



# Press Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Collision Association Partners with Two Local Non-Profits to Bring Vehicle Donation Program to Connecticut *Four Families in Need to Be Served***

*Rocky Hill, CT July 27, 2009* — The Connecticut Collision Repair Specialists Association, a member of the National Auto Body Council (NABC), is pleased to announce a vehicle donation partnership, “Recycled Rides” with two Connecticut non-profits: *Hands On Hartford* and *New Haven Home Recovery, Inc.* This is the first cooperative project between the three associations. The CCRS Community Awareness Committee, leads the project, with members of CCRS repairing and donating recycled vehicles to Connecticut families in need. Both participating organizations will help CCRS locate individuals in transition who need reliable transportation.

The four qualifying Connecticut families will be announced and awarded their cars on “Rideaway Day” on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009. This statewide effort is part of NABC’s Recycled Rides program across the country. On that day, nearly 150 cars are expected to be donated nationally.

“We are excited about participating in Recycled Rides,” states Doug Sudell, CEO of Hands On Hartford. “It’s an opportunity to help individuals who need a vehicle to fully transition into a job situation and provide for their families.”

KellyAnn Day, Executive Director of New Haven Home Recovery, Inc. said, “CCRS has a history of helping those in need in our community, and we’re proud to be a part of this program.” We’ll work diligently to find the perfect match for these donations.”

“Our goal is to help people in our local community,” states Lisa Siembab, CCRS Executive Director. “We decided to utilize the NABC program because they have a great toolkit that guides us through the entire process. Together we can have an effect right here in our community *and* across the country. Within our association, we have more than a dozen member shops who will participate, and many suppliers who will work together to restore the vehicle for families in Connecticut.”

Siembab added, “Each year collision repair operators all over the country come across cars that are ‘written off’ by either the owner or the insurance company. Many times all these vehicles need is some TLC or mechanical and body work to get them road-ready and safe to drive. We decided to join this national effort.” The vehicles were generously donated by Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Progressive Insurance and other partners within the industry.

**Optional:**

**About Hands On Hartford**

*Hands On Hartford is a Hartford-based private non-profit, non-sectarian social services agency that works in partnership with others to “strengthen community in Hartford by responding faithfully to people in need through programs that change lives and renew human possibility.” The agency operates school-based educational programs for children and their families, residential and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS and a variety of basic needs programs (soup kitchen and food pantry, resource and referral services, weekend dining and meals-on-wheels programs for seniors and the disabled). Founded as Center City Churches, the agency changed its name to Hands On Hartford in 2006 and became the first social service agency recognized as an affiliate of Hands On Network – a 250-member national organization intent on mobilizing and redefining volunteerism and civic engagement throughout the nation. Hands On Hartford is supported by donations from individuals, civic and religious organizations, government, corporate and foundation grants, and the volunteer efforts of more than 2,000 dedicated volunteers. For more information, visit: [www.handsonhartford.org](http://www.handsonhartford.org).*

**About New Haven Home Recovery**

*NHHR has been providing supportive services and housing to families for the past 19 years. The agency’s mission is to promote the independence of women and children confronting homelessness, HIV/AIDS, and behavioral health issues in a supportive environment where their potential can be realized. NHHR operates two emergency homeless shelters for women and children, over 100 units of supportive housing for families and two family stabilization programs, one in Fair Haven and one in Bridgeport. In addition, NHHR operates a regional furniture bank called The Furniture Co-Op, which provides donated furniture to households in need. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.nhhr.org](http://www.nhhr.org).*

**About CCRS:** *The Connecticut Collision Repair Specialists consists of professionals from all segments of the collision industry working together to expand and improve the industry and open lines of communication through training opportunities, open forums and involved cooperation. It is committed to the future of the collision repair industry, providing the leadership needed, raising the professional image of the individual and the industry, and developing new leaders to carry its goals forward. For more information on CCRS visit: [www.ctcrs.com](http://www.ctcrs.com)*

**About NABC:** *NABC is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the image of the collision industry. Its ongoing and continued success is a direct result of the efforts and support of sponsoring companies and membership. Please contact NABC directly for membership information at 1-888-667-7433 (888-66PRIDE) or go to [www.autobodycouncil.org](http://www.autobodycouncil.org).*