



In a self-proclaimed "helping-people, team-building opportunity," GM engineers make Christmas blankets for the Detroit Rescue Mission.

Marchionne Tells MSU Grads, 'Focus On Teamwork'

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ric is woven together continuously, by members of a group and not by deeds of a single individual.

"Great groups are led by men and women with the extraordinary capacity to bring out the best in others, help them build self-confidence and grow as professionals, and even more importantly, as human beings."

Marchionne also talked about the importance of trust in leadership.

"When you are able to build and nurture trust in people, they feel encouraged to develop both their professional abilities as well as their human abilities," Marchionne said. "They follow you because they want to."

"Trust is essential in leading change and leading people to do things with a sense of mission, bringing conviction and belief and devotion to the effort."

Marchionne ended with what it truly means to be a Spartan.

"The name you carry - Spartans - goes far beyond a great college football team going to the Rose Bowl," Marchionne said.

"It goes far beyond the association with an excellent college."

"Being Spartans is a way of living life to its fullest, with the disruptive force of a community that was a cradle of our civilization."

"I wish for you to live all your life as a Spartan and wage the good fight with courage, teamwork and with selflessness."

'GM-Engineered' Blankets Keep Needy Detroiters Warm

by Jim Stickford

It seems an engineer can never not be an engineer, even when making blankets for the less fortunate.

Just ask Silvia Karlsson, engineering business manager, Thermal/HVAC at GM.

Karlsson and her colleagues for the past several years have been making blankets around Christmas for the Detroit Rescue Mission (DRM). The blankets are given to the less fortunate.

"We are the Thermal SMT," Karlsson said. "It is our job to keep the passengers and our powertrains 'comfortable,' temperature-wise."

"We love making blankets at this time of the year to donate to the Detroit Rescue Mission in our effort to help 'keep Detroit warm.' We know how much charities around us struggle all year,

but especially at this time of the year, to meet the demand and help so many people in need.

"Making blankets not only pairs well with our daily work as we also need to make sure our vehicle passengers are warm in their vehicles during the winter, but it gives our team an opportunity to help people while we spend some time together. It would be easier to simply collect money and send a check, but we would miss out on the team-building opportunity."

Karlsson said a special chili-and-soup cookout fundraiser was held in October and helped bring in money to buy the material for the blankets.

"I went to Jo-Ann's a couple of times to get it on sale, so the money would go further and also various people in the department donated extra material," Karlsson said.

"It takes two, two-yard cuts of fleece to make a blanket."

"We have a small department and we are located in various facilities, but we got over 30 people to stay after the holiday potluck to help make blankets. We made 20 of them (that would be 2 x 20 x 2 = 80 yards of material) and they were delivered to the DRM last Thursday afternoon (Dec. 12)."

Once the engineers got together, Karlsson said, they were able to produce about 20 blankets. They were made at the Tech Center's VEC building in Warren.

"We plan on doing this next year as well," Karlsson said. "We do all the work in one day. This year it was on Dec. 3."

And when you get engineers together, Karlsson said, it's only natural that they try to make the "manufacturing" process more efficient. At any one time, there

might have been five people working on one blanket.

They also try to mix up what kind of blankets are made, Karlsson said. Some blankets had a serious look appropriate for adults. Some designs were more whimsical and aimed at children.

But, Karlsson said, the main thing is that she and her colleagues were able to put their skills and talents together to help people at a time of year when blankets are really needed.

Ford Engineers Use New 3D System to Navigate All Plants

Ford engineers now can visit plants around the globe without leaving their desks.

The automaker is piloting new software from Siemens that facilitates virtual navigation within its assembly plants, helping the company improve global collaboration and better share its best practices.

The new IntoSite application in the Tecnomatix portfolio is a cloud-based web application developed using the Google Earth infrastructure, said Ford spokesperson Kristina Adamski.

IntoSite holds a 3D version of assembly plants and allows users to navigate virtually through the plants - down to the workstations - obtaining a better understanding of global processes.

IntoSite was developed by Siemens' product lifecycle management (PLM) software business unit.

"Under the Ford production system, we are constantly looking for ways to improve standardization around the globe," said John Fleming, Ford executive vice president of Global Manufacturing.

"The Siemens IntoSite software pilot is helping us explore the realm of possibility for future cross-regional workplace communication."

At any virtual location, engi-

neers or other team members can add pins - just as they would in Google Maps - and upload content such as videos, documents and images to these pins, Adamski said. This creates a private virtual space where users can easily save and share materials, helping to better communicate within plants and around the world.

"Using a platform that most of the world already is familiar with, Google Earth, we will be able to increase the speed of adoption and implementation for our manufacturing teams around the world," said Janice Goral, manager, Ford Vehicle Operations Manufacturing Engineering.

"The information then harnessed and transferred would build on our existing efforts to enhance alignment around the globe, and cater to a world where visual communication now can be more effective than email."

The IntoSite pilot program, which is initially being studied at Ford's Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, is expected to generate additional benefits across Ford and its global manufacturing team:

- Efficiency - IntoSite provides an opportunity to store and access documents pertaining to

specific issues in a common place rather than have to access multiple internal systems.

It also streamlines the process for sharing large media files, which often require access to a third-party file sharing program or the use of global shared drives with file size and storage duration limits.

- Globalization - Offering the ability to travel virtually to plants around the world, IntoSite helps to link together locations with real-world views in a shared online space.

- Standardization - A key part of the Ford production system, standardization is expected to improve as a result of IntoSite application's file-sharing capabilities, which will help to resolve manufacturing issues, establish and share global common processes and resolve inconsistencies.

Siemens developed IntoSite as a way to help manufacturing professionals virtually fly into any factory location around the globe, and explore, align, collaborate and share knowledge, Adamski said.

IntoSite provides manufacturers virtual access to plants for manufacturing planning, issue resolution and sharing best practices globally without the need for plant visits.

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