

# Wilson Automotive Group Employees Donate \$255,000 to Support Local Charities

**Orange County Automotive Group Spreads Holiday Cheer**

The Wilson Automotive Group, one of Orange County's largest and most respected automotive dealership groups, recently announced that their employees donated over \$255,000 that will go to local Orange County charities. Employees representing all 16 dealerships presented David Wilson, owner of the Wilson Automotive Group, with a check in the amount of \$255,000 during the company's Christmas party.

"Instead of buying the boss another expensive gift, our employees at Wilson's 16 auto dealerships thought of a way to give David – and hundreds of other people – a gift that would last past the holidays," said Vikki Murphy, Wilson vice president.

"In years past Wilson's employees and friends tried to shop and find the perfect, unique gift for his birthday (in November) and Christmas. Every year we would try to outdo ourselves," says A. J. D'Amato, his partner at Newport Lexus.

Wilson's vice president, Vikki Murphy, was constantly barraged with requests for gift ideas. "That's when AJ and I decided to establish an endowment fund in his name at Orangewood Children's Foundation. This would give everyone a way to express their thanks to David, and create a gift that is much bigger and far-reaching than just our dealerships."

That first year the 130 employees of Toyota of Orange donated \$10,000 to the David Wilson Endowment Fund. This fund now contains over \$500,000, and the interest from it funds university scholarships for alumni of Orangewood. It was the foundation's first endowment gift, and Wilson was thrilled.

Since that time Wilson's organization has grown to encompass 16 automotive dealerships and employ over 2,000 associates. And every year the employees at his dealerships choose this way of thanking their employer at the holiday season.

At the company Christmas party last month his employees presented him with a check for \$255,200. Recipients included Orangewood, Olivecrest, Laker's Youth Foundation, United Cerebral Palsy, and the American Cancer Society.

"The money just kept coming in – from salesmen, sales managers, mechanics, clerical staff, parts counter men," said Ren Rooney, the Wilson Automotive Group president. "This isn't something we ask our employees to do. This is something they choose to do every year."

"This is quite a tribute to David Wilson – that his employees are honoring him in this way," said Gene Howard, director of Orangewood Children's Foundation. "It's a very personal kind of recognition. . . . and one that will be long-lasting in its impact."



David Wilson employees holding the check for \$255,000.

Wilson was overwhelmed. "This is unbelievable!" he said. "I was astounded! I have the best employees in the world!"

"Actually," said Murphy. "We have the world's greatest boss! I think everyone gave a little something. David is very generous to his employees, and this is just our way of saying 'thanks.'"

## ABOUT WILSON AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

The David Wilson Automotive Group is an organization of 16 automotive dealerships. The dealerships are located in Orange County, California and Scottsdale, Arizona. The Wilson Automotive Group share's one core philosophy among its dealers: "Treat people like you would like to be treated." This philosophy begins with the owner, David Wilson, who attributes the success and growth of his dealerships to the organization's strong emphasis on customer loyalty. The Wilson Automotive Group includes: Toyota of Orange, Toyota of Riverside, Toyota of Huntington Beach, South Bay Toyota, South Coast Toyota, Tustin Lexus, Desert Lexus, Ford of Orange, Mazda of Orange, Right Honda, Weir Canyon Honda/Acura, and Newport Lexus.