

# News Release

Contact: Scott Wintner (734) 955-3745  
Michael Conway (734) 942-3558

## **Airport and Airline Employees Decked the Halls at Detroit Metropolitan Airport this Holiday Season** *--Third-annual karaoke event raises record \$4287 for local Salvation Army*

**DETROIT (Jan. 5, 2012)**—The sights and sounds of the holiday season once again filled **Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)** and spread into the Metro Detroit community this December, thanks to the initiative and thoughtfulness of **Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA)**, **Delta Air Lines** and other airport community employees.

From Dec. 19-22, hundreds of holiday travelers and employees in the McNamara Terminal took the stage for the airport's third-annual ***Sing Because You Care*** holiday karaoke event, which raised a record \$4,287 for the **Wayne-Westland Corps of the Salvation Army**. Performers were asked to contribute at least \$5 per song; some gave much more, and hundreds more passers-by contributed as they enjoyed the holiday entertainment.

This season's ***Sing Because You Care*** karaoke event was again hosted by **world-famous karaoke D.J. and DTW-based Delta flight attendant Nico Fuentes**, who was joined this year by performer and DTW DTW-based **Delta flight attendant Debbie Jones**. Support for the event was also provided by the **Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport**.

“Credit for the continued growth of the airport community's holiday events belongs to our outstanding team of airport community employees who take it upon themselves each year to make these programs a success,” said **WCAA Interim CEO Tom Naughton**. “The Airport Authority is proud to support our family members' efforts to extend warm holiday wishes to the families traveling through the airport and throughout the community we serve.

Holiday karaoke was just one of several initiatives by airport and airline employees to spread holiday cheer throughout the airport and Metro Detroit. During the peak holiday travel period between Dec. 17 and Jan. 1, 20 of DTW's Airport Ambassador volunteers logged a total of 67 extra service hours as elves by helping Santa spread holiday cheer throughout the airport terminals. In addition to helping holiday travelers find their way through the airport, the elves distributed 2,000 holiday bracelets to young passengers.

As part of the Airport Authority's annual holiday music program, representatives from Faith Christian Choir, Fordson High School, Airport High School, John Glenn High School, Wayne Memorial High School, and the St. Francis of Assisi Handbell Choir delighted travelers with performances inside both airport terminals.

(more)

(continued)

Additionally, Airport Authority staff from both DTW and Willow Run Airport once again opened their hearts and cupboards to fight holiday hunger. Staff collected nearly 430 lbs. of non-perishable food items that were then delivered to **Gleaners Food Bank of Southeast Michigan**, one of the oldest food banks in the U.S., for distribution to local families in need.

Earlier in December, airport community members joined the Detroit chapter of **Silverliners**—an organization of former Eastern Airlines flight attendants—to send young cancer patients and accompanying family members off onboard its annual ***Fantasy Flight*** to the North Pole. Participants were entertained with clowns, magicians and other festive airport employees at their departure gate. Following an hour-long “flight”, these special passengers received a personal welcome from Santa and his elves upon arrival at the North Pole. This year’s flight was supported by \$506 in contributions from members of the airport community.

At the North Terminal, American Airlines hosted a send-off event for 13 Detroit-area families of fallen soldiers bound for Texas as part of the annual **Snowball Express** event, while Southwest Airlines offered travelers free photos with Santa throughout the holiday season as part of a national partnership with Microsoft.

*About Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport*

Having welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2011, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) is Michigan’s busiest airport and one of the world’s leading air transportation hubs. With service from 13 scheduled passenger airlines, DTW offers more than 1200 flights per day to and from nearly 150 destinations on four continents. In 2010, DTW ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among large airports in the J.D. Power and Associates North America Airport Satisfaction Study. With two new, state-of-the-art passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin hotel, DTW is among the world’s most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by **Wayne County Airport Authority**, which also operates nearby Willow Run Airport—an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive any tax dollars to support airport operations. For more information about Metro Detroit’s airports, visit [www.metroairport.com](http://www.metroairport.com).

###