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The Washington Auto Show and the Washington Area Toyota Dealers GIVE AWAY 4 Toyotas to Area Charity and Residents

The long-awaited finale of the Washington Auto Show's popular Hands-On Contest occurred this evening, with the giveaway of four Toyotas, one of which went to CrisisLink, a local suicide prevention hotline.

After 102 hours, five long days, of maintaining constant physical contact with the car they hoped to win, 10 of the original 21 contestants were remaining by contest's end at 6 PM Sunday, when they entered the high-stakes key-off to determine the lucky winners of three Toyotas.

And the winners were...

Fredy Guzman of Germantown, MD

Gregory McArthur of Bristow, VA

And Paige Kitson of Fairfax, who won the car for CrisisLink

The fourth Toyota, a Prius, was awarded to a viewer at home, via the Hands-On Online Contest: The first person to correctly predict all three winning contestants on the Washington Auto Show's Web site was Ron Sadler from Virginia.

The Washington Auto Show has long partnered with charitable groups, raising nearly \$1 million for charities in its recent years through its annual Gala and other activities. But this is the first time that the Hands-On Contest, a longtime hit feature of the Washington Auto Show, reserved one new Toyota model for an area charity to use for program services or in a fund raising effort.

"We are delighted to expand the contest to include some of the area's most deserving charities. In this year of terrible natural disasters, we've seen how valuable the organizations that provide public support can be, whether they provide disaster relief, medical need or family life services," said Tammy Darvish of DARCARS, the Washington area's largest car dealership. "The Washington Auto Show Hands On Contest garners much attention during the show. Sharing that spotlight with these deserving organizations will help them communicate their message and needs to wider audience."

CrisisLink, founded in 1969 as a hotline for Arlington teens now serves the greater Washington area, where it has responded to more than half a million crisis calls.

"We give vital support to those facing life crises, trauma and suicide, and provide information, education and links to community resources to empower people to help themselves," the group states on its Web site.

A time-tested crowd favorite, the Hands On Contest is known for its down-to-the-wire suspense and dramatic finale. Among the contest's grueling rules:

§ A regular break of exactly fifteen minutes every three hours. Late getting back means elimination.

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§ All electronic devices, reading, writing and drawing materials are forbidden.

§ No smoking, no alcoholic beverages, no offensive language and no physical contact between contestants or onlookers, including family and friends.

§ No Tattlers! If a contestant rats on any of the others, that contestant is eliminated!

§ And most importantly: Contest officials reserve the right to require a shower break!

Contestants for the Hands On Contest were pre-selected through the promotional efforts of 94.7 WARW.

Created in 1997, the Washington Auto Show Hands On Contest has given away 25 new Toyotas during the contest's history and has been the subject of more than 850 television and print stories, including national coverage from Good Morning America, Fox News and CNN. The contest has grown from one car given away to four, drawing thousands of spectators annually to the Washington Convention Center for a "first-hand" look.

The Washington Auto Show Hands On Contest is sponsored by the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association (WANADA), the Washington Area Toyota Dealers, and Classic Rock 94.7 The Arrow.

The 2006 Washington Auto Show: "The State of The Auto" brought more than 800 new cars, trucks, mini-vans and sport utility vehicles from over 43 domestic and import automakers to the Washington Convention Center from Jan. 24 – 29, 2006.

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

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