Chrysler Volunteers Help Build 400 Bikes for Kids

by Irena Granaas

There are happy smiles on a lot of children's faces thanks to the generous hearts of nearly 100 Chrysler volunteers.

This was the third year Chrysler volunteers have partnered with Orchards Children's Services in the agency's Annual Bicycle Build at the organization's facility in Southfield.

About 45 Chrysler volunteers turned up at the agency site June 8 to assemble bikes, and another 50 or so participated in a June 15 build date. The two groups put together 400 bikes, said Chrysler Manager of Civic & Community Relations Daphne Harris.

We partnered (the bikes) up with helmets and locks for the 400 clients who will receive them," said Harris.

The children received the bikes June 28 at the annual summer festival the agency puts on for its clients, she added.

Harris said that Orchard Children's Services is a foster care and adoption agency, "So a lot of these kids are in trauma, because they've been removed from their family ... the bikes will hopefully restore a sense of normalcy back into the children's lives as they begin to negotiate the foster care system.'

She noted this is the third year Chrysler employees have partnered with the agency on the Bicycle Build.

"From year one, it's been something our employees really enjoy doing. It's bringing a smile to children's faces, and they're happy to do it for them," Harris

Participation has grown exponentially. In the first year of employee involvement in the bike build, about 10 Chrysler employees showed up. By the second year, 50 volunteers took part, "and now it's close to 100," she

It's part of Chrysler's mission to encourage all employees to get out into their communities and give service, said Harris. In June 2012, the automaker issued a new policy granting salaried employees 18 hours annually of compensated time during the normal work hours to participate in events or projects that are of service to their communi-

The unique feature of our program is it's not limited to company-sponsored community projects," said Harris, adding that employees can partner up in small groups or even as individuals to lend their time to a charitable community project near and dear to their hearts.

"You may have noticed that the bike builds - June 8 and June 15 - were not during the workweek, but were held on Saturdays," Harris said. "That shows the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well at Chrysler."

Some volunteers like to bring their whole family, she said.

"It's a great way for kids to know service is important."

Chrysler employees participating in the bike build represented Engineering, Human Resources, and other functional areas within the company.

Last year, Chrysler community service initiatives touched the lives of more than 260,000 people



such as community food drives.

Janice Berry, director of Community Relations - Orchards Children's Services, said the agency relies on volunteer help to assemble the bikes and on donations to purchase the bikes, which then need to be assembled.

"The voluntary effort on the part of Chrysler employees is huge," Berry said, adding that other groups and volunteers also participated, but the primary labor in assembling the bikes was supplied by Chrysler employees.

'Chevrolet is proud to support Orchards Children's Services," said Don Johnson, vice president of Chevrolet Sales and Service. "The work they do to provide children being fostered and adopted with the guidance and support they need as they transition into new families is making a positive impact on the communi-

Joe Serra, president of Serra Automotive and co-chair of this year's fundraiser adds, "I cannot stop advocating for these children since becoming involved

with Orchards. It warms my heart to assist the children with getting the things that every

provides foster care, adoption, clinical, medical and home-based services for over 5,000 children throughout Southeast Michigan. Berry said the monies raised at

the annual fundraiser go to support various programs throughout the year, and part of the proceeds go toward purchasing the bikes for assembly.

Berry said this is the third year Chrysler has helped during the bike build.

"They continue to expand on their volunteer contribution . . . iust like GM continues to expand their financial support."



2013 Dodge Avenger built at Sterling Heights Assembly Plant.

Ford F-150 Regains Title of Vehicle 'Most Made in U.S.A.'; Avenger 3rd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

terson said. "When you think of all the parts that go into a truck, which is a real complex piece of machinery, it's amazing.

"And, we sold 650,000 F-150s last year. That's a lot of parts made in America."

Also, Peterson said, topping the Cars.com list with the F-150 is especially satisfying because the vehicle has played such a strong role in Ford's comeback as an American car company. But trucks aren't all that Ford is doing right now.

"For a long time, our focus was on trucks," Peterson said. "But now trucks are just a part of our growth. We have a great selection of cars that are contributing, too. But trucks remain an important part of our business . . . With construction picking up, the demand for trucks is only going to get greater."

Dodge spokesperson Kathy Graham said that the people at Chrysler were pleased to see the Avenger high up on the Cars.com list because it's a good car.

"The Avenger is a great midsized car," Graham said. "It offers a lot to drive. And it's just a bonus that it's made in Sterling Heights. The city has been a great partner with Chrysler and, obviously, all the people who build it are a huge part of its suc-

We couldn't do it without them and we're proud to make an American car with American workers.'

GM also had a few cars make the Cars.com list - Chevrolet Traverse, the GMC Acadia and the Buick Enclave – all made in GM's Lansing facilities.

Dolly Named to AH's TIFA Board

The City of Auburn Hills has appointed Dr. Patricia Dolly to the city's Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) board of directors for the term ending in February 2015.

Dolly was appointed to the TIFA board at the June 17 city council meeting. TIFA captures growth in the tax base and reinvests the captured monies back into community infrastructure improvements such as roads, water, sewer and site develop-

Dolly is the senior advisor to the president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Oakland University, and has previously served as president of Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills campus until 2013.

She is also a member of sever-

al civic and philanthropic organizations.

"Dr. Dolly has established deep roots in the Auburn Hills community and we are thrilled to have her leadership on the TIFA said Tom Tanghe, Auburn Hills' assistant city manager, and TIFA executive director.

"She will ably combine her professional experiences with lessons learned from her many civic and charitable endeavors to help the TIFA board continue its mission to support infrastructure improvements and enhancements in the city of Auburn Hills.

Dolly earned her doctorate in educational leadership at Western Michigan University (WMU), and holds a master's degree in organizational communication



Dr. Patricia Dolly

and a master's degree in educational leadership, both from WMU.

She also holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, and an associate's degree in applied arts from Grand Rapids Community College.



Everyone wants to be associated with a winning team. For the third consecutive year,

> BARRON'S Has Named

KEVIN VAN DYKE

of Bloomfield Hills Financial, one of the Top 3 Independent Advisors in Michigan and Top 1000 Financial Advisors in America.

Kevin can engineer a professional retirement plan for you. Call him today at 248.593.3456



kvandyke@bhfinv.com www.bloomfieldhillsfinancial.com





nerica's Top 100 Independent Advisors 2009 as published in Registered Rep Magazine No *Securities and advisory services offered through SII Investments, Inc. (SII) member FINRA/SIPC and a Registered Investment Advisor. SII and Bloomfield Hills Financial are separate and unrelated companie