

Wellesley Toyota-Scion Pledges a \$5,000 2015 Wellesley Community Scholarship Award

Wellesley Scholarship Foundation (WSF) recently accepted a newly established community scholarship award of \$5,000 from Wellesley Toyota-Scion. As a family owned and operated dealership, Wellesley Toyota is dedicated to providing a truly outstanding automotive sales and service experience. Since 1989, when Nai Nan Ko Sr. purchased the dealership, his family has since become an integral part of the Wellesley community. The dealership was established by Nai Nan Ko Sr. and his wife, Julia Ko, and is now family managed with his son, Nai Nan Ko Jr., and his daughter, Jessica Ko Beck.

Their family background is a testament to America's reputation as the land of opportunity. Nai Ko Jr. stated that their family learned, "through hard work and with community generosity you can fulfill your dreams." Jessica describes her father as, "having lived the American Dream." Nai Ko Sr. and his wife, Julia, were born in mainland China, became sweethearts in school, and eventually fled to the United States with \$300 in their pockets after the Communist Party took control in China in 1949. Both were able to continue their education – Nai Ko Sr. benefitted from a scholarship to attend a graduate engineering program at Boston University and Julia attended East Texas State University. They then reunited, married and settled in the Boston area where Nai Ko Sr. worked a variety of jobs, many as an auto mechanic, and established a standout reputation for his ability to repair foreign-made cars. Nai Ko Sr. summarizes his fortuitous life story in Chinese words, translating to English as, "people, places, and timing."

The Kos, throughout their lives, have valued education and have instilled these values in their children. With 11 grandchildren, the family wants to bestow the gift of scholarship to the next generation. With his Toyota business in Wellesley, Nai Ko Sr. expressed that he "is proud to be part of the Wellesley community."

The Wellesley Toyota-Scion Scholarship is being administered by the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation (WSF). WSF has been providing need-based higher education scholarships to residents of Wellesley, MA since 1951. High school seniors and current college students apply

to WSF on an annual basis for help defraying their higher education expenses. The WSF Scholarship Committee will select recipients for the Wellesley Toyota-Scion scholarship who have demonstrated academic excellence and exemplary leadership skills in the community, their high school, or on the athletic field.

Over the years, Wellesley Toyota has made significant contributions to the Wellesley community and surrounding communities. In each of the last three years, Wellesley Toyota has donated 2-year vehicle leases to the Wellesley High School Junior Auction, each valued at approximately \$3,600. Wellesley Toyota has also supported numerous high school sports teams and community groups in Wellesley, Wayland, and Belmont. In addition, the Toyota dealership in Wellesley has the distinction of being the 1st LEED certified dealership in New England, awarded in 2013.

Photo Caption:

Wellesley Toyota-Scion owners present new \$5,000 Scholarship Award to the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation.

(Left to Right) Jessica Ko Beck; Nai Nan Ko Sr.; Nai Nan Ko Jr., Sarah Pedersen, WSF President

Photo Credit: Josh Chang