

# Rockland Nissan donates car to benefit Albertus Magnus High School



Tim O'Keefe, general manager of Rockland Nissan, with Thomas Hilliard (left), winner of the Albertus Magnus contest. Grandson Brenden Hilliard, 16-year-old junior at Albertus Magnus High School, and wife Aileen Hilliard, join Thomas at Rockland Nissan to claim his prize.



Raffle winner Thomas Hilliard with the keys to his brand new car – a 2014 Nissan Sentra.



Thomas Hilliard proudly displays the winning raffle ticket.

“Being a good corporate neighbor is what it’s all about,” says Tim O’Keefe, general manager of Rockland Nissan in Blauvelt. It’s something that he not only espouses, but puts into action as well.

This season, the dealership set its sights on helping Albertus Magnus High School in Blauvelt, donating a brand-new 2014 Nissan Sentra for the school to raffle off, helping them raise money for a much-needed renovation of the stage lighting and sound systems in their auditorium.

“The car was on display for all to see on the school’s grounds for three months,” says Mr. O’Keefe, who noted that the sleek silver automobile was designed to capture the attention of passers-by, acting as an incentive to purchase a raffle ticket for a good cause. Over 350 raffle tickets were made available at a cost of \$100 each.

On Saturday, May 2, Albertus Magnus High School held its annual gala at Patriot Hills Country Club in Stony Point with over 260 people in attendance. During the festivities that included an evening of fun, fel-

lowship and fundraising, Mr. O’Keefe selected the winning raffle ticket belonging Thomas Hilliard of Stony Point. The selection could not have been more appropriate.

As it turns out, the 78-year-old Mr. Hilliard was in a car accident in December that left him without a car for all these months. He says, “So many factors prevented me from shopping for a new one – the insurance ‘red tape,’ the snowy winter, and a medical operation in March to name a few.” Because his grandson attends Albertus Magnus High School, he decided to buy a raffle ticket two days before the drawing. “I couldn’t believe it when I won!” he says. His wife Aileen adds that they have been a Nissan family for years. “We once had a 1987 Sentra that was great. We ran it into the ground. I’m so happy to have another!”

Stories like this are music to the ears of Mr. O’Keefe. “I’ve been living in Rockland County for 30 years and am grateful that through my business, I’m in a position to make a difference. My staff and I go above and beyond to help worthy causes such as this, and to help our customers get approved for financing, so they can

drive away in the car they want. I feel strongly about taking care of the people in the community.”

Martin Moran, alumni relations director at Albertus Magnus High School, appreciates that commitment, which greatly contributed to the success of the gala. “Thanks to Rockland Nissan alone, we raised about \$9,000 for the fundraiser. And thanks to the hard work of the Parents Association who were key in putting this event together, we were able to raise around \$60,000 in total for the school.” By all accounts, the gala was a resounding success and an especially fitting send-off for the school’s president, Joseph Troy, who will be retiring his post this year after over 50 years as an educator.

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