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Steve Henschel, Staff | Aug 04, 2010 - 1:55 PM | 0

Tire blitz reaps rewards

Some tires go a lot farther than others, and not in the literal sense. Last Wednesday at Caughill Auto Wreckers the Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) and the Ontario Automotive Recyclers Association (OARA) presented the \$64,000 in proceeds from their recent weekend recycling blitz to the Sunshine Foundation.

OARA members and Liberty Tire Hauling Canada donated their normal proceeds from the 35,000 tires turned in over the weekend blitz to the Canadian foundation that grants wishes to dying and disabled children.

"Donations like this are essential, it's the only way we are funded," said Nancy Sutherland, national executive director for the Sunshine Foundation. She explained that the foundation does not receive any government funding and with this year's dream budget already at \$930,000, donations are critical.

Since September 2009, the foundation has granted 260 dreams that "vary as much as the kids," said Sutherland, explaining that the average dream ranges from \$7,500 to \$8,000.

One dream recipient, 13-year-old Damion Mackey of Jordan, was all smiles as he witnessed the donation.

Damion, who suffers from a rare form of juvenile Huntington's disease, dreamed of dancing with Cinderella at Disney World on his birthday — a dream that came true thanks to the foundation, which flew the boy and his family down to Florida to grant this wish.

"It's just very, very amazing that there is a place out there to grant these children this fun," said Damion's mother Lynn, who went on to explain that the foundation moved Damion to the front of the waiting list due to his uncertain future.

"It's nice to see Sunshine recognized this, they went the extra mile," she said.

As for the tire drive, Wally Dingman, chairman of the OARA and general manager of Caughill, would like to thank the public for bringing in the tires and the recyclers who donated their time and profits for the drive.

"Many recyclers donated a considerable amount of time promoting," he added.

"It (the weekend blitz) was a huge success," said Dingman, adding another tire drive is set to take place either in the fall or next spring.

He explained that the OARA has worked with the Sunshine Foundation in the past and when it came to the tire drive, they were an obvious recipient.

"They have an impact across the entire province," he said.



Tire blitz. Chairman of the OARA Wally Dingman (left) presented the \$64,000 of proceeds from a recent weekend recycling blitz, to Nancy Sutherland of the Sunshine Foundation last Wednesday while dream recipient Damion Mackey and his parents Lynn and Tim witnessed with smiles.

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