

PEPSI GRANT SHOWS BIG DIVIDENDS

1st PEPSI WISH PROVIDES CAR TO FORT GORDON FAMILY



May 2, 2010

WISH #25



Wish For Our Heroes received its first \$25,000 installment from the Pepsi Refresh Project last week, and immediately went to work granting wishes!

Brad and Calista Baker, of Fort Gordon, GA, had spent the last few months without transportation. The Army family had been hit with a number of issues that negatively impacted their financial situation. Primarily, medical issues of both Calista and their daughter, Isabella, prevented Calista from working. As a result, the family had been solely living on Brad's income (he is a Sergeant in the U.S. Army), and had gotten behind on their automobile payments. The payments they could make, were not always in full, and eventually their car was repossessed. In January, we posted their wish to our site, asking for donations to assist in the return of their car. Not enough money was raised, and the Baker's had to let their car go and use what little money they had left over at the end of the month, toward rental cars and taxis just to get to work and school.

We kept in close contact with the Baker's and provided some groceries and basic needs, but the family still needed a car. With damaged credit, the couple had no means of purchasing a vehicle.

Then came the Pepsi Refresh Project. We competed during the month of March to earn a \$50,000 grant from Pepsi. The Baker's voted for us each day, and asked others to vote, and we knew if we won the grant, we could finally assist this family, who just needed help getting back on their feet.



THE WISH

Wish For Our Heroes competed against nearly 1100 causes and won \$50,000 - all of which will go directly to granting wishes to active-duty military and their families. During the competition, we found an economical, reliable used car for the Baker's, and once we received the initial check from Pepsi, we purchased the car. On May 1st, we flew Brad and Calista to Indianapolis, where they stayed at our partner-hotel, Holiday Inn Express. We would like to thank Jennifer and the staff of Holiday Inn / Staybridge Suites, for providing such wonderful accommodations. Jennifer arranged for a hot tub room, and had chocolate covered strawberries waiting for the couple when they arrived. She also worked with Coachmen's restaurant in Plainfield, who offered a complimentary lunch during the Baker's stay.



Brad and Calista with their new car

On Sunday, May 2, *Wish For Our Heroes* presented Brad and Calista with a '99 Buick LeSabre Limited Edition. All involved in the coordination of this wish, were present. The Baker's now have a way of getting their daughter, Isabella, to school each day, Brad to work, and Calista can finally start her dog care business - something that's been on hold due to a lack of transportation.

Wish For Our Heroes would like to thank its partners Main Street Motors, Holiday Inn-Express (Dora Hotels), and Coachmen's Restaurant for assistance in this wish. Also, a special thanks to volunteer Adam Porter, for delivering the car to Indianapolis for the Baker's.

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