

By: NEA4WDC

### Got Heart?

The Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs (NEA4WDC) selected their second recipient for the Shane Beard Award. Shane Beard, who lost a battle to pancreatic cancer in 2006, was who most would consider a true example of someone who is passionate about every aspect of life. He showed kindness and devotion to everything he was attached to-his family, friends, hobbies, and career. Shane volunteered his time to be a leader within his local Boy Scout troop and he served as a leader and Executive Officer in the NEA4WDC and in his local 4WD club, NEWJO. He had a way of making sure others always stayed on track and maintained the right focus for what was most important.

The passing of Shane hit the communities he was involved in like a Jeep® that just can't overcome the obstacle it is up against. Nobody could understand why a great man would be taken away from so many people that loved and admired him. So, in his honor and to continue his legacy, the members of the NEA4WDC gave birth to the Shane Beard Award in 2006. They composed the following criteria for the award:

1. Active volunteer/leader within the wheeling community who maintains a positive influence for and with others.
2. Actively involved in land maintenance and acquisition opportunities for the sport.
3. Demonstrates responsibility and leadership on and off the trails. Promotes such characteristics in other members of the community as well.
4. Promotes and generates ideas that are practical for the entire family with regards to wheeling-related events.
5. Maintains a positive attitude throughout all of the work being done within the community.

Nominations are accepted throughout the year by members of the NEA4WDC's Member Clubs. The Executive Officers of the NEA4WDC are exempt from receiving the award. In 2006, the Shane Beard Award recipient was Domenic Pono of Domenic's Auto & Jeep in Hampstead NH. For 2007, the nominees were Rosco Brandt, Roy Van Gemert, and Tammy Van Gemert. Since Tammy is the Secretary of the NEA4WDC, she was exempt from receiving the award. Secret ballots were cast at the August NEA4WDC Board of Directors Meeting and the delegates who were present voted for Roy Van Gemert. The nominations received expressed the following about each individual:

- Rosco Brandt: Although Rosco's employment keeps him traveling on a regular basis, he manages to find the time to help plan and attend Association-sponsored events.
- Roy Van Gemert: On a consistent basis, Roy reminds everyone to be responsible and to remember why it is necessary to only wheel legally. He is always willing to help those around him and one of those people that would give the shirt off his back to do so. He has influenced the lives of quite a few renegade wheelers, including the person who nominated him.
- Tammy Van Gemert: Tammy has shown through her involvement in the NEA4WDC that she has a strong passion for the sport. Her dedication to bringing the 2008 United Four Wheel Drive Association Annual Conference to New Hampshire will open up a door to showing other parts of the country that off-road motorized recreation is alive and flourishing in the Northeast.

The Award was presented to Roy Van Gemert at the 2007 NEA4WDC Fall Crawl Event on September 9th. Roy accepted the award with a very appropriate speech that consisted of two words, Thank You. He did add

that he was not even aware that he deserved any award such as the Shane Beard Award. Congratulations to Roy on behalf of the NEA4WDC!

For more information on the Shane Beard Award or to nominate someone for 2008, please contact us at [info@nea4wd.org](mailto:info@nea4wd.org). All nominations must be submitted in writing and can be e-mailed to the previous address or mailed to the NEA4WDC, PO Box 887, Derry NH 03038.