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A cruise that cares

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Local charities benefit from many WDC events

The Woodward Dream Cruise offers plenty of sights and sounds along the cruise route, including a number of events that aim to give back to the local community.

Here's a sampling of some of the many ways cruisers and spectators can lend a hand to special causes during the cruise on Aug. 18.

Chase Kids Zone

Downtown Ferndale will host the Chase Kids Zone, produced by Arts & Scraps, an organization that recycles materials to provide craft projects for kids throughout metro Detroit. The Chase Kids Zone will feature an auto-themed family craft area using recycled industrial scraps.

"Families will be able to visit the 'auto factory' and cut out a car from adhesive foam using a hand die cutter, then trim and 'paint' it with colored sand," said Arts & Scraps Director Peg Upmeyer.

The area will also include a hubcap xylophone, beanbag toss games, a tire maze courtesy of Wetmore's in Ferndale, and two other "make-and-take" stations.

"The ScrapMobile, a 26-foot bus donated by Humana, will be on site bringing excitement and the chance to see more recycled materials," added Upmeyer. "The organization is still looking for a vehicle to decorate. The public will use permanent vinyl from a sign company to create their own decals and cover the car. Anyone out there want a very unusual vehicle?"

Proceeds from the Chase sponsorship will help Arts & Scraps collect some of the 28 tons of material it uses annually to provide 275,000 children with educational programming.

Woodward Dream Cruise Classic

The third annual Bloomfield Township Classic will be held from 1-5 p.m. at Mercedes Benz of Bloomfield Hills.

Owners of pre-1972 classic or specialty cars can register their cars for \$100 to take part in the juried show. Proceeds from the event help the Bloomfield Hills Optimists Club, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department and Oakland Family Services.

Camp Casey fundraiser

Camp Casey, a nonprofit organization that provides one-day retreats for Michigan kids with cancer, will have a booth set up in the parking lot of Weir Manuel Realtors in Birmingham.

The organization will be selling merchandise and will hand out water and popcorn for donations.

The following week, on Aug. 23, Max & Erma's will hold a benefit dinner, with 20 percent of the day's proceeds to be donated to **Camp Casey**.