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It's About the Holidays

GM-UAW 909 Folks Collect \$3K for Tots

From the halls of Warren Transmission to the homes of children in need, the members of UAW Local 909 and the Marine Corps Reserve will make sure that children across metro Detroit have a chance at a merry Christmas.

Evidence of this generosity was seen on Dec. 19, when reservists from local Marine units showed up at GM's Warren Transmission plant to pick up more than \$3,000 in gifts and toys to give to Toys for Tots that were purchased using donations from UAW Local 909 workers.

Raquel Erenfecht works in production at the facility and was given the task of collecting donations from the day shift.

"I was able to collect more than \$700," Erenfecht said. "This money, along with the cash that was collected from the second and third shifts, was used to purchase toys from Toys R Us. They were great and didn't charge us sales tax, which is 6 percent, on our purchases."

When Mike Dulaney, the plant manager, spoke to those attending the toy send-off ceremony, he said Local 909 should be proud "because this membership always steps up in times of need."

Don Sharp, chairman of Local 909, added that he wanted to express his appreciation for the goodwill, caring and sharing that the workers of Warren Transmission showed.

"This is such a worthy cause," Sharp said. "I want to thank the Marines for sponsoring Toys for Tots. I want to say what a difference the American people make. We help others when there's a need."

"We don't know the kids who will wake up Christmas morning and be thrilled, but we are glad to give to those who are less fortunate than we are. We have stepped up and produced this outcome, which is flat-out outstanding."

Corp. Andrew Piomk of the First battalion 24th Marines Reserve Unit, said on behalf of the Marines involved with Toys for Tots, that the workers of Warren Transmission really deserve thanks for all that they've done.

"Last year, we raised 16 million toys for seven million kids," said Piomk. "The need is great, but the turnout from people like you is greater. Thank you very much."

Warren Students Carol at the VEC To GM Employees

by Jim Stickford

Music students at Warren Consolidated's Fillmore Elementary School in Sterling Heights performed a Christmas concert for GM employees in the Tech Center's VEC building on Dec. 20.

The concert was one in a series held in the VEC lobby on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of December.

Fillmore principal Heather Shubnell said her first reaction, when asked to send children to perform, was one of excitement.

"All the elementary schools in the district were asked to participate, but we had a music teacher, Mrs. Judy Phillips, who was willing to put in the extra hours to get the students ready to perform."

"She gave up her lunch hours and stayed after school hours to get the kids ready. We're lucky to have Mrs. Phillips as a teacher. And I would like to thank GM for having us here."

Mrs. Phillips said that she had a month to prepare for the concert, but that wasn't as much time as people might think. Breaking the month down, she only had time to hold four sessions with students to rehearse for the concert.

"My first thought when asked if I could put on a concert in such a short period of time was 'no way,'" Phillips said. "But then I



GM employees in the VEC building turned out for Christmas music.

thought I had some talented students who might be able to perform, so I asked (for) anyone who might want to be in the concert to raise their hands and they all did. The difficulty was the lack of time, but they did so well."

Tony Garcia, a coordinator for corporate material families at the VEC building, said it was really nice to see the kids perform.

"They've been holding concerts on Tuesdays and Thursdays this month," Garcia said. "So I decided to check this one out and it was so great to see the children perform. It gets you in the spirit for the holidays. My children, who are now grown, were both in music and in the band at Sterling Heights schools, so seeing this performance was a real treat."



Music students from Warren Consolidated's Fillmore Elementary School in Sterling Heights performed a series of Christmas songs in the lobby of GM's VEC building last week. The show was one of several holiday concerts held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at that location during the month of December.

Photos by Jim Stickford



Marines and Local UAW 909 workers got together to load up all the toys donated by the employees of GM's Warren Transmission Plant on Dec. 19. In the picture, from left: plant manager Mike Dulaney; Don Sharp, chairman of Local 909, Santa (rumored to be Jake Saylor, a team leader at the plant); Corp. CPO Andrew Piomk; John Giannetti, Quality Network; Butch Barber, president Local 909; and donation collector Raquel Erenfecht.

GM Pursues Global Auto Innovations At China Advanced Technical Center

General Motors China held its second annual "Tech Day" event recently to coincide with the launch of the second phase of the GM China Advanced Technical Center.

The theme of the event was "Ignite! The Spark of Innovation," and organizers lived up to the headline with displays of the automaker's technical achievements, while demonstrating how China is key to GM's global vehicle development initiatives.

"The completion of the ATC is an important milestone for GM in China," said Bob Socia, president, GM China, and chief Country Operations officer, China, India and ASEAN.

"It gives us the most comprehensive automotive technical center in our largest market. The center will serve not just China but also GM's operations around the world."

The ATC houses an Advanced Design Center, vehicle and powertrain engineering facilities, research and development labs and an OnStar telematics lab. Up to 250 designers, engineers and researchers are pooling their talents to bring forward new products in advanced vehicle design, state-of-the-art powertrain, connectivity and safety systems.

With its congested cities and air quality issues, China is a strong market for vehicles that align with GM's vision for sustainable urban mobility. The automaker showed a life-sized clay model of the EN-V 2.0, based on the EN-V concept introduced at Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

The EN-V 2.0 is a two-seat electric vehicle designed to help alleviate traffic congestion and parking issues.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Urban Wheel Awards to Honor Auto Industry's Women

by Irena Granaas

The 17th Annual Urban Wheel Awards will host its ceremony at the Sound Board Theater, MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit on Sunday, Jan. 13.

The awards show is the official multicultural event of the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS).

Celebrity presenters will be among those handing out numerous awards, this year recognizing the contributions of outstanding

women to the automotive industry in design, engineering, management, manufacturing, marketing, human resources and communications.

Companies that prioritize the development and advancement of women in the auto industry are also slated for recognition.

Marjorie Staten, public relations manager for Decisive Media, said diversity is a principle held even in selecting celebrity presenters for the 2013 awards ceremony.

Staten said Hispanic actor Edward James Olmos, and African-American actress Niecy Nash will present the 2013 awards.

"This year's theme is honoring women in the auto industry," Staten said, "and the majority of the awards will be presented to women who have made significant accomplishments in the auto industry, and that ranges from dealers, female dealers, to female suppliers."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



The EN-V 2.0 (Electric Networked Vehicle)

Contact us at news@techcenternews.com