

# Teen's 'wish' comes true with completely refurbished truck

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MADISON — When Chris Wheeler got behind the wheel of his newly refurbished 1987 Chevy Silverado pickup, he drove in the September heat for a while before realizing he now had air conditioning.

It was a luxury for the 19-year-old Madison Central senior who was surprised by the Make-A-Wish Foundation recently with the pickup that cost nearly \$15,000 to fully restore.

The tall, quiet teen has

Burkitt's Lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system, but is currently in remission.

His parents, Tamara and Kelvin Jones, said they recently got news that they may have to perform another bone marrow biopsy, so the gift of the truck came at a perfect time to buoy Chris' spirits.

"He was a little down about that," Tamara Jones said.

"We had already been over here before he got sick to get estimates on what it would cost to paint it and we were shocked," she added. "He had kind of given up the idea."

Enter Make-A-Wish and Doug White, owner of Capitol Body Shop in Ridgeland.

"They brought it to us and we went over it," White said. "I told them I would donate all the time and money for the body and paint work. Then he had air condition issues and upholstery and exhaust. We got different vendors to do different things."

Mark and Robin Simpson of Marathon Makeover raised over \$7,500 to go towards the wish last June and Big 10 Tires & Accessories, Delta Muffler



Louis Oursler, Doug White and Tom Phillips present Chris Wheeler a free entry into the 7th Annual Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show in Madison Oct. 22-23. The Make-A-Wish Foundation fully restored Wheeler's truck at a cost of nearly \$15,000.

& Repair, Empress Audio and Rick's Pro Truck all contributed as well.

At the presentation last week they had all of Madison Central's varsity cheerleaders in the back of the truck and later Chris got to lead the school's pep rally parade before the

Clinton game.

On Tuesday, Chris got another surprise as White and several other members of the Mississippi Classic Cruisers car club gave him an honorary membership to the club and a free entry to the upcoming Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show

in Madison Oct. 22-23 where he will show off his truck along side other collectors.

"He was talking about doing that before they even called him because he was proud of it and wanted to start doing car shows," Tamara Wheeler said.