE BOOK VALUE) of the vehicle. This deduction is usually a good deal more than other non-profits can offer. For more information on Good News Garage, go to www.GoodNewsGarage.org or call 1-877-GIVE-AUTO (1-877-448-3288).