

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Washington Auto Show Congressional Gala Supports Area Charities**

***WANADA hosts gala and charity preview to showcase automotive innovations to Washington's elected leaders for the benefit of six health and children's organizations.***

WASHINGTON, D. C. – The Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association (WANADA) will host **The Washington Auto Show Congressional Gala and Charity Preview** on Jan. 25, 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m., at the Washington Convention Center, uniting automakers, dealers and civic leaders with Washington's elected and government officials for the benefit of area health and children's charities. Patrons will have the chance to kick some tires and do a little window shopping at the event, held amidst 700 of the hottest vehicle makes and models on display at The 2006 Washington Auto Show (Jan. 24 -29).

"With our new January show dates, this year's Gala takes place for the first time while Congress is in session, providing a unique opportunity for America's elected leaders to see the newest, most innovative technologies from America's leading industry, all while raising much needed funding for seven of the area's most deserving charities," says Tamara C. Darvish, Congressional Gala chairperson and Vice President, DARCARS.

"WANADA has been supporting area causes through the auto show gala for almost 20 years. We are very close to reaching the \$1 million mark in total funds raised, so this year's event has special significance," adds Darvish.

The Honorable Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Mrs. Diane Williams are honorary chairpersons for the event.

Proceeds from The Washington Auto Show Congressional Gala will benefit the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, the Parkinson Foundation of the National Capital Area, the Primary Care Coalition, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Orphan Foundation of America, and Neediest Kids.

The Gala is sponsored by XM Satellite Radio, The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA), The Association of International Automobile Manufacturers (AIAM), American International Automobile Dealers Association (AIADA), M & T Bank and *The Washington Post*.

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The Gala is the closing event of Government and International Media Day at the Washington Auto Show. More than 300 members of the international and industry press and VIPS will attend a full slate of special events, new model introductions and industry announcements held throughout the day. Many manufacturers' exhibits for the auto show showcase safety, technology and fuel-alternative advancements that are of great interest to elected and regulatory leaders in D.C. (The auto show closes to the public at 3:00 p.m. on Jan. 25 for the media and gala events.)

Gala attendees will be treated to continuous entertainment and special VIP access to the auto show floor. Tickets for the Gala are \$150 per person with group sponsorship packages also available. For more information, contact WANADA at 1-866-WASH-AUTO or 202.237.7200.

**The 2006 Washington Auto Show: "The State of The Auto"** will bring more than 700 new cars, trucks, mini-vans and sport utility vehicles from over 37 domestic and import automakers to the Washington Convention Center from Jan. 24 – 29, 2006. For auto show operating hours, ticket information and "e-tickets," visit the Washington Auto Show online at [www.washingtonautoshow.com](http://www.washingtonautoshow.com) or contact WANADA at 1-866-WASH-AUTO or 202.237.7200.

Now entering its 89<sup>th</sup> year of existence, WANADA represents dealerships throughout the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia area.

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