



Peggy Poteete, Emmie Harmon, Maggie Barney, Abe Edens and Dan Richard with big check

'Vette, Hellcat, Fiesta in Top 10 Engines

The Big Three enjoyed big success with the "2015 Ward's 10 Best Engines" list.

Among the winners announced Dec. 10 were the Corvette Stingray's 6.2L LT1 V8, the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat 6.2L V8 and the Ford Fiesta's 1.0L EcoBoost 3-cylinder engines.

Wards editors wrote of the Stingray engine, "the 7-speed manual transmission makes the

'Vette a riot to drive, but the new 8-speed automatic is stealthy and crisp and worth the \$1,725 option price.

"WardsAuto editors flogging the coupe for more than 300 miles managed better than 20 mpg with the 8-speed auto."

"This recognition is another step in earning customers for life," said Dan Nicholson, vice president, GM Global Powertrain.

"Having the WardsAuto experts choose the LT1 as one of the best in the industry two years in a row is proof of what this Powertrain team can deliver — uncompromised performance, durability and efficiency that helps make the Stingray one of the best sports cars in the world today."

GM Tech Center Employees Raise Funds for Wigs 4 Kids

by Jim Stickford

Christmas just got a little better for the children who use the services of Wigs 4 Kids, thanks to the people who work at GM's Pre-Production Operations (PPO) department.

Emmie Harmon, a PPO materials support operator who works out of the GM General Assembly Warehouse for the Tech Center at 6600 12 Mile, across from the main Tech Center campus, remembers the whole idea for raising money for Wigs 4 Kids.

"It started out as a sort of contest between various teams who worked the different docks at the warehouse," she said.

"We were team-building to see which team could collect the most bottles and cans. The goal was to use the money from the deposits to help out some local charity. When we started, we didn't have a particular charity in mind."

Harmon said when Dan Richard, a supervisor at the warehouse working a similar project, heard what Harmon and the others were doing, he suggested the two different groups work together.

Harmon was speaking with her fellow material support oper-

tors asking for ideas on which local charity they should support. In one day, two different employees suggested Wigs 4 Kids.

The charity provides custom-built wigs to children who are suffering from diseases and their treatments that cause hair to fall out, said Wigs 4 Kids CEO and founder Maggie Barney.

She said the wigs need to be custom-designed and made because commercial wig makers don't make wigs for children.

"I am just overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness shown by these GM workers," Barney said. "The support they're giving to the tune of \$9,400 makes what we do possible."

"We just held a holiday party and 200 kids and their families showed up. We are currently helping 1,400 children and people like those GM employees make that possible."

"Wigs 4 Kids doesn't charge for its services and we don't turn anyone away. The GM people make that possible."

Barney said kids need to have a sense of belonging. "They need to fit in," she said, "and be accepted by their peers. Wigs 4

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Kids helps kids deal with appearance-related issues and social acceptance, which are so critical to young adults and children.

"I first heard about the charity from my wife Tomi," said Abe Edens. "She does hair and is planing on opening up her own salon and knows about Wigs 4 Kids. She told me about the group and what they do. I mentioned the group to Emmie."

Another worker who suggested Wigs 4 Kids to Harmon was Peggy Poteete.

"I'm a retired barber and have made toupees in the past," Poteete said. "So when I was asked to name a charity, I named Wigs 4 Kids."

"I know how kids are and how being able to look normal when you're sick is important to them."

When Harmon spoke with

Richard about giving the money they raised to Wigs 4 Kids, Richard said he agreed it was a no-brainer.

"I didn't have a charity in mind when I started this," Richard said. "But I have a six-year-old, and this really hit home for me, as it would for any parent."

Richard said that in order to raise as much money as possible for Wigs 4 Kids, they started holding a series of fundraisers. To motivate the troops, they decided that the team that raised the most money would see their supervisor wear a wig for a day. It was all in good fun, Richard said, and the goal was a worthy one.

The end result was that they raised \$9,400, all of which was donated to Wigs 4 Kids.

Barney said that anyone who wants to learn more about the organization and what it does, can visit www.wigs4kids.org.

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