

Insurance Auto Auctions in IL Raises Over \$142,000 to Battle Childhood Cancer Through ALSF

Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc. (IAA), a business unit of *KAR Auction Services* headquartered in Westchester, IL, has raised over \$142,000 for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) to help raise awareness and funds in the battle against childhood cancer.

In recognition of September's National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, IAA raised funds through a month-long fundraising campaign by selling lemonade on-site in over 100 IAA branch locations during auction sale days. IAA has raised over \$400,000 to date since beginning company-wide fundraising efforts for the Foundation. In addition to cash donations, insurance companies and other donors donated proceeds from the sale of vehicles at IAA auctions that contributed to fundraising efforts.

"I am proud of the enthusiasm with which IAA employees contributed toward this great cause, and I am honored by the generosity of IAA's providers and buyers in donating vehicle sales that helped us surpass our fundraising goals by 42 percent," said **John Kett**, CEO and president, IAA. "Our team came to-

gether in creative and impactful ways—our Houston branch raised over \$16,000 and our Orlando-North branch customized a yellow 2005 Harley Davidson with ALSF colors and decals that auctioned for \$6,000—all to support Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation in the fight against childhood cancer."

"Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation thanks IAA for its critical support in this important fight against childhood cancer," said **Liz Scott**, Alex's mom and Co-Executive Director of ALSF. "For the past few years, IAA has consistently been among our top fundraising companies, and we are pleased to continue our mission together in making a difference in the lives of children with cancer, supporting research into new treatments and cures for pediatric cancer."

This is the third year that IAA has committed to a corporate-wide partnership with the foundation. In previous years, IAA participated in ALSF's National Lemonade Days in June, a collaborative initiative that raises nearly \$1 million for childhood cancer research over the course of three days.

ASA-Midwest Hosts Wage and Hour Audit Seminars

by Chasidy Rae Sisk

In November, the Automotive Service Association of the Midwest (ASA-Midwest) held seminars for two chapters entitled, "Are YOU Prepared for a Wage and Hour Audit?" Because it is difficult to understand the Federal Wage and Hour Law, "ASA-Midwest tries to put a bi-annual focus on this issue," Sheri Hamilton, Executive Director of ASA-Midwest, explains. "We try to provide information to ensure that shop owners understand pay structures, who can be paid on salary, how overtime should be calculated, and other matters related to these laws."

Thousands of businesses are audited yearly, and violations can be an expensive mistake. Rather than assuming that they understand the law, shop owners who attended the association's Wage and Hour Audit seminars took the step to interpret the law correctly. Susan Wagner of the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division taught the seminar and led the discussion that followed.

Hamilton says, "we try to provide the information necessary to keep them out of trouble, but we also explain how the audit process works

in case they do get audited. Attendees also had an opportunity to ask questions so that they can better understand their responsibilities as employers."

Hamilton stated that both meetings were well-attended, informative and successful. The Central MO Chapter held their seminar on November 18 at Bandana's BBQ in Columbia, MO, and the Lincoln Chapter's seminar was held on November 25 at the Hy-Vee Club Room in Lincoln, NE. Cost for members was \$25 with non-ASA members paying only \$30 to attend this informative session.

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AASP-MN Announces 2015 Race for Automotive Education

by Chasidy Rae Sisk

The Alliance of Automotive Service Providers in Minnesota (AASP-MN) announced that their 13th Annual Race of Automotive Education will be held on January 13-15, 2015 at ProKart Indoor Racing in Burnsville, MN. The 2015 Race of Automotive Education will consist of teams made up of AASP-MN members and other industry supporters competing in kart racing at speeds up to 40 miles per hour, and the association anticipates that they will raise around \$10,000 by the final wave of the checkered flag.

This yearly event is the primary fundraiser for AASP-MN's Automotive Education Fund which provides financial resources to support students in the automotive field, to enhance automotive educational programs, and to raise awareness of the career opportunities in the automotive service industry.

Since the AASP-MN Automotive Education Fund began, nearly \$161,000 has been disbursed directly to students enrolled in automotive education programs, both through the

association's scholarship program and through the Skills USA Competition.

Judell Anderson, Executive Director of AASP-MN, states "the industry and our members benefit when automotive students are encouraged to stay in school and complete their training prior to entering the industry. The financial help provided by scholarships allows students to do this. We expect that, while enjoying an evening of fun and camaraderie, participants will also raise close to \$10,000 for the Scholarship Fund."

The majority of the money AASP-MN expects to raise has been allocated to scholarships for students entering their second and last year of a NATEF-certified automotive program, either collision or mechanical, in the state of MN. AASP-MN will choose and announce the recipients of their scholarships in the spring of 2015.

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