

## Craft Show Attracts 800 in AH



Michael Evans, left, an I.T. person with Continental, was at the Community Center with his wife Kathy, right. Denise Kenney, center, Kathy's best friend, looks over jewelry made by Shelly Chapman.

## Manufacturing Jobs Returning To U.S., According to Alongi

by Jim Stickford

UHY LLP, a worldwide certified accounting firm with offices in Sterling Heights and Farmington Hills, held a discussion on manufacturing in the U.S. for 2013 and the news was generally good.

The discussion held at the firm's Farmington Hills site earlier this month, was titled, "Manufacturing Outlook 2013: An American Renaissance."

Thomas Alongi, partner and national manufacturing leader for UHY LLP, said that despite what many people think about the U.S. transitioning away from a manufacturing-based economy and becoming a service economy, manufacturing still plays a huge role in our nation's prosperity.

He noted that 86 percent of the country's exports are generated by manufacturing and that every manufacturing job supports 2.9 other jobs. Alongi said 72 percent of research and development spending goes toward manufacturing and 63 percent of domestic scientists and engineers are supported by manufacturing as well.

"Manufacturing is vital to the long-term security of the country," Alongi said.

The good news for manufacturers is the relatively new trend of building where you sell, Alongi

said. That means manufacturing jobs are returning to the United States. Companies like Caterpillar, GE, NCR and Coleman are returning manufacturing back to the U.S.

"It's not just one industry that is doing this," Alongi said. "And that's a good sign."

There is an abundance of factors that influence this movement, Alongi said. Currency is one factor, but there has also been a rise in the costs of the global supply chain. Transportation costs are up. He said shipping costs have risen 71 percent in four years and the cost of electricity in China has risen 15 percent since 2010.

The developing foreign markets of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) have seen a great deal of growth, but this growth has resulted in higher labor costs there, which in turn has led to a higher standard of living.

As a result, American companies, as well as others, have become more strategic in their manufacturing planning. The result is the "build where you sell" movement. Car production in China is aimed at the Chinese market and not so much to export those vehicles to North America.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## OU Cassie Hines Fundraiser is Thursday

Oakland University's award-winning student radio station will ask the community to take a walk on the altruistic side this November, with a fundraiser to benefit the Cassie Hines Shoes Cancer Foundation.

The fundraiser event is a shoe fashion show and silent auction, set for 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Eisenhower High School located at 6500 25 Mile Road in Shelby Township.

Advance tickets are \$20 and include a fundraiser T-shirt. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10. All proceeds benefit the Cassie Hines Shoes Cancer Foundation.

"We started this fundraiser because we get so much from the community in the form of listenership, that it's great to be able

to give back to the community as well," said Sean Varicalli, WXOU's general manager.

"Cassie was a very close friend of mine and when her parents started this foundation in her name, I knew that we had the power to do some good for them, and this year we're going to make it come to life."

The foundation was created by the family of 21-year-old Cassie Hines, whose four-year battle with cancer ended this spring. The foundation's focus is to raise awareness and financial support for young cancer patients aged 16-30 to attend cancer camps and support groups.

Hines loved shoes and fashion, an interest that sparked the foundation's motto, "Changing lives,

one step at a time."

It has also inspired several events and fundraisers such as the recent "Race in These Shoes" walk/run and the upcoming "Dance in These Shoes" event.

Food for the Cassie Hines Shoe Fashion Show will be provided by Bad Brad's BBQ.

Event sponsors include Catching Fireflies, ShoeStrings Children's Shoes, Funky Frog Children's Resale Boutique, American Gymnastics, Olive Garden, and Batteries Plus of Fenton.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the WXOU event page, view the flyer, or e-mail fundraising@wxou.org.

Learn more about the Cassie Hines Shoes Cancer Foundation at cassiehinesshoescancer.org.



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