

GM Shows Heart in Donating 2012 Camaro

A unique Chevrolet Camaro donated by GM to the American Heart Association was sold for \$400,000 at the Barrett-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The name of the buyer has yet to be released.

All proceeds from the auction benefit cardiovascular research through the Southeast Michigan American Heart Association.

Money raised from charitable auctions such as this is vitally needed because, according to the American Heart Association, 82.6 million heart disease and stroke survivors are living proof that donations make a difference.

"The heart is the engine of the body," said Jim Campbell, vice president, Chevrolet Performance. "Just like a car, if the engine isn't running in top condition, it affects the entire body. We are happy to be able to help the Association accelerate advances in cardiovascular research with a very special Camaro."

The factory drag-race car is the only 2012 Central Office Production Order (COPO) convertible offered for sale, and the only one painted Inferno Orange Metallic. A total of only 69 COPO Camaros were built in 2012.

Since 1949, contributions to the American Heart Association have produced significant findings and discoveries, which opened doors for thriving, life-saving campaigns such as Go

Red For Women Luncheons, Heart Walks, Heart Balls and Jump/Hoops For Heart.

"Funding our mission equates to more lives saved or vastly improved . . . it is both that simple and profound," said Kathy Kauffmann, executive director and vice president for the Southeast Michigan American Heart Association.

"Thanks to generous supporters like Chevrolet, the American Heart Association continues to bring life-saving research and resources to communities across Michigan."

The association is recognized as a worldwide leader in cardiovascular research. In 2012, \$9.3 million was invested in research

in Michigan. Since the organization's inception, \$3.4 billion has been invested nationwide. As a result, research advances such as the artificial heart valve, CPR, and lifesaving drugs have been created to save lives.

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke.

Its mission is to build healthier lives by preventing, treating and defeating these diseases - America's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. The group funds cutting-edge research, conduct lifesaving public and professional educational programs, and advocate to protect public health.



This Camaro sold for \$400,000 to benefit the American Heart Association.

TARDEC Operator Runs Test at Grayling - Via Satellite

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Its capable of executing dangerous or mundane tasks, enabling people to focus on activities requiring human skill, intelligence or perspective.

Vehicle autonomy comes in different ranges, Zinecker said. The first range is simple remote control. He said parents buy toy cars that are radio controlled at local toy stores all the time. That's an example of an autonomous vehicle, although on a much smaller scale.

Another level of autonomy, Zinecker said, is tele-operation, which is when the remote operator uses sensors attached to the vehicle to generate images that are used to guide the vehicle. With simple remote control, the operator is using his or her eyes to scan the area where the vehicle is located.

But with tele-operation vehicles, the operator doesn't have to be in the immediate area to be able to guide the vehicle. That's what the operators at TARDEC were doing.

They were in Warren, but the vehicles being tested were at Camp Grayling.

What made that possible? Picture a televised news story where the anchor person asks a question of the reporter on the scene thousands of miles away. The camera is on the reporter and he continues to look at the camera but says nothing for a few seconds after the question is asked, then answers.

That's called latency, and it's basically a time lag between when information is sent and when it reaches its destination.

In the case of TARDEC's operation, the latency was so minute that it was almost nonexistent.

That lack of latency is the reason the control is almost instantaneous.

Zinecker said the test vehicle sent sensor images to a satellite in orbit, the satellite sent the sen-

sor information to the operator, the operator reviewed the information and sent a command to the satellite which relayed it to the vehicle.

The time lag, or latency, was so slight that the operator could drive the vehicle in real time while being stationed hundreds of miles away from where the vehicle was located.

"Beyond tele-operations is a fully-autonomous vehicle," Zinecker said. "This vehicle, when detecting obstacles in its path via sensors, is able to go around the obstacle."

Once these levels of autonomy are achieved, Zinecker said, the next step is to develop sub-levels of autonomy. In one instance, a robot could follow a soldier on patrol. Another level is "retro-traverse," where an autonomous vehicle can be sent to a location and retrace its path to return to the point of origin.

These vehicles could be used to transport ammunition, food and medical supplies to forward positions without endangering soldiers who would otherwise have to drive a truck on roads that might have IEDs (improvised explosive devices).

"What's important to realize is

that this latest testing used Army personnel who weren't trained on the system," Zinecker said. "It's one thing when the engineers who designed it test a system, but it's another when the system is handed off to someone who's not an expert in its use."

"The Grayling test was also the first time SMSS was demonstrated using a satellite and remote operation. Typically, we had people close at hand operating the system."

Zinecker said this technology is where remote drone technology was 15 years ago.

"We are on the cusp of running this system in the field," Zinecker said. "We're waiting for the Army to be operationally and financially ready to do so."

Craig Vanbebber, senior manager - Media Relations, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, said they had done some testing of SMSS vehicles in Afghanistan.

"The soldiers there put the vehicles through their paces," Vanbebber said. "When testing was over, the soldiers didn't want to give them up because the vehicles were able to perform the dull, the dirty and the dangerous missions. This is a system of promise and utility."

Relay for Life of Warren Kicks Off With Cancer Pre-Fundraiser Event

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Warren (including Centerline) kicks off on Wednesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. as event volunteers and participants gather at Royalty House to launch their fundraising efforts for the year.

Although the Relay For Life of Warren is more than three months away, officials say that now is the time to get involved.

The 2013 Relay For Life of Warren will take place on June 1-2 at the Warren City Square beginning at 10 a.m.

The Relay for Life has become very popular across the United States. One in every 100 Americans participates in this fundraising event, which has also become a global phenomenon as well.

Residents are invited to attend the kickoff celebration to learn more about the upcoming program and how they can become part of an exciting overnight event that organizers say will pave the way to a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

Relay For Life participants and visitors have a chance to celebrate the victory of local cancer survivors during the Survivors Lap at the Luminaria Ceremony. That's also the time to remember those who are fighting cancer or those who have lost their battle to the disease.

Those attending also will be able to participate in the Fight Back Ceremony, which gives everyone a chance to proclaim his or her own way of taking action against the disease that has affected the lives of so many people over the years.

The Royalty House is located at 8201 East 13 Mile Road, just off of Van Dyke in Warren.

Registration for the event begins at 6:30 p.m., with the program starting at 7 p.m. Snacks and refreshments will be provided to those attending.

Donations can be made to this local Relay For Life event by visiting RelayForLife.org/warrenmi. Community members also can start or join a team by following the links to their local Relay event.

For more information about the kickoff event or on how you can get involved, contact Maureen Rovas at 248-663-3444 or Maureen.Rovas@cancer.org.

Macomb Chamber Will Hold Mixer

The Macomb County Chamber of Commerce is holding a special member mixer at the Twisted Rooster in Chesterfield Township on Thursday, March 21, between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The event is free to members and offers attendees the opportunity to mix and mingle with others who belong to the chamber. All are advised to come early to take advantage of the restaurant's happy hour specials, which end at 6 p.m.

For more information on the event, visit the chamber's website, macombchamber.com.

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