

"Our family is deeply grateful for your support and help . . ."



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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JOEY'S STORY



Joseph Alexander Pugliese

Read the incredible heartbraking story of Joseph, and how the AACF helped his family.

Our Story –

It all started out when we were on our wedding anniversary cruise in March 2015. We got a call that our son Joey was having a hard time getting out of bed due to his legs feeling heavy. We returned home to Joey needing a muscle biopsy in his quadriceps.

The doctors could not figure out what was wrong with Joey. He was seen by 4 different hospitals as things started getting worse. By May he had to use a walker and by July he was in a wheel chair. By November our son Joey was completely paralyzed.

In the month of September, Bridgestone's CEO called, he had heard the news of our son and had the company help with some of our costs as medical expenses grew. He also sat on the AACF Board of Trustees and two days later I got a call from the Foundation.

The medical bills were starting to pile up and Joey was at home needing 24 hour care. When asked what we needed, I said what we needed most was a handicap van to transport Joey from doctor to doctors, hospitals and therapy.

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Upcoming Events

May 3 - 5

2017 Auto Care Association Spring Leadership Days
Grand Hyatt San Antonio |
San Antonio, TX

May 17

SEMA Washington Rally
Capitol Hill |
Washington, D.C.

June 3

Jeep Heritage Expo
Omix-ADA Headquarters |
Suwanee, GA

June 22-23

CAWA Summer Educational Forum
Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside |
San Diego, CA

"We can't help
everyone.

but...

Everyone
can help
someone."

-Dr. Loretta Scott



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Awareness Partner Spotlight - Dorman



Miles Moholan , Human Resources Generalist, for Dorman shares his experience with the AACF. Thank you for joining our Partnership Program!

How did you first hear about the AACF Awareness Partner Program?

I heard about it when I began working in HR from our corporate HR team, I believe this was in October 2012.

How has the AACF been able to help your employees and/or offered support?

Wow! Let me count the ways. Your team has been unbelievably helpful. We work and live in a very low-income area. Even though our company pays higher wages than many of the other employers in the area, your team has been able to step in and help contributors on many occasions when they have no way to pay for large things that they wouldn't normally have been able to such as hearing aids (on multiple occasions), fire damage, flood damage, and the list can go on.

What is your experience with the AACF and why you chose to get involved and partner with them?

My experience with AACF has been nothing short of spectacular. It amazes me that there is an organization out there that does so much for the employees in the aftermarket. Whether we have had a contributor come to us who has lost their home to fire or flood, they have to purchase new hearing aids and cannot do so due to their current financial situation, or they have lost a loved one and are now buried under funeral and other costs, AACF has swiftly stepped in and helped where no other help could be provided.

I will continue to stay involved with AACF and I hope our company can continue to support them in their mission. This has been a great partnership for our organization because as we know the most valuable asset we have is our employees. If our employees needs are taken care of than they can take care of our customer. I hope this is a long lasting relationship and we can continue to support each other in any way possible.

Would you recommend other Industry companies partner with the AACF and why?

Absolutely. AACF has worked hand and hand with us for years and they do so quickly and ethically. They continue to be a beacon of light for our organization and could provide that same light to any other organization that takes on a partnership with them.

Awareness Partner Program

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

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

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. Your company's involvement will also show your employees that you are a 'caring' company with 'heart'.

WHAT IS THE COST?

There is no cost. Any additional contributions to the Foundation would also assist us in extending our reach and would be appreciated, but this is not a prerequisite to participate in the Awareness Partner Program.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO TO BECOME A PARTNER:

Share the information with your HR Department. Hang information posters on cafeteria and corridor bulletin boards. Publish a brief article in your periodic employee newsletter. Add information to employee web pages.

JOIN OUR PARTNERSHIP

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

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Thank You AACF Partner Organizations

Bill Hanvey, President and CEO, Auto Care Association

Let me begin my remarks about the Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF) by sharing a German proverb – “Charity sees the need not the cause.”

The AACF not only sees the needs of members of the aftermarket family, but provides valuable assistance to fill those needs. For nearly half a century the AACF has been laser focused on taking care of our own – our colleagues in the aftermarket industry – who find themselves in dire straits due to major medical or other catastrophic hardship.

Simply stated, the AACF is funded by the aftermarket family for the aftermarket family. Generous assistance from industry companies and individuals make it all possible. Who among us might one day find ourselves or someone we know be stricken with a personal or business tragedy? That’s why it is so vital and reassuring that there is an organization poised to respond and offer solutions to help proud and hurting people who comprise the backbone of our industry in their time of need.

On behalf of the Auto Care Association professional staff and the board of directors I appeal to your generosity and loyalty to the industry that is your livelihood, to donate to the AACF. I have read the heartfelt letters from folks who have had their lives dramatically changed by the AACF. Many of them were on the brink of total despair and fortunately the AACF was there to save them. Please make a difference by donating so the AACF can make a difference in our industry family’s lives.

I close with this Jewish proverb: “If charity cost nothing, the world would be full of philanthropists.”

Charity does cost, but it’s the best investment you will ever make. Will you be a philanthropist today?
Thank you.

We thank our generous association supporters, Auto Care Association for their valuable time and financial support!



*Bill Hanvey, President and CEO
Auto Care Association*

How YOU Can Help

We are the only charity that enables you to help members of our industry, your industry family members, that have nowhere else to turn. As the saying goes “charity begins at home.”

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. All donations 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

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Board Member Spotlight - Jeff Helfrich

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

I've been in the automotive industry my whole career with the last 23 years in the tire industry. Ten years with Cooper Tire and the last 13 years with TBC Corporation. Currently VP Purchasing – Tires, with TBC Corporation.

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

I'm an avid golfer but also enjoy snow skiing and water skiing and just like to keep myself active, particularly outdoors.

How did you first get involved with the AACF and when?

I attended my first AACF SEMA golf tournament in 1999 while I was with Cooper Tire. It made me realize how close knit this industry is and that need to take care of our own. I've attended everyone since. When I became employed with TBC in 2004, which has a very long history with this organization and the golf event, Andy Dudash and Bob Schoeberl took me under their wings, and the rest they say is history. I began assisting Andy and his team with set up before the golf event for several years prior to being asked to join the AACF Board of Directors in 2013 and be able to make additional contributions to the event and organization. It's been a humbling experience to be part of the Board of Directors and the assistance we are able to provide to those in need within the industry.

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

Unfortunate situations and/or circumstances can hit anyone at any time. The work this organization does to raise the funds is very gratifying when the Recipient Review Committee evaluates, determines, and advises that an individual or family has a need that we can provide the necessary assistance. The heartfelt letters and thank you notes we receive from recipients brings it full circle.

What else would you like to share about being involved with the AACF?

As a member of the golf committee, although the golf tournament is just one day a year, it's a year round process of planning and preparation so it runs smoothly as we're always tweaking to make an improvement every year. We have a great group of committee members that dialogue throughout the whole year so we're like family. Some days were hugging each other and other days we just want to ring each other's necks ... but when the event is completed we all take great pride as we know the funds we've raised will make someone's life a little better than the day before.

THANK YOU Jeff Helfrich for your time and dedication to helping individuals and families in our industry!



*Jeff Helfrich, VP Purchasing-Tires
TBC Corporation*

THANK YOU

DIAMOND SUPPORTERS

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Tire Wholesalers Inc.
Trico
Unicorn Tire Corporation
Wegmann Automotive USA Inc.
Yokohama

JOEY'S STORY

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Soon after I am sitting in my office doing paper work and I get a phone call. The Foundation was going to give us help for medical expenses and an allowance for home health care. Also help with a handicap van while Joey is in need of it. I started to get choked up and cry. I said this is unbelievable that the Foundation to do this.

On December 24th 2016 Christmas Eve, Joey lost his life to this unknown disease that was never identified. Joey was no longer suffering.

If it was not for the AACF organization, we as a family would not have been able to do and spend as much time as we were allowed with Joey. The Foundation was able to let us have that time with Joey. As one of the AACF Trustees said "We want you to be able to concentrate on your family and jobs and not worry about your financial situation. We want you to be with your son as much as possible." All I can say is THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. We miss our son and we will never forget what the Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation did for us.

Sincerely yours,
The Bohrer and Bugliese family



Joseph Alexander Pugliese

You can help others employed in our industry like Joey and his family by donating at www.aacfi.org/donate-today

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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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