

Chrysler, United Way Join to Feed the Kids of Detroit

DETROIT – Sunny skies broke through the rain clouds just in time to welcome nearly 140 children to the Diehl's Boys and Girls Club in Detroit for a free meal and plenty of games and activities at the Chrysler Group's Food, Friends and Fun Block Party on Friday, Aug. 10.

The block party was the second of five taking place in August as a part of the Chrysler Group's pledge to end childhood hunger in Southeast Michigan.

The block parties, sponsored in conjunction with United Way for Southeastern Michigan and the United Auto Workers, are designed to remind parents about the free, nutritious summer meals that are available to children, 18 and under, across the Detroit metro area.

"When the United Way educated us on the issue of childhood hunger we knew we needed to get involved," said Scott Garberding, senior vice president – Manufacturing/World Class Manufacturing.

"At the block party, the kids are not only taking away healthy food, but they also get to have a little extra fun."

In addition to a free lunch, Friday's block party featured clowns, face painting, live entertainment from radio station 105.9 Kiss FM, basketball tournaments, ice cream and special guest, Detroit Pistons' mascot Hooper.

Kids spent the afternoon outside bouncing between activities, winning prizes and having fun with their friends.

When parents arrived to pick up their children, they received a free weekend backpack stuffed with sliced peaches, cut green beans, beef ravioli, spaghetti and meatballs, raisin bran cereal and shelf stable milk – enough food for about six meals to bridge the hunger gap during the weekends when summer food service programs are not available.

"We decided in our partnership with the United Way to focus on basic needs," said Nancy Rae, senior vice president – Human Resources.

"The statistics on childhood hunger are startling. With the overwhelming support and volunteerism of our employees, we



Chrysler volunteers unload weekend backpacks to be distributed at the block party.

are tackling the issue head-on."

Earlier this summer, Chrysler Group employee volunteers packed 12,000 backpacks for children who are at risk for hunger or malnutrition this summer. The backpacks are being distributed at the block parties and select summer food sites.

According to the United Way, 250,000 students in greater Detroit were eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches during the 2010-11 school year, yet less than 15 percent of those children received a free summer meal due to transportation barriers and a lack of awareness of food programs.

The United Way aims to increase participation in this summer's meal programs by two percent, which equals 150,000 more meals served this year across metro Detroit.

The three remaining block parties will be held in Lincoln Park, Eastpointe and Waterford, Mich., between Aug. 14 and 17.

"It's important for kids to have a smile on their face," Leven Weiss, Senior Manager – Civic and Community Relations, said. "But that's hard when they have an empty stomach."

"The Chrysler Group and the

United Way can take pride in making sure these young people are fed so they can grow up strong."

As a former beneficiary of the United Way, Weiss was especially proud of the overwhelming response from employee volunteers.

"I aligned myself with the auto industry because of the memo-

ries I have of the support and contributions they made when I was growing up," Weiss said.

"As community leaders we have to remember that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. By providing meals and getting kids in motion, we can give them the opportunity to be strong and, as a result, the community will be strong as well."

Road Train Effort Near Barcelona Was Autonomous

Ricardo, Inc., announced its U.K. division's participation in the Safe Road Trains for the Environment (SATRE) project, which completed its first successful tests.

For the first time ever, a road train (convoy), comprising a Volvo XC60, a Volvo V60 and a Volvo S60, plus one semi-truck, drove autonomously behind a test lead vehicle for 124 miles, traveling at 53 mph on the roads outside of Barcelona, Spain.

"This is a very significant milestone in the development of safe road train technology," said SARTRE project director Tom Robinson of Ricardo. "For the very first time, we have been able to demonstrate a convoy of autonomously driven vehicles following a lead vehicle with its professional driver, in a mixed traffic environment on a European motorway."

The SARTRE project is a joint venture between Ricardo U.K. Ltd., Applus Idiada, Tecnalia Research & Innovation, SP Technical Research Institute, Volvo Technology and Volvo Car Corp.

SARTRE aims to encourage a step change in personal transportation usage through the development of safe road trains, called platoons or convoy.

Vine & Dine Coming in September; Benefits Gleaner's Food Bank

BIRMINGHAM – The Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber's 9th annual Vine & Dine food and wine extravaganza is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, September 5, 2012, at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. Join the Chamber and emcee Jackie Paige from Fox 2 News as we bring awareness to this important cause.

"It is so heartening to see the Birmingham Bloomfield community come together to support Gleaners, from the food and wine vendors, to the sponsors and auction donors, to the hundreds who attend every year," said DeWayne Wells, president of the food bank.

"The Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber never fails to put on an extraordinary event, and I'm sure this year will be no exception. Most importantly, Vine & Dine will help Gleaners make a difference in the lives of children, families and seniors struggling with hunger."

"Vine & Dine is a fun night out to share with family and friends or entertain clients, while supporting those in need" said Andrea Kaczmarek, marketing & event manager for the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber. "Each year our Vine & Dine committee works hard to improve the event; this year we have a live performance painting demo by local

artist Dave Santia and live entertainment by Callaghan Smerek."

Vine & Dine offers guests an exceptional selection of domestic and imported wines, a strolling buffet featuring the finest local restaurants and caterers, and a chance auction. Last year, Vine & Dine provided thousands of meals for the hungry in Oakland county communities. Tickets are \$65 per person and special corporate pricing is available for groups of 12 or more.

DIA Walking Tour Set for Aug. 27

The City of Royal Oak will sponsor guided walking tours of its Inside/Out art reproductions on Monday, Aug. 27, Monday, Sept. 10, and Monday, Sept. 24. The tours begin at 9 p.m. in front of the Royal Oak Public Library. Flashlights are encouraged.

The program brings reproductions of masterpieces from the Detroit Institute of Arts' collection to the streets and parks of metro Detroit. Where possible, the works are clustered within walking or biking distance of each other.

The DIA's program of putting copies of masterpieces into public spaces has proved to be popular not just in downtown Royal Oak but across the board throughout various locales in Southeast Michigan.

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