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From left, GM's Jim Glynn, Wayne State's Dr. Sonia Hassan, UAW's Joe Ashton and March of Dimes Ambassador Child Zariah Bradford with the Buick LaCrosse that was raffled off to raise money for the March of Dimes.

## National March of Dimes Raffle Nets Buick Winner

A new 2014 Buick LaCrosse will soon be sitting in the Ohio driveway of a raffle winner, thanks to the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources in partnership with the Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes.

The car was given away as part of the March of Dimes Annual Campaign, and was donated by UAW-GM, said Bill Grotz, GM's Labor & Manufacturing spokesman.

The drawing was held on Nov. 19 at the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources in Detroit.

This year's proceeds from all GM-UAW efforts have totaled about \$230,000, Grotz said, which is in addition to the more than \$1.3 million raised by GM-UAW locations for the March of Dimes since 2006.

The raffle was held nationwide, Grotz said. Additionally, UAW-represented General Motors' facilities have been fundraising and selling raffle tickets to GM employees and the public with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the March of Dimes.

"The fundraising doesn't end with the raffle drawing," Grotz said. "It goes until the end of the year, so we're not done yet. GM-UAW sites across the country

have done their own fundraising for the March of Dimes – things like bake sales and chili cook-offs. They've been really creative in their efforts to raise money."

"UAW-GM people are incredibly generous and have taken on this cause to support health for moms and babies," said UAW Vice President Joe Ashton, who directs the union's GM Department. "By partnering with the March of Dimes, UAW-GM strengthens families, uplifts our communities and supports our customers nationwide."

As a national voluntary health agency, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by helping to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

The organization recognizes November as Prematurity Awareness Month, promoting the fight against more than half-a-million premature births that occur in the U.S. annually, said Grotz.

"GM is proud to join our UAW partners to support the great cause of the March of Dimes," said Jim Glynn, GM North America Labor Relations vice president.

"Working together, we will help

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## Used Car Prices Drop as New Car Sales Rise

Used car prices have hit their lowest levels in four years, says a recent report issued by Edmunds.com.

The data suggests that the used car market is finally softening after years of notoriously elevated prices.

According to Edmunds.com's

Used Car Market Quarterly Report, the average price of a used car sold by franchise dealers in the third quarter of 2013 was \$15,617. The average price was 2.8 percent lower than in the previous quarter, and 0.9 percent lower than in the third quarter of 2012.

The last time used car prices ran so low was in the third quarter of 2009, when the price of an average car sold at a franchise dealership was \$14,808.

"Now that the new car market has hit its stride, buyers are no

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## GM Foundation's Thanksgiving Parade Float Backs STEM

The General Motors Foundation has unveiled the new float it sponsors for America's Thanksgiving Parade on Nov. 28.

With a theme of "Education Fuels Tomorrow's Innovators," the float showcases the Foundation's commitment to investing in America's youth – the next generation of innovators, said GM Foundation spokesperson Maria Mainville.

"Our new float is a celebration of the GM Foundation's many educational partnerships and our commitment to encourage more students to pursue studies of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) – areas critical to the future success of our nation," said Selim Bingol, GM vice president, Global Communications and Public Policy and the new chairman of the GM Foundation.

The float, designed and built by The Parade Company, is also a celebration of education in Detroit, specifically the United Way "Network of Excellence," created by the GM Foundation's \$27.1 million commitment to seven Detroit-area high schools and administered in conjunction with United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Mainville said.

The goal of the effort is to raise graduation rates by 30 percent over five years while supporting the leaders and innovators of tomorrow.

Representatives from the "Network of Excellence" high schools participated in the float unveiling, and members of the East Detroit Marching Band accompanied the float on its maiden journey along Atwater Street.

"This float is GM Foundation demonstrating its commitment

to the youth and families of our community," said Michael J. Brennan, United Way for Southeastern Michigan president and CEO.

"We are delighted by the forward-looking view of the work we are doing now to transform high schools throughout the tri-county region."

Karen Nicklin, manager of Educational Initiatives for the GM Foundation, said that the people at the foundation are always excited about participating in the parade.

"It's really the doorway to De-

troit," Nicklin said. "We're proud of the development that's taking place downtown and we want to help show it off."

Nicklin said that the foundation is also proud of the work done by The Parade Company, which builds the floats.

"We had an idea of what we wanted our float to look like and what it stands for," Nicklin said. "The Parade Company made that a reality."

And, Nicklin said, the foundation float's theme of education is important.

In 2011, the foundation gave

\$27.1 million to the United Way to fund a special five-year-long program to help students in seven "dropout factory" high schools in metro Detroit.

The special program is designed to help students learn life skills, improve ACT scores and complete their high school education.

And, so far, it looks like it's a success, Nicklin said. Attendance at the schools is now in the 90 percent range, up from between 40 and 50 percent.

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## Holiday Travel Expected to Hit 1.3M in Michigan

About 1.3 million Michigan residents will travel 50 miles or more from home during the 2013 Thanksgiving holiday period.

The figure, announced by AAA Michigan, is on par with last year, said AAA Michigan spokesperson Nancy Cain.

Those travelers will join 43.4 million Americans who will travel nationally – a dip of 1.5 percent – according to AAA's survey, said Cain. The holiday period is defined as Wednesday, Nov. 27, to Sunday, Dec. 1.

Vehicle travel remains the most popular form of Thanksgiving transportation, Cain said. Ninety percent of Michigan travelers will go by vehicle, up 1 percent from last year. Nationally, 90 percent of holiday travelers will also go by vehicle.

Michigan travelers can expect to pay \$3.23 per gallon for gas (as of Nov. 20), 23 cents less than last year and the cheapest gas price for the Thanksgiving holiday since 2010.

In Michigan, seven percent of travelers will go by air, slightly less than last year, while the remaining three percent will go by train or bus, Cain said.

The Thanksgiving holiday, Cain said, is unique, falling on a Thursday every year – with many off from work the Friday after – giving travelers more time to spend with family and friends.

The majority of travelers (37 percent) surveyed plan to leave that Wednesday, with 33 percent planning to return the following Sunday.

Another 24 percent expect to

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The GM Foundation's entry into the 2013 Detroit Thanksgiving Day parade

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