



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ANNOUNCES NEW GENZ FUND AWARD FOR HIGH POINT GARAGE**

HANOVER, ILLINOIS - Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) has announced the presentation of the organization's ninth Genz Fund Award to High Point Garage in Scales Mound, Illinois. The check for \$10,000 from the Genz Small Business Development Fund was issued to Owner Jon Pentico prior to their business open house on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

According to Pentico, the money was used to purchase equipment and tools to outfit his new pre-owned auto dealership. Equipment purchases included new LED lighting, polishers, retractable hoses, extension cords pressure washer, and shop vac, along with a tire machine and balancer, office equipment, a 20-gallon oil drain container, transmission jack, and engine creeper and hoist.

"I've always been a car guy—fixing them, driving them, talking about them. But more than that, I've always been about family. After years of working long hours for someone else, missing birthdays, ball games, and family dinners, I decided it was time for a change." said Pentico. "Starting my own dealership wasn't just about selling cars - it was about creating a life with more freedom. I wanted flexibility to be there for every family event, big or small. And there's nowhere else I'd rather build that life than right here in our small town that I've come to love with my family. High Point Garage isn't just a business. It's the result of passion, family, and hometown pride—one car at a time."

On hand to congratulate Pentico was his daughter, Jonnie, Morgan Jakel, members of the NWILED Staff, and members of the Scales Mound Chamber of Commerce.

"High Point Garage has been years in the making." said David Schmit, NWILED Regional Director. "Seeing Jon's family and friends come together to celebrate his open house is fantastic. With the support of a Genz Fund award they are well positioned for growth in the years to come."

High Point Garage is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at 123 Franklin Street, Scales Mound, Illinois, 61075. Interested people with questions can email Jon at jon@highpointgarage.net or call 815-858-8040. They also have an active Facebook page.

ABOUT THE GENZ FUND AWARD:

Established in 2020, the Genz Small Business Development Fund was formed by the late John "Jack" Genz of Galena to help retailers, small manufacturers, wholesalers and hospitality industry genres, along with farmers and food processors and can be used to help fund capital projects, to purchase an existing business or for startup and pilot projects. The fund is administered by Illinois Bank & Trust, a division of UMB. Since first awarded in 2020 a total of \$68,302 has now been dispersed through the fund.

ABOUT NWILED:

Northwest Illinois Economic Development was formed in 2008 by the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors whose main goals were to spearhead economic development structures, funding and progress in Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside counties in Northwest Illinois. The Board's focus was to form a regional development entity concentrating on growing the economy and public/private partnerships.

Today, NWILED promotes economic development by fostering business growth and assisting expanding and relocating businesses in determining their needs for growth with cooperation of government and business partners. NWILED encourages entrepreneurs by assisting with access to resources to begin and grow their businesses and employ all available resources to create a welcoming business environment, aligning the skills of the available workforce with the needs of businesses, and building political and economic capital.