



We're behind you all the way.



Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation

The AACF was founded in 1959 to assist automotive aftermarket members and their families who, due to catastrophic illness or terrible accident, have exhausted all other available resources in maintaining a reasonable existence.

First Quarter | 2018 | eNews

JACKIE'S STORY



My name is Jacqueline Mathison. I'm a 46-year-old residing in Canton, MI. I work as a technical support rep at Horizon Global Americas. Here's how my story begins. I went to an amusement park for my birthday in 07/2010. Being a diabetic with nerve damage in my feet, I did excessive walking but never thought about looking at my feet throughout the day. I ended up contracting an infection and spent 5 years with an unresolved wound issue. In 2016, I was diagnosed with verrucous squamous cell carcinoma in the wound. Extremely rare type of cancer with less than 100 reported cases worldwide. It's a very localize cancer, but can be aggressive and have a high recurrence rate. In February 2016 was my first amputation of my big toe and 1/4 of my foot. By June that year, my foot started not looking right to me, and the biopsy confirmed the cancer was back. Two months later a second amputation of the second toe and another 2" off my foot. Due to the cancer being so aggressive, I decided to amputate below the knee in March, 2017. I had raised enough money on my own attain a mobility transport wheelchair, a shower seat, a portable folding ramp, since my apartment complex has no handicap accessibility, and a power scooter for in

my home since I live independently. I felt truly blessed for everyone's donations, but this left me about \$3,000 short of my out of pocket costs to cover my copays on the surgery/hospital stay. I reached out to my HR department at work and was provided with a letter about the AACF that works with companies like mine for these situations.

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Upcoming Events

- March 21 - 23
AASA Vision Conference
Loews O'Hare Hotel | Chicago, IL
- March 22 - 24
Mid-America Trucking Show
Kentucky Expo Center | Louisville, KY
- April 15 - 18
ACPN Knowledge Exchange Conf.
Worthington Renaissance | Fort Worth, TX
- May 9 - 11
Auto Care Association Spring Leadership Days
Atlanta Marriott Marquis | Atlanta, GA

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



Lynn Parker
Vice President Merchandising, Pep Boys

Letter from the President - Lynn Parker

I am honored and humbled to be elected President of the Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF). Being associated with AACF continues to be one of the most rewarding highlights of my career and each year it becomes more and more personal to me.

There is something very rewarding and fulfilling when you can help someone who is in need. It is also rewarding to be associated with a group of people who have the biggest hearts in the most generous industry – the Automotive Aftermarket. One of those many people is Bob Hirsch our past President. Bob Hirsch is an Icon in our industry, a strong leader and has vast business experience. Bob is a mentor to me and is one of the most compassionate people I know. Bob's leadership as President has enabled the AACF to be the strong foundation it is today. Bob will continue to be on our Executive Committee and Chair of our Recipient Review Committee. Bob recently celebrated his 60th year at Gold Eagle and has been associated with the AACF for many years. His tireless efforts have helped so many people who have fallen on hard times and he has touched the hearts of people in the Automotive Aftermarket.

While the AACF has always had a strong board over the 50 plus years, I am confident we have the strongest board today than ever before. It is amazing the progress we have made to ensure more people are aware of the foundation while ensuring we have the financial funding to support those in need today and in the years to come. We are so fortunate to have Joel Ayres and Misty Walker who are doing a tremendous job. We are all so proud of them.

My vision for the AACF in 2018 is to continue to grow the foundation by utilizing the talent of our staff, our Board Members and Awareness Partners. It will be challenging to "fill Bob's shoes" but I am up for the task. I will be asking for your support of which I am confident I will get. We will continue to work as a strong team. We are here to help people in our industry who have fallen on hard times and have nowhere to turn. And when we do that, there is nothing more rewarding.

Sincerely
Lynn Parker

AACF Board News

We would like to welcome new board Trustee, Chuck Rogers. Chuck is Vice President - Professional Sales at O'Reilly Automotive Inc. He is currently serving on the Foundation's Recipient Review Committee. We would like to thank Tony Bartholomew for his years of service on the Board. Lastly, we would like to thank Bob Hirsch for serving as board president for the past 15 years. His service and leadership as President has been invaluable to the Foundation.

Immediate Past President

My 15 years as president of AACF was very rewarding for two reasons: I was able to work with 29 terrific trustees dedicated to helping members of our industry that had no place else to turn due to a catastrophic event, and, to feel the satisfaction for the help that we were able to provide.

This past year we benefited from the generosity of aftermarket firms and individuals that enabled us to assist flood and wild fire victims. Since 1959, the Foundation has raised funds and made a difference in people's lives. Except for two paid professionals, all the work is done by volunteers, including the presidents of AASA, AutoCare and SEMA.

I will continue as a trustee and assist our new president, Lynn Parker, in any way possible.

Bob Hirsch | President, Gold Eagle Co.
Immediate Past AACF President

Partner Spotlight - Eckler's Industries

I can't say enough positive things about our organization's experience with the AACF. We were made aware of this organization from a member of our Senior Leadership Team, who had a personal interaction with the AACF. He shared his positive experience with us shortly after our facility (and entire state) was devastated by Hurricane Irma. During the Hurricane, we thankfully had no employees, nor immediate family members injured, but we had numerous employees who had personal property damage. Some had to seek temporary housing, due to damage and loss of power. Many lost vehicles due to extensive flooding and had extraordinary expenses due to loss of food and purchasing extra supplies in addition to repairing damage to their property.

During this very difficult time, our primary business office was also damaged. We fortunately had a second facility which contained additional open space that was not damaged. With the help of numerous employees, even those dealing with their own personal challenges, we were able to move our office equipment to the warehouse and continue our operations within a few days. This very challenging time was made incredibly less difficult with the help of AACF. In addition to our own Eckler's sponsored emergency relief program, the AACF has provided extensive assistance with financial relief to numerous employees, most receiving the funds in mere days. With a very simple application process the AACF reviewed and responded quicker than we would have thought possible. As the flood waters receded, literally and figuratively and our associates repaired damage, and our business returned to normal operations, the AACF continued their support with those employees that had other financial difficulties. Since September of 2017 the AACF has supported numerous of employees including helping those with extensive medical expenses, unrelated to Hurricane Irma. The AACF has been truly amazing and continues to support our organization by supporting our most important asset, our people!

We would absolutely recommend to others in the industry, this amazing organization that any qualifying company would be foolish not to be involved with. Their mission is simply to help your employees who are in need, and they have done that repeatedly with no strings attached and in a very professional and supportive manner. Amazing organization!

Matt Cummings
Vice President, Human Resources
Ecklers Industries



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.

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

Support The Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation Inc.

Give back to the AACF when you shop with Amazon. Use the link below and Amazon donates to the Foundation

[https://smile.amazon.com/
ch/23-6392256](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6392256)





Terry O'Reilly
President & CEO, Pricedex Software Inc.

Jackie's Story Continued

I reached out to Misty Walker, who has been yet another blessing on my journey on 1/12/17 and she sent me the paperwork to fill out. I was informed a few days later that they would be able to assist and to send them copies of my U of M bill upon receipt and they would take care of it for me. The balance was paid by AACF and it lifted a tremendous burden off my shoulders and I'm truly grateful to everyone that assisted me in my process.

I had a determined outlook that my situation would not define me or defeat me. I got my temporary prosthetic late June of 2017, started physical therapy in July, was walking with only a cane and doing stairs my first day, and graduated very early after only 6 sessions.

I hope my story inspires others. When life gives you lemons, go ahead and make the best lemonade you can!

Member Spotlight - Terry O'Reilly

A little about your career: What is your current position and place of employment, and how long have you been working in the industry?

I am currently the President & CEO of Pricedex Software Inc., We've been working in the Aftermarket for twenty years now.

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

Away from work, my wife, Catherine, and I are very active, and devote a fair amount of time to our pastimes. In the summer, we are boaters, and in the winter, we are avid alpine skiers.

What is something about you that would surprise us?

I sing! That is, perhaps, less a surprise for many of my colleagues than it would have been prior to last November, when I sang a few songs at the AACF VIP Reception. There was a period when I sang professionally and; although I moved on to other areas of business, I never totally let go of that part of me.

How did you first get involved with AACF and when; why did you get involved with AACF?

Going back to about 2005 or 2006, I was an attendee at the annual conference held by the (then) National Catalog Managers Association, which has since evolved into the Automotive Content Professionals Network (ACPN). That organization always devoted a segment of its conference activities to fundraising for the AACF. I was impressed with the AACF purpose, and started directly supporting those special activities. A few years later, I was nominated and elected to the Board of the AACF, served on Committees, became a member of the Executive Committee, and continue to serve as Corporate Secretary.

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

I do not, but whenever there is any discussion of recipients, I feel like I have a personal connection with each of them. I think all of us on the board are all acutely aware of what the Foundation is doing to help our industry brothers and sisters who are in serious need due to tragic events, and I think we are all able to relate our functions and efforts to those causes. I do feel connected with what we do and the industry people we serve as an organization, and it gives a good feeling in my heart.

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

The answer to that is probably tied in with all the influences of my up-bringing. What I do know is that, to me, as a person to whom Providence has been very kind, giving back does matter. And when I consider the business success Pricedex and I, personally, have enjoyed over the years from being a part of this special industry, it is hard to think of a more meaningful vehicle for giving back than getting it to other people in our industry who are in real need, through the wonderful works of the Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation.

Anything else you would like to say about the Foundation.

I remain truly proud to be a Board Member of the AACF. I feel blessed to have met and worked with the high quality colleagues that make up this organization. I would add that anyone seeking an organization through which to 'give back', can be assured of being proud of doing it through the AACF. And finally, I would encourage all Aftermarket companies to join the AACF as a 'no-cost' Awareness Partner, to ensure that their employees know who we are and how to find us, in the event of tragedy in their own lives.

About Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF)

The Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF) has been helping aftermarket families turn tragedy into triumph since 1959. Like the industry, AACF is driven by passion and devoted to family. It's tough to ask for help, but when someone in the aftermarket family faces profound circumstances, AACF is there to help put the tough times in the rearview mirror. As a nonprofit, AACF accomplishes its mission through the support of generous donors, awareness partners and dedicated volunteers.

To learn more, visit www.AftermarketCharity.org.

To donate, visit <http://bit.ly/AACF-Cares>.

To apply for help, visit <http://bit.ly/AACF-get-help>.

The AACF is a not-for-profit organization.

For more information:

www.AftermarketCharity.org

CONTACT AACF FOR MORE INFORMATION

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