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## Cruisin' Gratiot group hands out \$15,500 to local charities, nonprofits

By Mitch Hotts  
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Members of the Cruisin' Gratiot committee have presented checks to representatives of 15 charities that serve the Eastpointe community at an event held at Cloverleaf Restaurant.

Committee members gave out a total of \$15,500 to the community groups as recognition of the "phenomenal work you all do," said Karen Arondoski, president of the Cruisin' Gratiot board of directors.

"They're all doing God's Work," added Harvey Curley, a committee coordinator and former mayor of Eastpointe.

The money came from proceeds from the June 18 car cruise, including T-shirt sales and cruising lane permits. Organizers said an estimated 150,000 people turned out for the classic car procession along Gratiot Avenue between Eight Mile and 10 Mile roads.

The cruise board, which also includes Eastpointe Downtown Development Authority Director Steve Horstman, Kathy Schultz, Karen Vaughn, Kevin Rowley and Eastpointe-Roseville Chamber of Commerce Director Catherine Green, said they felt this year's cruise was among the best and are starting to plan the 14<sup>th</sup> annual event for 2012.

"We really have become a well-oiled machine in that everyone on the committee knows what their job is and we work well together," Curley said. "Right now our next goal is to attract some major new sponsors."

The sponsors help defray the cruise costs, especially now that Eastpointe city officials have required the committee to pay municipal-related expenses of the event including police, fire and public works.

But the reason the cruise was created to begin with was to provide a little extra funding for the various charities and nonprofits that serve the people in Eastpointe in one way or another.

Those include:

- Bellview Softball
- Champions for Life
- East Detroit High School in-house scholarship
- Eastside Teen Outreach
- Goodfellows
- Holy Innocents-St. Barnabas Revelations youth group
- H.O.P.E.
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Michigan Chapter
- Macomb Intermediate School District Macomb Homeless Education Project
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society
- Northeast Church of Christ
- Ray of Hope

- Eastpointe Family Supper at St. Gabriel Church
- St. Veronica Men's Club