

## Planner

is holding a motivating session for professionals, Nov. 14, at the 22nd. The topic of the Best Year Ever. The call 447-6455.

t, **Greater DuPage** from 11:30 a.m. to 1 Radisson Suites Hotel, Ave. Nadine Grant will is for Positive People are required before \$17 for members, \$22 talk-ins. Call 769-4209.

**ation of Business and** am on Marketing and a. Tuesday, Nov. 15, at ogy, Rice Campus, 201 ost is \$25 for members; ations are required by 8.

**er of the Success Club** Nov. 14, at the Downers Curtiss. The topic is nent. The event is free. -4976.

**iation of Industry and** a bag lunch seminar at at the Greater O'Hare m, 1050 Busse, Suite ic is Leadership By members; \$10 for non- 350-2944.

**ty of America Chicago** s at Noon luncheon at Westin Hotel, Chicago. er, vice president of r Saturn Corp. The cost onmembers. For reser-

**source Management** at e will meet at 7 p.m. ampus in Room 225 of r, 5700 College Road, ing the Resume Ruse: The meeting is free. For uskas at 960-1500, Ext.

**ty of America Greater** dinner meeting at 5:30 the Wyndham Garden Schaumburg. The topic ost is \$20 for members nbers with reservations. Call 268-7900.

**ations 20th Luncheon** ss Association will hold nesday, Nov. 16, at the higan Ave. The speaker tive reporter and ABC or. The cost is \$40. ll Margaret Bengston at

**lub** will meet 7:30 a.m. Highland, Suite 300, perty Tax Reduction and Insurance. Call Sheila

**ion of Commerce and** able discussion luncheon Nov. 17, at the Drake The topic is Visions of or members. A Business hursday, Nov. 17, at The nmit, Oakbrook Terrace. Call 572-0616.

## Darien couple solves problem by hitting the road

By Nancy Koeneman  
Business Editor

Dilip Desai and his wife, Shilpee, were in a constant battle against the clock, the commute and their children's schedules. The Darien couple, both professionals working full time, had a hard time getting their two sons to their activities and school functions.

"Every time it was a big hassle on who was going to take them," Dilip Desai said. "Who would take a half-day off, or a few hours off. We weren't pleased with using a cab (to get the boys to their activities)."

Their solution came as they also sought to go into business for themselves. Dilip was watching corporate downsizing creep toward reality at his job and knew it was time to start realizing the couple's dream of owning their own business. They attended an area franchise exposition that offered them a solution to their children's transportation problems and gave them the business opportunity they were seeking.

Dilip is now manager of Kids Kab and his wife is president of the company. Kids Kab is a franchise started in Michigan in 1991 that provides children with transportation to and from home or school or from child care to

activities. The Desais hold the 18th franchise and the second in the Chicago area. The office is in Westmont, but they serve families in Hinsdale, Oak Brook, Burr Ridge, Willowbrook, Darien, Clarendon Hills, Westmont and Downers Grove.

The Desais did a lot of homework before deciding this was the business they wanted to pursue.

"We looked to see if there was a need there, if the time was right. We contacted schools to see if they might be interested in our service," he said.

More than a few area private schools, some that do not provide transportation for their students, gave the Desais a thumbs-up.

"We got a good response at that time," he said.

They shuttle students to Avery Coonley School in Downers Grove, several of the area Montessori schools, Zion Lutheran Church School in Hinsdale and Hinsdale Academy.

They also take children from various sites to ballet, tennis, swimming and skating lessons all over the area.

The rides are prearranged and prepaid. Parents must fill out an extensive information form about themselves and the child, for safety purposes, Dilip said. Dilip or his wife meets with the parents and children, at their

homes or in the office, before beginning service. Kids Kab can provide rides to children age 2 and older. Plans are pending to expand to include transportation for seniors and other adults.

Children get a photo ID card to carry when riding. The vans, which hold 11 children and a driver, undergo extensive daily safety checks, carry a fire extinguisher and have a cellular phone. Drivers must pass a criminal background check, drug testing and attend a training session. Safety is a big concern, Dilip said.

"We are carrying the parents' most precious thing, their children," he said.

Dilip is working long days, usually 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., driving, arranging rides and marketing the business. His wife is still holding a full-time job at a hospital and helps with accounting and computer work.

But he likes the work, and it's paying off.

"It is rewarding to us," he said. "The parents are happy that their kids can go to these things. They can send them where they couldn't go before. In a hectic life, with a double-income family or a single-parent family, there is a need for this."

The Desais should know; they've been there.

For more information about Kids Kab, call 654-2543 (2KID).



Ruth Holtzman gets a hand out of the Kids Kab from driver and manager Dilip Desai. The company shuttles kids to a variety of private schools in the area. (Doings photo by Jim Slonoff)