

Wisconsin Repair Shop Owner Participates in Wheels to Prosper, Seeks Nominations for Gift

by Victoria Antonelli, Online Editor

On December 5, *Kubly's Automotive* in Brodhead, WI, will donate a refurbished Chevrolet Malibu to a lucky family in need through a program called *Wheels to Prosper*.

The giveaway will take place during the annual *Fire N Ice* festival, which attracts over half of Brodhead's 3,500 residents, according to **Dusty Kubly**, owner of *Kubly's Automotive*.

"Originally, I didn't intend to give the car away at the festival," said Kubly,



Kubly's Automotive in Brodhead, WI

"but it seemed like the perfect opportunity, especially with Christmas around the corner."

Kubly's Automotive is the first shop in Wisconsin to participate in

Wheels to Prosper, a national non-profit run by shop owners who contribute donated, restored vehicles to deserving people. Kubly initially heard about the program after meeting the co-founder, **Jim Anderson**, while taking business management training courses in California.

"I've been in business for 21 years; it's time to pay it forward," said Kubly. "I want to support those who have supported me by giving back to the community."

On September 26, Kubly sent out the first flyer letting the community know that the shop will be taking nominations for the car giveaway from now until November 21. NBC15 covered the story on the morning of September 29, and by that afternoon, he received 16 nominations.

"The letters and responses we've read have been out of this world," said Kubly. "It has only been a week and I already know I want to do this every year."

Seven judges have been appointed to choose the winner, including Kubly's wife, Roxy, local business owners, and members of the Chamber

of Commerce. Kubly said he wants to remain unbiased and not participate in the picking.

"Local business owners and politicians were excited to get involved," said Kubly. "Everybody wanted to lend a helping hand."



Dusty and Roxy Kubly and their two children

Kubly bought the Chevrolet Malibu from a private party in a different town. According to Kubly, the car doesn't run, and the hood, gaskets, fluids and brakes need to be replaced, just to name a few things.

"The car will be 100 percent functional before the giveaway," he said.

Napa Auto Parts and Murray's Auto Salvage will be supplying the necessary pieces, *Body Crafters*

Auto Body will be making the paint look new, and **Patti Reavis** at *State Farm Insurance* has offered to help set up car insurance for the future owner.

"Brodhead isn't a small town, it's a big family," said Kubly.

Kubly would also like to thank *Speich Oil Company* and *Piggly Wiggly Grocery* for contributing to the runner-up prizes. The two runner-ups will each receive a \$150 gas card and a \$75 grocery certificate.

As of October 4, Kubly had received 22 nominations for the giveaway.

The outpouring of support has inspired the repair shop owner to put together another event to benefit the community. On October 11, he will hold a free car care clinic, where high school students will be taught how to check their fluids and "listen to their car."

"The main reason for this is to make people aware," said Kubly. "A car is the second biggest investment you'll make in your lifetime, after a house. It's important to understand how it works."

ABRA Auto Body & Glass Continues Its Expansion With Openings in Iowa and Illinois

ABRA Auto Body & Glass announced the opening of its newest franchise in Fort Madison, IA, along with the acquisition of *Corpo Collision Center* in Schaumburg, IL. It's ABRA's 50th franchise and the company's second acquisition in Illinois within 14 days.

The additional openings in both states increased ABRA's total repair center portfolio to 247 in 19 states.

In September, ABRA acquired *Consolidated Auto Service Center* in Forest Park, Illinois and on October 3 the company announced it had expanded in the Chicago area with the acquisition of *AutoWerks* of Northbrook, Inc. in Illinois – about an hour northwest of downtown Chicago. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Duane Rouse, ABRA's President and CEO, said the company's successful expansion is simply a reflection of consumer demands and changes in the collision repair industry. "The expectations of vehicle owners and insurance partners continue to grow," he said. "The favorable outcomes we've achieved in Illinois and around the Midwest are a direct result of industry experience,

superior processes and our commitment to quality. We're a trusted name in these communities."

"It's about meeting the demand of our customers and insurance partners in the community," said **Mark Wahlin**, ABRA's Vice President of Franchise Development/Relations. "Expanding operations in Iowa makes sense. Offering top-quality collision repair and glass service across the country is what ABRA is all about."

ABRA plans to continue expanding in the months and years ahead as part of its aggressive national growth strategy. It is actively seeking new opportunities to acquire repair centers and integrate them into its industry-leading operating system.

Interested parties in major markets should contact **Scott Gerling**, Vice President of Corporate Development (sgerling@abrauto.com or 763.585.6210).

For franchise opportunities in small and midsize markets contact **Mark Wahlin**, (mwahlin@abrauto.com or 763 585 6315).



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