



We're behind you all the way.



Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation

Taking Care of our Own since 1959

The AACF is about taking care of its own. After all, if we don't take care of our own, who will?

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BOB'S STORY



Bob Long

I have been very fortunate to combine my two passions together in one career- cars and radio. I have been a car guy from the time I was a little boy growing up in Needham, Massachusetts. I have also been in love with broadcasting my entire life, working in radio since I was a teenager. It has been both a blessing and a curse in today's challenging economy.

I have worked in major-market music radio, national sports radio, and national talk radio. Along the way, I have been a national spokesperson for Sears Die Hard Batteries and Gumout products. I have written for dozens of automotive magazines and websites including Motor Trend, Edmunds.com, carsdirect.com, Classic Automobile, and many more. I love spreading the automotive passion worldwide and bringing new people into our business. In 1992 I created AutoWorld, a syndicated radio show broadcasted across North America and around the world at www.gcn-live.com, devoted to America's love affair with the automobile.

Over my life, I have developed a multitude of severe health problems including scoliosis with degenerative disc compression, Fuchs dystrophy (a cornea disease), a leaking mitral heart valve that regurgitates 50% of the blood I pump causing my heart to enlarge, among other ailments. I was supposed to have surgery to correct my scoliosis after college, but at that time my Mom was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and my Dad had a stroke which resulted in me taking care of my parents for the better part of my 20's. These health setbacks and family responsibilities have caused me serious financial problems ... continued on page 4 >

Upcoming Events

- Jan 22 - 25
2018 Heavy Duty Aftermarket Week (HDAW)
The Mirage | Las Vegas, NV
- Jan 25 - 26
OAC Global Summit
Hilton Miami Airport | Miami, FL
- Jan 31 - Feb 3
2018 Women in Auto Care Winter Conference
Scottsdale Plaza Resort | Scottsdale, AZ
- March 22 - 24
Mid-America Trucking Show
Kentucky Expo Center | Louisville, KY

How You Can Help

We are the only charity that enables you to help members of our industry that have nowhere else to turn. The work of the Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF) is done by volunteers and a small staff, so our overhead is minimal. The AACF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations to AACF are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Mail your donation to:
AACF
PO Box 864520
Orlando, FL 32886-4520

Online: www.AACFi.org/donate-today



Larry Magee
President, Magee Ventures Group

Spotlight - Board Member Larry Magee

What is your current position and place of employment and how long have you been working in the industry?

I am working on my third retirement as the first two didn't last long. I spent 38 years with Bridgestone/Firestone mostly in the retail operations group. I started with The Firestone Tire and Rubber company in a Houston store as a tire changer while going to school. I moved in various assignments 14 times from coast to coast. Ultimately I became President, CEO and Chairman of the 1500 retail stores; and we grew the chain over the next 16 years to nearly 2300 stores. I went on to run the consumer tire group in Nashville for three years and retired in late 2013. That didn't last long as I became CEO and President of Heartland Automotive in Dallas within a year after retirement. I spent nearly two years with Heartland and retired for the second time. Today I am consulting again, enjoying life, and working on retiring the third time for good.

What are your hobbies, what do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I live in Scottsdale most of the year and really enjoy playing golf, but it's really a strange thing - the more I play.... the worse I get!!!

How did you first get involved with AACF and when?

In 1998 Bob Schoeberl called me and told me about the organization and what it was all about. I decided to get involved because I really was passionate and excited about being part of an organization that's sole purpose is to help people within the aftermarket industry who have fallen on difficult times and have nowhere else to turn. I'm even more passionate about it today. I love being part of an organization that helps to bring people out of the darkness into the light.

I stay actively involved with the foundation as a Board Member, Golf, and Recipient committee member as well as a member of the executive committee.

Do you have a personal connection to one of the recipients?

No, I do not have any personal connections today; but as a member of the foundation's recipient committee, I am blessed to read every single application the foundation receives. The stories these people tell as to why they need help will absolutely bring you to tears and to your knees. It will make you reflect on how lucky most of us are and how none of us should take that for granted.

Why does giving back to AACF means so much to you?

We live in a very imperfect world and most of us take our personal lives for granted. People work very, very hard in the automotive aftermarket all their lives. Most have others they are responsible for at home including small children. For over 19 years I have taken great pride in being able to help the fine men and women in this industry in any way the foundation can, bringing a small ray of hope for these recipients who have fallen on hard and catastrophic times and now have nowhere else to turn. I am extremely proud to be associated with the foundation and in an industry that treats each other like family and bands together to take care of our own.

AACF BOARD NEWS

The AACF Board of Trustees annual board meeting took place in Las Vegas October 29th. Tyler Reeves and Jason Ehrlich presented the 2018 media campaign developed by the marketing committee. A new fundraising campaign that included an eBay online auction, car donations, and other plans for 2018 were discussed by the revenue growth committee. The AMRA Board met with the AACF Board at lunch to establish a mutual working relationship that could help with the Foundation's awareness. All committees reported on their accomplishments for 2017 and plans for 2018.

"A man's true wealth is the good he does in this world."

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AACF New Marketing Campaign

With the help of The Yonder Agency, Interstate Batteries marketing team, and the hard work and dedication of the AACF Marketing & PR Committee, the AACF has a new targeted marketing campaign. Look for our new magazine ads and banners. Our goal is to reach more of those in our industry who need help and raise awareness about the Foundation.



THANK YOU IN-KIND DONORS

We could not do the good work we do without our In-Kind Donors. Thank you to the following companies that give so much of their valuable time and/or services to help the Foundation.

AAPEX Express
Babcox Media
Bobit Business Media
Chip Foose, Overhulin' TV Show
Dennis Gage, My Classic Car TV
Etool Developers
NMRA
PRG

CAN Supply Channel
SEMA News
The Buzz Maker Public Relations
The Greensheet
THE SHOP Magazine/NBM Inc.
The Yonder Agency
Utility Fleet Professional Magazine

If tragedy strikes, it usually does so without warning. And when it does, the AACF is here to help. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact us through your Human Resources Department or call us at 772-286-5500. All calls are confidential.

Welcome new awareness partners, 4Wheel Parts and Eckler Industries. See the information below to join our program.

Awareness Partner Program

The AACF Awareness Partner Program was developed so conscientious companies can inform their employees about the help offered by The Foundation.

A current or past employee may need the assistance that only the AACF can offer. By supporting its work you are providing a benefit to employees as well as giving back to your industry.

There is no cost to join. Simply share the information about our program with your HR Department and employees.

JOIN OUR PARTNERSHIP

Contact Joel Ayres,
Executive Director
(916) 628-0271
Joel@AACFI.org

"One of the deepest secrets in life, is that all that is really worth doing is done for others."

- Unknown

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Natural Disasters Update

When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston, TX it effected thousands of families and businesses in the Aftermarket industry. This was just the first of 3 major storms to hit our aftermarket family, as well as, the devastating Northern California fires. So many wonderful generous industry companies stepped up and not only made donations, but even hosted employee pledge drives to raise money for the victims. Thank you to the following supporters and to all the others who supported their "industry family" during this unprecedented time.



Dear AACF and Supporters,

My name is David Stumer, I was a recent recipient of the AACF. We are still recovering from the aftermath of this catastrophic natural disaster. Hundreds of nearby communities evacuated into our small town, and depleted all the resources. We had no bottled water or food in the groceries stores; all the basic necessities were no longer available. For days, the local stores rationed food and water to families.

Our communities are slowly but surely coming together, and life is somewhat normal again. We have learned that we are all the same. This hurricane did not discriminate against anyone, or anything in its path.

I am so grateful, thankful, and humble for the monetary donation that was given to me and my family. You saved me in more ways than you could ever imagine. For all the 35 years of being a mechanic, your Foundation was the only one that helped my family. I am forever grateful for all your help.

With all our love,
David Stumer and Family

Bob's Story Continued

My friend, Peter MacGillivray from SEMA, suggested I get in touch with the Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF). Never in a million years did I ever think I would need the help of a foundation. Not long ago I was financially secure, but due to these medical problems, I have lost all my savings. I got married late in life and have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter who I want to live to see grow up.

The Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation has been there for me and my family helping make my health insurance payments and keeping my family in our home. Board president, Bob Hirsch, along with Chris Drake and Executive Director, Joel Ayres, have been wonderful to work with in these difficult times. It has been a blessing that the foundation was there to help me.

I will soon have major open-heart surgery so please keep me in your prayers as I make my way along this medical journey. I ask that you support and promote the AACF so that regular folk like myself can be given a chance of bouncing back from major medical setbacks and other catastrophic events. Then we can continue to promote the automotive business and hobby for generations to come.

About Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation

The Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation was founded in 1959 as an organization dedicated to assisting automotive aftermarket people who, because of catastrophic illness or terrible accident, have exhausted all other available resources in maintaining a reasonable existence. The Foundation is staffed by industry executives who donate their time with the single goal of providing a solution to the family or individuals who have reached this position of great need. We depend on the generous assistance of our industry companies and individuals to provide the financial support to fund the foundation.

The AACF is a not-for-profit organization.

For more information:
www.AACFi.org

CONTACT AACF FOR MORE INFORMATION

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