FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 26, 2014
Contact: Jenny Connally  214-597-0907

Classic Chevrolet Employees Raise $370,000 for Charity

For Classic Chevrolet to be the #1 Volume Chevy dealership in the entire nation for 8 consecutive years, it undoubtedly takes the hard work and dedication of the entire Classic organization. That in and of itself is a testament to the focus and loyalty of the Classic employees. But the Classic employees have taken on another responsibility that they tackle with the same enthusiasm – raising money for charity. For many years, the Classic Employees Charity Committee has taken it entirely upon themselves to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for local non-profits for an annual fundraiser. And it has become a tradition for Classic Chevrolet owner Tom Durant and his wife, Susan, to personally match the funds raised dollar for dollar. This year, the Classic Employees held The Steve Thompson Classic (charity golf tournament) which, combined with the Durant’s matching funds, raised an astonishing $370,000 for local non-profit organizations.

Seven local charities were invited to today’s holiday luncheon at Classic Chevrolet where they each received a check for $50,000. In addition to the seven charities, Young Life also received a check for $20,000 as a tribute to Steve Thompson who was very personally involved with the Young Life organization.

The Classic Employees Charity Committee, chaired by Shelley Anderson, chose the seven charities via vote. Other committee members include Tim Lynch, Amanda Williams, Stephanie Brogan, Steve Buchholz, CW Higgins, Tammy Kimber, Joe Laubhan and Vincent Towne. The seven charities include:

Six Stones Mission - Providing assistance & neighborhood initiatives to serve the Hurst-Euless-Bedford community.

GRACE – Providing financial aid and offering guidance for young adults who have survived childhood/teen homelessness in the Grapevine community.

The Angel Fund of Trinity High School – Supporting the financial needs of the less fortunate students of Trinity High School HEB.
RISE – Providing help to persons with physical challenges thru therapeutic learning experiences.

SafeHaven – Operating the only domestic violence shelters in Tarrant County.

VAST Community Outreach – An after-school program for 1st thru 6th graders giving them a safe environment, homework help, recreational activities and a healthy snack during the dangerous after-school hours.

Food For The Soul – Providing free food and clothing to families and children in need.

The event was emceed by radio personality Ed Wallace, host of “Wheels” on KLIF radio. “I was at the Classic holiday luncheon just a few years ago when you raised $180,00 for charity. It’s amazing that in just a few years, you’ve doubled that amount. I heard Tom Durant say once that ‘if you do well in life, you need to give something back.’ And that’s exactly what the Classic employees do; they get together and work hard to give back and it truly shows the decency of our humanity.”

The Charity Golf Tournament was held on October 13th at the Cowboys Golf Course in Southlake, with 144 players participating in the tournament as well as a host of guests and sponsors enjoying the event and the dinner that followed. “We could not have raised the money without the generous support of our incredible sponsors,” said committee member Tim Lynch of The Thompson Group at Classic Chevrolet. Title sponsors were Ally Financial and Speed FabCrete. Platinum sponsors included DealerTrack, Supreme Corp and Service Group. Gold sponsors included The Truck Club, Southwest ADI, Dealers Truck and Commercial Van. The shirt sponsor was AG Van.

With the substantial donations raised by the Classic Employees Charity Fund, the efforts of each of the seven charities will unquestionably make an even bigger difference for those in need this holiday season.

Tom Durant summed it up in a short speech, “Everything happens because of my employees. They initiate the effort; they put it all together…it’s all done by them. I don’t know what we’d do without them.”

Pictured left to right: Leslie Norton, Mike Harris (Angel Fund), Scott Sheppard (6 Stones), Mary Lee Hafley (SafeHaven), Shonda Schaeffer (GRACE), Bob & Kimberly Sawler (Food for the Soul), Paul Gray (Rise), Gerry Woods (Vast Outreach)