

Parents Fund buys van for Campus Escort Service

The University's Parents Fund recently helped in purchasing a 2009 Dodge Grand Caravan for the Associated Students of the University of Nevada Campus Escort Service. Established by the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation in 2004, the Parents Fund can support a wide range of out-of-classroom resources and services possible for students.

Campus Escort Service strives to make campus a safe place and to enable the University community to move freely about campus after the sun goes down. It provides free, safe rides for students, faculty, staff and guests to and from their academic endeavors within a two-mile radius of campus.

The service employs only current students enrolled in a minimum of six credits, who hold at least a 2.0 grade-point average and who pass a state and federal fingerprint background check. These students work late into the night seven days a week to provide a safe way to travel to the library, home from a study session or to a campus activity.

"Mere words cannot describe the thanks this team of hard working student escorts feels about this support," says Monica Thompson, coordinator of the Campus Escort Service. "The past year has been especially hard on this team because of an increased safety awareness on and around campus. This awareness almost doubled our



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Campus Escort student employees Brittany Calloway, Joey Tirabassi, Alex Maragakis, Sterling Tom, Reef Wossen and Roshaun Dauphine test out the new van.

workload on some nights. They've done such a great job they were awarded the Thornton Peace Prize at the University's Honor the Best Ceremony last year—a very proud honor for each and every one of them."

"This donation of funds to purchase the new van shows this team of 35 students and the thousands of people who ride with this service annually that the Parents Fund knows the importance of safety on campus and the programs needed to keep our campus a safe place to learn and grow," Thompson continues. "A few of our older vans are in need of repair far beyond their worth and patching them together was financially swamping the program. Now we have been able to retire one of our older vans and replace it with a van that is reliable and under warranty!"

In addition to the Parents Fund, gifts from the Marshall R. Matley Foundation and E.L.

Cord Foundation have provided funding for the Escort Service to purchase another new van and convert it to accommodate wheel chair bound patrons.

The program's current fleet also includes four that have each logged 80,000 – 100,000 miles. These vehicles must be replaced within the next two years.

—Ken Kempcke

Parents of Nevada students, past and present, realize the exceptional educational environment that the University provides their children and show their appreciation by supporting the Parents Fund. The Parents Fund allows Nevada to broaden the opportunities available to current students—supporting all aspects of their undergraduate experience. By donating to the fund, parents directly support initiatives and services important to students.

For more information, please contact Bruce Mack, associate vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, at (775) 784-1352 or bmack@unr.edu.