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UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

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Contact: Jim Pickering
pickering@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDENT ESCORT SERVICE A SAFE AND SECURE RIDE AROUND CAMPUS

DAYTON, Ohio — Sara Beall says she lost track of time one night last year. The University of Dayton senior was finishing a paper in the bio-lab at Sherman Hall.

"I was the only one who stayed late, and before I knew it, it was almost three o'clock in the morning," explains Beall, who's majoring in biology and journalism. "I didn't have a car and I felt apprehensive about walking across campus at that hour."

Beall didn't have to walk. She called Mom's Limo, a free UD student transportation service that has hauled thousands of students to and from their dorms and houses for nearly a decade.

"I was extremely grateful I had the option of not walking," adds Beall, who was taxied to her rental house on Chambers Street that night.

The Mother's Club, which started the program in 1990, has again enhanced the service. With financial help from Residential Services, it provided public safety with a large portion of the cost for two new Saturn sedans, introduced this fall.

The cars couldn't have come at a better time, says one UD official.

"These cars are a great boost to the service. Our cars were old and starting to break down," says Lt. Randy Groesbeck, an administrator for the University's public safety department who supervises the operation of Mom's Limo. "They're able to carry one more passenger than the Geos, and they're more powerful. They're sleeker looking too, which adds a nice touch to the service."

Groesbeck adds that the new cars have helped lower response time and increased interest in the service. "On most of our calls now, the average response time is under 10 minutes. The feedback on the cars has been great too."

Nine years ago, the Mother's Club asked the University if it could take on a special project — to upgrade public safety's student escort service. The University complied, and the

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu

club held a fund-raiser that led to the purchase of two new Geo Metros, Groesbeck says.

“Before the Mother’s Club limo service, we had one student cadet assigned to the escort service,” Groesbeck explains. “The cadet would use the oldest police car we had in our fleet. The service wasn’t really advertised and ridership was low.”

Today, three to four public safety cadets, all of whom are UD students themselves, are assigned to a shift from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. seven days a week (throughout the academic year). One cadet handles dispatch duties while the others transport fellow students to anywhere within the University environment.

“The University environment comprises the campus itself, including the dorms, the student neighborhoods and the immediate surrounding area,” Groesbeck explains.

Student cadets handle anywhere from “20 to 80 calls a night, depending on the day of the week, the weather or what events are taking place on campus,” Groesbeck says. “We probably average about 30 to 35 calls a night. It’s gaining in popularity.”

Aside from the Saturns, the service has a new Neon, which will be used on heavy nights, especially during weekends, Groesbeck says.

Beall, says fellow student Kate Hinker, isn’t the only thankful rider of Mom’s Limo service. The sophomore physical therapy major remembers a cold night in early March when she was walking back to her dorm.

“I was on crutches because of recent surgery I had on my legs — and was headed back to Marycrest Hall,” Hinker recalls, “when a student in a Mom’s Limo car pulls up and says, ‘Get in. I’ll give you a ride.’ That was a really kind thing to do. I’ll never forget it.”

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For media interviews, contact **Lt. Randy Groesbeck** at (937) 229-2129, **Sara Beall** at (937) 285-8923 and **Kate Hinker** at (937) 286-5312.