



September Wheels In Motion Car Show

by Chris Winslow



Every year, Gateway GTO takes part in two big charity car shows in September. The first is the Wheels In Motion - Old Cars Against Cancer show that we put on with First Capital Classics. This fall was no different as we participated in the 29th such show.

What was different for this year is that we were at the new location that Earl had found for the event, the Church on the Rock in St. Peters. We had already had one show at the church in May that went really well, especially as compared to some of the Wheels In Motion events where the locations were less than ideal. In contrast, the Church on the Rock is a perfect location for a car show. It has a huge parking lot for the show itself and adjacent large parking lots for spectators. In addition, the Church on the Rock is an excellent partner for the event. They have embraced the show fully and were a major factor in the success of both shows. Tommy Prater, whose day job is managing finances for the church has been nothing short of amazing in his support and enthusiasm for the show. With his help, the shows in both the spring and the fall were excellent.

For the fall show we set up and ran our traditional Gateway GTO raffle as a fund raiser. As usual, Gateway members stepped up and gathered lots of great prizes like gift baskets and restaurant gift certificates. Gateway also kicked in a TV and two kids bikes.

With this new location at a church, there are a lot more kids at the show than we have had in recent years. This makes a perfect built in audience for Bob Blattel to perform magic! Bob is always happy to support this event and for this one he came and performed three magic shows for the kids. All were very well attended.

Of course, the centerpiece of Gateways support of this show is our own Earl





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Lewis. As he has been doing for years, Earl spent the weeks before the show soliciting donations from a variety of local businesses. As a result of his efforts, he walked into the show with \$2350 already in his pocket. In addition to that Earl raised another \$495 doing 50/50, bringing his grand total for the event to an amazing \$2845!

The other big donation, of course, was the money we raised from the raffle. The final tally for that was \$772. Adding that to the till, the grand total raised by Gateway for the event was \$3617.

I don't yet have the overall totals for the event, but I do know from talking to Sharon Mercer that overall there were 141 cars that paid at the gate. While we would have liked that number to be higher, it is far better than the attendance we have had for this show in years.

For 2026, the current plan is to

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do two car shows again, one in May and one in September. We will be meeting with First Capital Classics in October to kick off the planning for those two events. If you have any ideas on ways to better promote the event or get more attendance, please let me or Earl know.



