

Ford Donates Four Refrigerated Trucks To Help Needy Families in Major Cities

by Irena Granaas

As American families were looking forward to holiday plans, Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford teamed up once again with Feeding America and Newman's Own food products to share some of that bounty with the less fortunate.

For the 12th consecutive year, The Ford Fund, which is the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Co. and its partners in generosity, have donated Ford refrigerated trucks – this year, four of them – filled with Newman's Own food products to food banks in four regions, including Gleaners Community Food Bank in Southeastern Michigan, which distributes more than 46 million pounds of emergency food each year, or about 100,000 meals a day.

Bill Ford handed the keys to a new refrigerated Ford F-550 to Gleaners President W. DeWayne Wells at a special presentation ceremony held Nov. 19 at Gleaners Community Food Bank in Detroit.

"While there are encouraging signs that we are coming back from the tough economic times of the past several years, many families still are struggling," said Ford.

"This partnership is important because it not only provides food to families in need, it also con-

tributes to building stronger communities and a better world."

It was all part of Partnership for Hunger Relief, which was started in 2000 by Ford and Paul Newman.

The latest donations of four Ford F-550 trucks bring the total to 107 Ford trucks and vans that have been donated to Feeding America food banks in all 50 states. Over the past 12 years, these vehicles have delivered a combined 209 million meals while traveling about 8.7 million miles.

The late Paul Newman was committed to helping people in need through his line of food products, and the Nov. 19 food truck presentation at Gleaners Community Food Bank in Detroit was a prime example of how his mission continues.

"Meeting the needs of those who don't have access to perishable foods was important to Paul Newman at the beginning of the program, and now, with an increased nationwide need, it's become even more critical," said Tom Indoe, president and chief operating officer of Newman's Own. "Newman's Own is proud to be part of this partnership."

Wells expressed gratitude on behalf of Gleaners for the donations.

"Some of the largest increases

in food need are in suburban Detroit communities, many of which lack a strong network of emergency food providers," he said. "We're grateful to Ford and Newman's Own for this donation, and for continuing to strengthen the emergency food network here and across the country."

The donated refrigerated trucks make it possible to bring fresh, perishable food to hard-to-reach communities that are also underserved, as well as to other sites in urban and suburban areas where there is a need for fresher, more nutritious food.

Ford Fund spokeswoman Della DiPietro said, "It was wonderful.



Bill Ford shows his appreciation to one of the many Ford volunteers.

It was a great event. There were a number of Ford Volunteer Corps members who helped load the truck with its first load of food."

Besides Gleaners in Detroit, food banks in San Diego, Los Angeles and Miami also received the Ford trucks.



Proceeds from this 1958 Corvette will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Akerson's 1958 Corvette Convertible To Be Auctioned in January Will 'Help Rebuild an Entire Community'

General Motors Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson's personal 1958 Chevrolet Corvette will be auctioned off on Friday, Jan. 18, by the famed Barrett-Jackson Auction Company in Scottsdale, Ariz.

All proceeds will be donated by Akerson to Habitat for Humanity Detroit and its efforts to rebuild the Morningside Commons neighborhood located just east of GM's Renaissance Center world headquarters in downtown Detroit.

"The 1958 Corvette," Akerson said, "is pure American ingenuity and creativity and the free spirit that Chevrolet represents to me. I love the car – but I think it's probably better purposed somewhere else."

"The need for Habitat for Humanity is so great that I thought, 'Wow, maybe I could really make a difference in a whole different way.'"

Akerson's affiliation with Habitat for Humanity Detroit has been ongoing. Last February, he and his wife Karin made a personal donation of \$1 million to help launch "Leaders to Rebuild Detroit," Habitat's three-year, \$25

million initiative to serve at least 500 families in Morningside Commons through house construction, rehabilitation and energy-efficient upgrades.

"The fact that Dan is giving up a car that I know must mean an awful lot to him is very humbling," said Vincent Tilford, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Detroit.

"For whoever buys this classic car, not only are they going to give it a new home, but they're also going to give new, better and healthier homes to families in this neighborhood – and actually help rebuild an entire community."

The 1958 Corvette featured a 245-horsepower V8 and included new body and instrument panels and new upholstery. External highlights included dual headlamps – a Corvette first – and twin chrome trunk spears.

Chevrolet built 9,168 Corvettes for the 1958 model year, but only 510, or just over 5 percent, were painted Regal Turquoise, the color of Akerson's car. His Corvette is a hardtop convertible and is considered scarce among remaining 1958 models.

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