

## 5,000 to Walk for Juvenile Diabetes at GM Tech Center

by Jennifer Knightstep

Why is this fall's Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk at the GM Tech Center so important?

It's not just the awareness of the chronic illness the walk will raise, or the nearly \$1 million in donations it will net.

Ask any of the nearly 5,000 walkers from 200 teams in this year's event, and they'll say the reason the walk is important is so much more than money or awareness – it's all about hope, that one day, a cure will be found, and walks like this one won't be necessary.

The walk, one in a series of three local events in Warren, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, will take place on Sunday, Sept. 23, at the GM Tech Center in Warren.

Last year, the walk raised \$867,000, making it the largest and most successful walk of the three. The walk draws thousands of people from across Metro Detroit who know someone – a son, a niece, a grandchild, a friend – with juvenile diabetes.

The disease strikes seemingly at random, making a child dependent on injected or pumped insulin for life.

The mission of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is simple: to find a cure for juvenile diabetes by funding cutting-edge research, so no child will ever have to pause a soccer game or delay sleep-over

story-telling for a blood test or insulin injection.

Rosann Palazzolo of Macomb knows first-hand how life-altering a diagnosis of juvenile diabetes can be.

Palazzolo's daughter, Bianca, was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes in 2009, at age 8. That year, Palazzolo, Bianca, and 80 of their friends and family formed a team and joined the walk, determined to help not only Bianca, but every other child affected by juvenile diabetes.

"We have to help these kids," says Palazzolo, "we have to."

Rather than allowing herself or Bianca to wallow in despair, Palazzolo says the entire family has rallied around her, forming healthy new diet and fitness habits, including two dance classes and basketball for Bianca, and whole grain breads and pastas for the entire family. Palazzolo considers her daughter fortunate – she leads a fairly typical childhood, and is blossoming into an active, healthy young woman.

But, while Palazzolo is confident a cure for childhood diabetes will be found, she has something much more immediate in mind. She wants improvements in quality of life for children with juvenile diabetes, such as a waterproof insulin pump and a way of checking blood sugar that doesn't require a painful finger poke.

It's these quality-of-life im-

provements Palazzolo and her team, named "Bianca's Walking Wishes," are walking for this year, and every year until a cure is found.

Whether a person knows a child affected by juvenile diabetes or not, the JDRF encourages participation in this year's GM Tech Center walk.

Krystal Dunlap of the JDRF's

Southfield office suggests sponsoring an existing team, or forming a new corporate or family walk team.

"It's easy to form a new team," says Dunlap. "Simply visit the JDRF website, and click on the GM Tech Center/Warren event link."

What if someone wants to walk on their own, without gathering a

team? Dunlap says the JDRF offers registration as an individual walker, or even as a virtual walker, collecting donations online.

"However someone chooses to help us meet our goals, we're delighted to have them participate," says Dunlap.

For more information about the walk or about the JDRF, visit [jdrf.org](http://jdrf.org), or call 800-533-CURE.



Last year, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk at the GM Tech Center raised \$867,000.

## Macomb County Plans for New Communications Center

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel has announced his plan to build an \$11 million state-of-the-art communications center that is the first of its kind in

the state of Michigan.

The Center will combine communications between several Macomb County departments, such as the Sheriff's Office dispatch,

the Roads Department Traffic Operations Center, an Info Technology Data Center and the Emergency Management & Communications Department.

## Macomb College Students 'Flies on the Wall' in T.C.

Two Macomb Community College students had a unique opportunity to network and connect with some of the more than 900 auto leaders, government officials and academic leaders as part of the Center for Automotive Research's (CAR) Management Briefing Seminar at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa in Traverse City.

Macomb marketing student Alexander Sizeland, Rochester Hills, and comprehensive automotive training student Brian Daye, St. Clair Shores, together spent five days attending sessions focusing on topics such as global manufacturing strategies and designing for technology, while also networking with some of the industry's most notable leaders and experts.

MCC students Sizeland and Daye participated as part of CAR's "Students@MBS program," which is designed to give college students pursuing a career in the automotive industry a firsthand opportunity to experience the issues driving the industry.

The students interacted directly with several executives, including Chrysler Group Head of Interior Design Klaus Busse, who is responsible in part for the overall design of the Dodge Dart.

"I didn't realize that this conference was such a big deal," said Sizeland. "Having a chance to take part in discussions with companies like GM and Volkswagen about what Generation Y wants in a car was really cool."

"It was also cool to learn that there are so many different facets to the industry and that I can pretty much create my own pathway based on my different interests in automotive," Sizeland added.

Both students were nominated by Macomb faculty to participate in the program, and all of their program-related expenses were sponsored by automotive supplier Magna International, Inc.

Sizeland and Daye are among 38 Students@MBS program participants who represent 11 colleges and universities from the Midwest such as Purdue University, Southern Illinois and Michigan Tech.

MCC students are busy around metro Detroit these days as last week we reported that two MCC students from the Warren campus got roles in the new "tornado movie" being filmed in town.

## UAW Region One Car Show Is Sept. 16; Will Raise Funds for Veterans' Families

One of the last big car shows of the late summer season will occur on Sunday, Sept. 16, when the UAW Region One union hall in Warren hosts its 13th annual Veterans Car Show.

Sponsored by the Region One Veterans Council, the event will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the following schedule in mind:

- Registration starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m., which includes pre-registration;
- Show car judging starts at 11:30 a.m. sharp;
- \$20 Registration (\$18 pre-registration) for all show cars;
- Show is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

UAW Region One event organizer Al Opra said, "We're giving out 77 trophies on show day and they're phenomenal-looking trophies at that."

"We're a very family-friendly event, chips and pop will be \$3 and there are rides for kids," he added.

There will be music, food, raffles and prizes.

As for the car show judging, there will be a first-come, first-served rule for dash plaques and goodie bags. Car show categories include Original (1900-1987) – cars that are 25 years and older; Original Modified – allowing for three major enhancements;

Street Rod 1900-1948; Custom/special interest; Pro Street – Tubbed: reduced axle cars; Street Machine – 1949 and up; and finally, Trucks – all years.

Proceeds from registration fees will be used to help area military veterans and their families.

Opra pointed out that the UAW has a long tradition of supporting the military – many union members are military vets themselves, so that the event is more than just another car show.

The union hall is located at 27800 George Merrelli Drive, west of Van Dyke and north of I-696 in Warren. For details, call UAW Region One at 586-427-9200.

## Tech Center-Based Vice President Earns Kettering Nod

Thirty years after Diana Tremblay graduated from Kettering University (yesterday's General Motors Institute, or GMI), she'll be returning to the Flint campus in triumph on Sept. 8 as KU's Distinguished Alumna Award winner.

Tremblay, vice president of North American Manufacturing at General Motors in Warren, will receive the award as recognition for specific and exceptional career achievement, traditionally given to people at the highest level in the corporate structure.

As vice president of North American Manufacturing, Tremblay manages a team of approximately 55,000 employees and has responsibility for 43 GM facilities in North America. During 2011, she led the implementation of more than \$3.6 billion of investment in U.S. manufacturing plants, adding almost 10,000 jobs.

Prior to her current position, Tremblay served as vice president for Manufacturing and La-

bor Relations in 2009 and as GM North America vice president of Labor Relations in 2006. Also, she held various positions in Labor Relations and Manufacturing, including global positions in Luton, England, and Antwerp, Belgium. Tremblay began work at GM at Central Foundry in Defiance, Ohio, in 1977.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Administration from Kettering University and, as a Sloan Fellow, received a master's degree in Business Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Tremblay has been featured in Fast Company's 30-second MBA series and has also shared her views on leadership in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes*.

Tremblay is on the Board of Directors for Focus HOPE and Medical Advantage Group and serves on an advisory board for Kettering University. She also serves as the executive champion for GM's

African Ancestry Network Affinity Group.

She and her husband Dan have been married for 31 years. They have one daughter, Lisa, attending college in New Hampshire.

Tremblay's award will be extended during KU's Bulldog Days Reunion Weekend, which is a time for Kettering/GMI alumni to reminisce on campus and reconnect with the university, with Flint and with the fellow honors and recognitions earned by their peers. The highlight of reunion weekend is the Alumni Awards dinner when the KU Alumni Association honors 10 alumni for their professional excellence.

Other activities during the Sept. 7-9 weekend include tours of campus buildings and laboratory facilities, as well as some familiar haunts, golf at the IMA Brookwood Golf Course, a Greek Club-Class-Mixer at the Capitol Theater in downtown Flint and the Golden Circle Brunch at the



Diana Tremblay

President's Residence.

The Kettering University Alumni Awards represent the highest honors presented by the Alumni Association each year. Awardees are nominated by other Kettering alumni for the aforementioned professional excellence and outstanding service.