

## Vehicle donations offer win-win deals



Staff photo by Jan Underwood

Icy, rainy weather did little to deter the crowd at the twice monthly Goodwill Auto Auction held Saturday, Jan. 10. Auctioneer Phil Thompson sold 79 vehicles, including cars, trucks, boats, campers, motorcycles and four-wheelers.

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DAYTON — Robin Tullis had 174,000 miles on her 1994 Dodge Shadow and felt it was finally time to get a newer vehicle.

So, she donated it to charity.

"It was still a good little car. I would rather someone else get some more use out of it," said Tullis, 52, of Dayton.

Her automobile recently became the 10,000th vehicle donated to the Goodwill Auto Auction since 2004.

The vehicles are sold at auction, and 100 percent of the proceeds are used to support programs offered through Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley for people with disabilities.

St. Vincent de Paul in Dayton has received more than 19,000 donated vehicles since 1995, including nearly 1,000 in 2007.

St. Vincent spokeswoman Andrea Skrlac said final 2008 numbers are not yet available, but she expects a 35 to 40 percent drop from 2007, in part because of the shaky economy.

"I think a lot of people are holding on to things more," she said.

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Goodwill spokeswoman Mari Jo Sellers said vehicle donations traditionally pick up at year-end, and many are still working their way to the auction block.

Sellers called the donation program a viable revenue source for the nonprofit, which can receive \$20,000 to \$60,000 per auction, depending on variables ranging from the quality of the vehicles to the weather.

A 2005 tax law change also caused a drop-off in donated motor vehicles to both organizations after donors could no longer claim the Kelley Blue Book value. Taxpayers can deduct only the proceeds the charity gets from the sale of the motor vehicle if the claimed value exceeds \$500.

Tullis received a letter last week that her car sold at auction for \$400, which she can claim as a tax deduction.

Catherine Jones, 42, of Xenia, who bought Tullis' old car, said she went to the Goodwill Auto Auction at 7150 N. Dixie Drive because it sounded like a "more affordable" option.

"I really needed a car, because the engine seized up on my car. I was having trouble getting to work," she said.

She was happy with the end result, which she viewed as a win-win for all involved, including Goodwill.

"I've always been trying to give to charities," she said, "any small way I can."