

June 30, 2016

National Auto Auction Association  
Attention: Auto Auction Awards Committee  
5320 Spectrum Drive, Suite D  
Frederick, Maryland 21703

Dear Committee Members,

I humbly nominate John Poteet and his staff at Louisiana's 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Auto Auction for the 2016 NAAA Auto Auction of the Year Award for Excellence in Community Service, Southern Chapter. I have worked at the auction for over 10 years and I have experienced John's philanthropic leadership first hand. He has hired, trained, and nurtured employees who actively seek ways to support various charitable organizations in our community and beyond. He has extended that giving mantra to our customers and vendors as well, setting a great example for other businesses in our community.

I could easily have written more than two pages about the countless ways this incredibly caring group of people reaches out to those in need on a consistent basis. One circumstance was too personal and painful to share about husband and wife team members who lost their first child at 8 months along in the pregnancy. As a small auction with a very close family atmosphere it was devastating to all of us at 1<sup>st</sup> Choice and it was no surprise to witness everyone surrounding them with love and support and supporting the Little Angels Foundation who provides no cost coffins and burial assistance to families suffering the worst loss imaginable.

Nominee: Louisiana's 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Auto Auction  
Name: John Poteet  
Position: Managing Partner  
Mailing Address: 18310 Woodscale Road, Hammond, LA 70401  
Phone Number: (985) 215-2695  
Chapter Name: Southern Chapter  
Email Address: [John@lafcaa.com](mailto:John@lafcaa.com)

Nominator: Louisiana's 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Auto Auction  
Name: Georgianne Poteet  
Position: Manager, Special Projects  
Mailing Address: 18310 Woodscale Road, Hammond, LA 70401  
Phone Number: (985) 215-2345  
Email Address: [gpoteet@lafcaa.com](mailto:gpoteet@lafcaa.com)

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing the outcome.

## Nomination Summary

This auction staff embodies the definition of philanthropy. Since the auction opened in 2002, the staff has been committed to supporting their community in so many ways. We support numerous charitable causes in both big and small ways, not just with our financial gifts but with our time, creativity, and positive energy. Our giving nature is woven into the fabric of our auction identity.

Most charitable efforts originate with an employee bringing a cause special to them to the attention of the management team. The employee spearheads the effort, whether it is hosting bake sales to raise money for free breast cancer screenings, sharing dog food coupons with other team members and holding a food drive for the local animal shelter, or gathering a team to run in a charity race supporting Rotary Club. We collect soda can pop tops to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and donate Mardi Gras beads to Options, whose clients that have disabilities then clean, sort and sell to earn money and gain a sense of purpose. Employees create Christmas gift boxes and send them to Samaritan's Purse, who gives them to needy children. It starts with the idea of one employee and builds as other team members join the cause. The community and charity aren't the only ones who benefit. The auction team is strengthened by each one of these joint efforts.

The auction has hosted special event sales with charitable fund raising incorporated in the auction sale to allow dealers and vendors to participate, which they do enthusiastically. We've even hosted numerous blood drives with a blood mobile on site on auction day where dealers take the time to give the gift of life along with our employees. Large sums of money have been raised for national charities like St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Hunter's Hope, CAS and

CASA, the American Cancer Society, and Victory Junction, while others benefit local organizations like the LASPCA, Options, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Little Angels, Conkerr Cancer, and Tangi Humane Society. A total of \$400,000 has been raised in 14 years much to the appreciation of our recipient charities

Employees give of their time, talent, and resources outside normal business hours. Several serve as charity board members, including two who are board presidents who happen to be father and son employees. Many are also members of Rotary and Knights of Columbus. It would be impossible to calculate the total number of hours employees have given in support of these worthy causes.

Finally, we always respond to dealers who ask us to support their own charity events. We have raised money for the grandson of a dealer who suffered from Epidermolysis Bullosa who sadly died from the disease after a valiant battle. And we have sponsored a table at the Giving Hope Gala fund raiser every year, a charity founded by the owner of a dealer group who is a member of our dealer family. The people who comprise this auction - staff, customers and vendors - are undeterred by the overwhelming need for support in our community, state, country, and world. Winning this award would help us further our efforts. Whether we win or not, we will continue doing what we can to create a better world.

For all these reasons, I nominate the owner and entire staff of this auction for the NAAA Chapter Auto Auction of the Year Award for Excellence in Community Service. Thank you for your consideration.