

WISH #12 GRANTS CAR TO SINGLE FATHER



January 11, 2010

SGT Ronald Smith is a single dad, raising two young children on his own, while balancing his duties at Camp Atterbury in Indiana. Smith has been in the Army for 15 years, and his family has served in the Army for many generations, going back as far as the Revolutionary War and the French and Indian Wars. If you talk to him for even a minute, you can tell that he puts his all into anything he does, though serving his country and his children are his biggest priorities.

Recently, SGT Smith's vehicle broke down, and repairs were estimated at \$4,000. We posted his wish to our website and began receiving donations toward the truck repairs. While he borrowed cars or got rides to work, we started thinking it would make more sense to look for a reliable used vehicle, rather than investing that kind of money into a GMC Jimmy with 250,000 miles.

We contacted Don Boger of Main Street Motors (Petersburg, IN), who began working tirelessly to find a reliable vehicle in which Smith could safely transport his two children, Ella (age 7) and Noah (19 months). In the meantime, on Christmas Eve, we surprised his children with an array of toys and clothing for the holidays (wish 10).

THE WISH

In addition to the Christmas gifts, Don Boger found Smith a '98 Ford Taurus with low miles and we were thrilled! As a Foundation, this would be the largest wish we had granted to date, but we were more excited about the idea of surprising Smith with a new/used car, when he was just expecting repairs on his truck.

On January 11, WXIN-Fox 59 joined Tom Stonecipher, a volunteer with our Foundation, to present SGT Smith with the car. Although Fox's coverage won't air until February, we can report that once the initial shock subsided, SGT Smith was thrilled, and even appreciated that the car was Army green!

This wish is an example of how everyone can work together to help our heroes. We used the website as a means to spread the word and gain donations, we had a business owner volunteer his skills and time to actually find the car, and we had a volunteer (former Army) devote time to transport the car and present it to a deserving soldier. This is a real example of "Paying It Forward", which ironically is the name of the segment in which this wish will be featured on Fox 59 next month. Thank you to all who contributed to make this wish come true!



On David and his children, "My children are my everything and we do almost everything together. I try to expose them to as much as possible so they grow up as well rounded as possible...I could not ask for better children. They are there for me as much as I am for them."

A BIG THANK YOU TO MAIN STREET MOTORS FOR THEIR HELP WITH THIS WISH!

