Mighty Blessings

Myla Wofford

A friend told me about a program called the Benevolent Fund, operated by Mike’s Auto-body. The Fund gives free cars to families in need. To apply, you have to write an essay about your day-to-day struggles. And boy did I have struggles! In my essay, I talked about how I was trying to get my high school diploma. I described how challenging it was to get my children to their appointments and myself from job to job, from job to school, and from school to home on public transportation. I spoke from my heart, which must have meant something, because they picked me (and five others) to get this mighty blessing of a car.

This vehicle has improved my life in so many ways. Before I received the car, it was hard to get to work. The bus schedule did not fit my needs. To get to work on time, I sometimes had to arrive three hours early. I had to stand outside and wait to be let in. It was either be early or be late, and I chose to be early. After that, I would go to my second job, and finally get off work in the wee hours of the morning. I was able to get a few minutes of sleep either on the train or at home before going to the next job or to school. Sometimes I was not getting enough sleep at all! I had to go straight into the house, shower, and leave again. I don’t know how I made it.

And then I was blessed with this car! The benefits of having the car are that I’m able to get my children to their doctor’s appointments and myself to work and school. Having the car has taught me that I’m capable of achieving many things: being a confident driver, driving the freeway, and navigating my way through the world.

It took a while for me to fathom that I had this gift. It sat there parked in my driveway for a few weeks before I put it on the road. I’m still waiting to wake up from this dream. I come from a family that didn’t often own a car, and my mother does not drive on the freeway. But now you can often see me navigating the roads with my car. Beep beep!

Myla Wofford is a 35-year-old single mother of two kids. She is a hard worker and a student at Next Step Learning Center in Oakland, CA. Her goals are to get her High School Equivalency and to appreciate and value her own worth.

Add to your Vocabulary

Find these words in the text. Based on the context, write their definitions below:

mighty ____________________________________________
wee _____________________________________________
navigate __________________________________________
fathom ____________________________________________