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Manheim Darlington Auto Auction Named Southern Chapter Auto Auction of the Year

National Auto Auction Association's award recognizes excellence in public service

FREDERICK, MD—Manheim Darlington Auto Auction has been named the National Auto Auction Association's 2018 Southern Chapter Auto Auction of the Year for its outstanding public service. The South Carolina business was chosen for the personal approach the staff takes to help the small community that goes beyond just fundraising.

The auction is 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 be featured in NAAA's member publications and receive \$5,000 payable to a charity of the auction's choice.

"I am honored to make this announcement as part of National Auto Auction Week that Manheim Darlington is our selection for NAAA's Auto Auction of the Year," said NAAA Southern Chapter President Jerry Barker. "Our panel of five judges was excited by the community involvement of our nominees and amazed by the money raised for so many wonderful charities, but it was obvious that as General Manager Danny Brawn says, Manheim Darlington is an auction in Small Town USA with employees who have big hearts. Congratulations to them and to all the auctions that support their communities — keep up the good work!"

A committee of Manheim Darlington employees meets monthly to discuss the current needs of the community, plan fundraising activities and develop initiatives on how the auction can help the local charities and schools achieve their goals.

This year the auction donated more than 20 pints of blood and raised \$10,000 for the American Red Cross chapter as part of its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Sale, which was in addition to the regular blood drives it holds throughout the year. Other special events were a "Drive Away for Hunger" fundraiser that collected more than \$2,500 and 89 pounds of food and "Dashing Through the Lanes" sale where each department decorates a Christmas tree to auction.

Examples of the auction's hands-on style of public service include hosting a monthly teachers' lunch where Manheim Darlington staff volunteer to monitor the classrooms while the educators enjoy a meal with each other and an annual school supply drive for each grade. Also this year, 40 auction employees and their families picked up 47 bags of litter and debris from area roadways.

NAAA established the annual awards in 2016 to recognize the many charitable acts auctions 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's in addition to the previous \$5,000 prize as a chapter finalist.

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