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Metro Auto Auction of Phoenix Named Western Chapter Auto Auction of the Year

National Auto Auction Association's Award Recognizes Excellence in Public Service

FREDERICK, MD—Metro Auto Auction of Phoenix has been named the National Auto Auction Association's 2017 Western Chapter Auto Auction of the Year for its outstanding public service. The Phoenix, Arizona, business was chosen for its commitment to making a difference in the lives of the community's youth, which includes mentoring at-risk high school students and creating a winter wonderland of real snow to host a Christmas party for seriously ill children.

The auction will be one of four finalists representing NAAA's Eastern, Midwest, Southern and Western chapters competing for the top honor of NAAA's "Auto Auction of the Year Award for Excellence in Community Service." Each of the contenders will be recognized at the association's annual convention in November with a crystal trophy. They will also get a photo in NAAA's member publications and \$5,000 payable to a charity of the auction's choice.

"As part of National Auto Auction Week I'm honored to announce Metro Auto Auction of Phoenix as the representative auction from NAAA's Western region for Auction of the Year," said NAAA Western Chapter President Michele Noblitt. "Our nation's children are the future of this great country. Metro owners and staff help provide youth and their families in the Phoenix area the ability to heal through Hope Kids and the tools needed to achieve education through Elevate Phoenix."

Both those local children's nonprofit groups have been "adopted" by the auction as its primary philanthropic activities, according to Metro Owner and General Manager Thomas J. McDermott.

"As the proud father of six children, two stepchildren and five beautiful grandchildren, I have a soft spot for kids, so our auction's focus is on children," McDermott explained. "One of our core beliefs is that success is not only determined by the bottom line, but by what we give back. Charity, community involvement and compassion are part of the corporate values that our Metro family shares and lives through public service as a team."

Hope Kids works with seriously ill children and their families, for which the auction plans, underwrites and staffs special events throughout the year to brighten their lives. From its establishment in 2007, Metro has hosted a Christmas party complete with Santa, gifts, games, crafts, train rides, petting zoo, Disney characters, a holiday dinner and real snow for more than 600 kids and family members with donations totaling \$300,000 over the past decade.

Elevate Phoenix has received more than \$275,000 raised by Metro employees to help the organization conduct its mission of providing “long-term, life-changing relationships with urban youth” through an accredited program in two high schools with 3,400 students. Hired instructors serving as role models and mentors on a 24/7 basis teach a leadership curriculum designed to build character and life skills. Students in the program for three or more years achieve a graduation rate of 91 percent — higher than both Arizona’s 77 percent and the national average of 82 percent — with 95 percent of those graduates going on to attend college.

In addition, Metro Auto Auction of Phoenix supports a variety of other charities including Best Buddies, Wounded Warriors The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Arizona and 2Gether We Live.

“As a new charity just formed in March our needs are great and finding community support is vital to reach those individuals with all disabilities, including intellectual and developmental, wounded veterans, MS, ALS or others with severe illnesses,” noted 2Gether We Live Founder and Executive Director Timothy Bolen. “Metro Auto Auction of Phoenix stepped right up to help our organization reach that underserved population.”

NAAA established the annual awards in 2016 to recognize the many charitable acts auctions already perform and to encourage even greater volunteer involvement. The winner of the “Auto Auction of the Year Award for Excellence in Community Service” receives a large crystal loving cup, a cover photo and feature story in both NAAA’s On The Block magazine and annual Membership Directory, plus \$20,000 payable to the auction’s chosen charity that is in addition to the previous \$5,000 prize as a chapter finalist.

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