Holiday Spirit at Chrysler 'Puts Smiles on Kids' Faces'

Chrysler employees have volunteered their time to help make days, Chrysler likes to put smiles this holiday season merry for the people of metro Detroit. To that end, they have put into motion several programs to raise money and "fill the stockings" of those in need.

Operative Planning – Earlier this month, Chrysler Group employees decorated three houses for the holiday season in time. The houses, maintained by Grace Centers of Hope, are used to provide individuals and families a safe residence while seeking transitional or permanent housing.

"This is the fourth time that employees have provided this holiday decorating service," said Michael St. Pierre, a manager in Operative Planning. In the spring, the group plans to return to spruce up the yards around the homes.

Product Design Office (PDO) -This month, PDO is conducting a "Designers of Tomorrow Art Drive" to collect art kits for 300 students at Pontiac High School and Lincoln High School in Warren. The art kits will be delivered to the students when the PDO High School Recruiting Team visits the schools in January and February to conduct sketching, sculpting, digital rendering demonstrations.

External Affairs department -Employees on Dec. 16 hosted a Winter Holiday Bash for the clients of Orchards Children's Services, a foster care and adoption agency for children. The more than 400 children and their family members attending the party enjoyed food, face painting, dancing, arts and crafts, and selecting gifts from an assortment of Chrysler-branded items donated by The Chrysler Foundation.

"Every year around the holion hundreds of kids' faces," said Daphne Harris, Manager – Civic Community Relations. and Chrysler Group LLC.

"We know that the children will be very happy when they get these toys," added Harris.

Network Development and Fleet department – In support of HAVEN's "Holiday Gift Giving Program," the 150 Network Development and Fleet employees donated new winter coats, hats, gloves, socks, winter boots and gifts for 114 teenagers. Additionally, 25 employees volunteered at Haven's Gift Giving collection site to transport, accept and organize the donations.

Earlier this year, Chrysler Group's Network Development and Fleet organization adopted HAVEN as the primary nonprofit agency that it would support throughout the year. Since that time, says Karen Anderson, a dealer agreement manager, employees have participated in a variety of events, including cleaning and organizing HAVEN's food pantry and linen closet, preparing meals and staffing children's events.

Kevin Frazier, corporate communications and vice president of the Chrysler Foundation, said that other departments will also be holding charity events during the holiday season.

The Quality department will hold a Toy and Food drive to benefit The Baldwin Center. The Vehicle Integration department will hold a Children's Hat & Mitten drive to benefit The Baldwin Center as well.

Finally, the Veterans Commitee held a toy drive to benefit Warren Goodfellows.







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