

2017 Small Business of Year

AAA Welding

AAA Welding, owned by Chris and Anna Caudle, is one of the most charitable and active businesses in our community. The Caudles frequently organize and host fundraising disc golf tournaments with the proceeds donated to non-profit organizations, charities or individuals in need.

AAA Welding has supported community members throughout the recent fires. They were a distribution location: collecting, sorting and distributing donations to Lake County fire survivors. They also supplied food and water as well as evacuation assistance:

- They evacuated community members during a fire at Blue Lakes.
- During the Clayton Fire, the call went out for a vehicle to haul portable dog kennels to an evacuation center. Chris and Anna responded immediately despite Chris just finishing a long hard day of welding at work. Not only did they supply a vehicle for hauling, they assisted in erecting the structures so evacuees would have a safe place for their pets.

They also donate the use of their shop at AAA Welding for community projects:

- Operation Tango Mike has conducted fundraising events at the location and has constructed their Memorial parade float there
- Their shop is available to students, at no charge, for work on school projects

AAA Welding had donated time and materials to community projects including the following:

- Designed and fabricated a custom flag rack for Operation Tango Mike. This is specially designed to allow proper display of our nation's flag, the POW flag and every branch of service. They have also done this for many individuals, donating racks for flying Old Glory. They are true patriots.
- Designed, fabricated and donated a door to the Lakeport Fire Department
- Donated roller system to Kelseyville High Schools welding program along with supplies and welding helmets
- Supplied time, personnel and equipment to erect a basketball hoop for a Headstart preschool
- On high traffic days that have been deemed too dangerous for the Boy Scouts to put up the American flags for holidays, the AAA crew has posted and removed the flags.

- Annually designs, fabricates and donates a specialty burn pit raffle prize for Relay for Life Lake County.

Chris and Anna are not only generous with financial support and material donations, they are very giving of their time volunteering at various fundraising events and the monthly Operation Tango Mike packing parties.

AAA Welding is a successful business and the Caudle family pays it forward within our Lake County community with great pride. Their business is an exemplification of “small but mighty!”