

# GM, GDC Turn Scrap Material into Coats for Homeless

GM has recognized GDC, Inc., a Tier I component supplier based in Goshen, Ind., with the General Motors Environmental Excellence Award for its consistent collaboration in supplying recycled-content parts and contributing to community-based stewardship and recycling initiatives.

GDC was instrumental in helping insulate sleeping bags for the homeless and turning oil-soaked booms into parts for the Chevrolet Volt.

“We’re striving to make effective and efficient products that also benefit the environment and society,” said Chris Miller, vice president of sales and engineering, GDC. “We see opportunity for more recycled-content components within the auto industry. By connecting with automakers like GM, we can come up with new projects and opportunities, some with lasting societal impact.”

GDC works with GM on such projects as enabling the donation of GM scrap vehicle material for coats that transform into sleeping bags for the homeless. The coats are the brainchild of humanitarian Veronika Scott, whom GM approached with an unconventional idea for their insulation – leftover sound absorption material from production of Chevrolet Malibu and Buick Verano sedans. The material is GDC’s Sonozorb – manufactured in different shapes to fit within door cavities and vehicle compartments for sound absorption. GDC now reprocesses small pieces of that leftover scrap into large fabric rolls, used to enhance the coat’s warmth.

Another joint project concerns developing a variety of nearly 100 percent recycled-content components to manage vehicle airflow. GDC worked with GM facilities to set up a program to collect and recycle used test tires

from GM’s Milford Proving Ground and plastic shipping caps from its landfill-free Fort Wayne Assembly plant. It compounds these materials with other post-consumer plastics to make air and water baffles for a variety of Buick, GMC and Chevrolet vehicles.

GDC also is assisting GM in diverting 227 miles of Gulf of Mexico oil spill booms from the nation’s landfills. GDC compounded the booms’ plastic material to create Chevrolet Volt air management baffles.

GDC is a member of the Suppliers Partnership for the Environ-

ment, a group GM helped form. It provides a forum for suppliers to work with automakers to share environmental best practices, while also providing economic value throughout the supply chain. GDC is the eighth supplier recognized with GM’s annual Environmental Excellence Award.



**GM presents the GDC team with the GM Environmental Excellence Award. (Left to right): GM’s Lee Hachigian; GDC’s Chris Miller, Jeff Barber and Andy Kitson; GM’s Wade Sheffer.**

# Detroit Boat Show Docking at Cobo Feb. 16 - 24

Oakland County boaters won’t want to miss the 55th annual Detroit Boat Show, which will be held in the Cobo Center in downtown Detroit from Feb. 16 through Feb. 24.

The event, produced by the Michigan Boating Industries Association, will feature hundreds of marine businesses filling two of the expo halls at the Cobo Center.

Tickets are \$12 for adults. The latest 2013 model boats will be on display as well as new non-current boats from model years 2012, 2011 and 2010.

The latest in services, engines, accessories, trailers, electronics and fishing gear will also be on display. And there will also be people who can help with on-site financing, insurance, slip rental, brokering, vacation planning, charter trips, maintenance and most all other types of extras and services used by boaters.

For more information, visit [www.detroitboatshow.net](http://www.detroitboatshow.net), or call the MBIA at 1-800-932-2628.

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# Sold-Out Ford ‘Auto Glow’ Raises Record \$250K for Kids

by Irena Granaas

“AutoGlow: Vive Detroit,” a charitable fundraiser to benefit The Children’s Center in Detroit, was held at Ford Field following the Charity Preview for the North American International Auto Show on Jan. 18. About 1,000 guests enjoyed gourmet foods, music and dancing in a gala early-20th Century Parisian atmosphere while helping a very worthy cause.

The Presenting Sponsor was Ford Motor Co., and on hand for the evening were AutoGlow hosts Bill and Lisa Ford, Ford President and CEO Alan Mulally and his wife Nicki, and Debora Matthews from The Children’s Center. Michigan Governor Rick Snyder also put in an appearance.

“The evening continued an unbroken 81 years of continuous support for TCC by Ford.

“We are truly grateful for the community’s enthusiastic and generous support of AutoGlow,” said AutoGlow host Lisa Ford. “This year, we are thrilled to report that generosity has exceeded our wildest expectations. In every category, from ticket sales to sponsorships to individual donations, we have increased our funding over last year.

“This is tremendous news because it means The Children’s Center can continue their vital programs, which are critical to its ability to service the growing number of needy children and families in Detroit and Wayne County.”

The sold-out evening broke all past fundraising records for the annual AutoGlow, clearing in excess of \$250,000 in donations for The Children’s Center, one of the largest front-line, child-serving agencies in Michigan, helping troubled and at-risk children and their families. This does not include any money TCC will receive as one of dozens of charities that will benefit from funds raised by the Charity Preview, clarified AutoGlow spokeswoman Melissa Bunker of PCG-Campbell.

Bunker noted in an interview the gala evening offered guests “quite a bit of Parisian flair,” including performances by live bands, can-can dancers, aerial trapeze artists and a 16-foot-tall replica of the Eiffel Tower, all

meant to recreate the glory days of the famed Moulin Rouge cabaret, a prime example of late 18th- and early 20th-century entertainment. Performers were dressed in period costumes and guests were served Parisian-inspired food and unique Paris-themed décor.

“We had women on trapezes; we had mimes, strolling musicians, the can-can (dancers), and of course the crepes, made right on the cart – it was all designed to be like a street in Paris, so a lot of detail went into creating that,” she said, “transforming a football stadium into a street in Paris was quite a feat.”

The miniature Eiffel Tower, which was set aglow by 850 LEDs, required three weeks to assemble all 12,000 pieces, Blunt said.

“In that kind of a space you really need something dramatic,” she commented. “As many times as I’d seen it, you still walk in there and it just sort of hits you right between the eyes, so it really set the tone for the whole event.”

Of course, the AutoGlow also honors its automotive underpinnings, and this year was no exception. Throughout the festivities, attendees were able to get up close and personal with a couple of exceptional Ford products on display throughout the evening: a 2013 Ford Fusion, named a finalist for North American Car of the Year and a 2013 Ford C-Max, also a finalist in the

North American Truck/Utility of the Year segment.

Judging by guests’ response, the soiree was a smashing success.

“We had guests still dancing on the floor until the last note played from the band,” said Blunt.

“You would think that after a long night (people would want to leave) . . . but the people who come to this event, many of them of course are in the industry, and it was such a night to celebrate what’s happened in the auto industry and a lot of hard work. They were dressed to have a good time, and they did.”

Other factors contributing to the record-breaking success of the event was something new

this year – a raffle for two round-trip, First-Business Class tickets to Paris, France, courtesy of Delta Air Lines. The raffle provided an additional source of revenue adding to the AutoGlow’s total.

Last year, the AutoGlow brought in \$220,000 in donations to benefit The Children’s Center.

“It’s a record – the ticket (sales) were up, as was sponsorship over last year, and we added the raffle,” Blunt said.

Proceeds go toward TCC’s mission, which is to aid at-risk children and youth – some of whom have been abused and neglected – with strength-based, family-focused programs that embody a holistic approach to treating children and their families.

## MI Women in Defense Raise \$2K for Soldiers

Women In Defense, Michigan chapter (WID-Michigan) charity bowling fund-raiser generated more than \$2,000.

RCO Engineering Incorporated of Pontiac sponsored this year’s fundraiser. There were 73 attendees at the event.

Now in its fourth year, the WID-Michigan fundraiser benefits a non-profit organization that supports Michigan veterans.

This year’s recipient is the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund.

Winner of the bowling tournament was RCO Engineering Incorporated and AM General, who achieved the “Best Team Score.”

Team members were Paul Dowson, Craig Cieslak, Gerald Brown, and Larry Rink.

## Theater Group Sets Winter Camp

The Warren Community Theater is holding a special Winter Break Youth & Teen Theatre Camp between Monday, Feb. 18, and Friday, Feb. 22, at the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, in Warren.

Camp will be in session between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The cost for the week is \$100 for residents, \$110 for non-residents. To register, call 586-268-8400.

MCC theatre professor Greg Trzaskoma and staff from the Warren Civic Theatre will offer a week of acting, singing, dancing and improv.

Campers will be grouped by age and experience.

There will be a short show on the last day of camp for family and friends.

Food will not be served so attendees should bring a sack lunch. And, the troupe will be in the pool every day too, so campers are advised to bring a swimsuit and a towel.



**Hosts Bill and Lisa Ford, Alan Mulally, Deborah Matthews and Gov. Rick Snyder gather at the recent AutoGlow charity fundraiser.**

## GM Names New North American Labor Relations V.P.

General Motors recently appointed Jim Glynn as GM North America Labor Relations vice president, effective immediately.

He will be responsible for union-management partnerships, leading joint programs and negotiations, and other key matters involving union-represented employees.

Glynn most recently was GM North America Manufacturing manager, leading operations at 10 vehicle assembly, powertrain, metal stamping and battery assembly plants.

During his 34-year GM career, Glynn held positions in manufacturing and manufacturing engineering, including an assignment leading operations in Mexico.

“Jim’s extensive background in

manufacturing and his reputation for building strong relationships with our union partners will help him succeed in this new role,” said Tim Lee, GM vice president, Global Manufacturing, and president, GM International Operations.

“Our workforce is our competitive advantage and what we accomplish through collaboration with our partners is critically important to the business.”

Glynn succeeds Cathy Clegg, who was named Global Manufacturing Engineering vice president, replacing Eric Stevens who elected to retire after almost 35 years of service to GM.

In her new role, Clegg will have manufacturing engineering responsibilities for automotive



**Jim Glynn**

press, body, paint, assembly, controls, powertrain and global program management.