

# LSRPCA and Ferrari of Houston Raise \$4100.00 for the Star of Hope - May 21, 2015

Written by Brian Portugal and Tomi Scantlebury, LSRPCA Charity Chair

**D**espite a hectic race schedule, Don Pierce, C.O.O of Ferrari of Houston, members of his staff and the Ferrari race team, Risi Competizione, hosted 200 LSRPCA members, their family and friends for an incredible evening. Don personally invited our members to put away our Porsche badges to share in the splendor of the machines and our passion for racing to raise money for a very worthy charity, Star of Hope Mission. Star of Hope is a Houston charity dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless men, women and children by helping them to make positive life changes through programs that focus on spiritual growth, education, employment, and recovery from substance abuse.

The Ferrari tour took us through every aspect of the racing program starting with the main garage, followed by the engine room, Challenge garage, Risi Competizione race workshop, body shop, race transporters, and the Ferrari showroom. The evening was filled with so many rare cars! In the Main Garage were the last 5 Ferrari "Supercars" including Ferrari F40, Ferrari Enzo (2x) Ferrari F50, Ferrari 288GTO, Ferrari LaFerrari (the most recent supercar), along with recent and vintage models like the Ferrari California, Ferrari 365GTB/4 Daytona, Ferrari 458 Coupe and Ferrari 458 Spider.

In the Challenge Garage, we saw Ferrari 458 Challenge Cars, another LaFerrari, Ferrari 458 Coupe, Ferrari 458 Spider, Ferrari 575M and Ferrari 599. The 5 series cars are both 12 cylinders, the 4 series are 8, the LaFerrari is a 12 Cylinder with hybrid drive KERS system.

The Risi Competizione garage housed the Ferrari 458 GT, the Risi team car for the 2015 TUDOR United Sports Car Championship, as raced at Sebring, Daytona, Laguna Seca, and Long Beach. Also in the shop were Mazda Spec Racers, the Ferrari 333SP (last raced in 2002 at 24 Hours of Daytona) and the Ferrari 430GT (a winner at Le Mans and Sebring).

Unfortunately, the body shop was off limits with a big project underway, but it is one of only five factory-authorized shops in the USA and works with aluminum, carbon fiber, and Plexiglas composites. The body shop has an Accudraft paint prep area and paint booths, CarBench frame machine, and a PPG computerized paint mixing system.

When Don had the Ferrari team warm up one of the racecars, the Sebring winning Ferrari 430, the sound was indescribable and unforgettable, as the exhaust thundered off the garage walls at 8.900 rpm. An evening that started with huge gourmet pizzas and drinks, thoughtfully provided by Ferrari of Houston, culminated with closing remarks and a drawing for a variety of Ferrari memorabilia.

On behalf of the Lone Star Region, a special 'Thank You' to our hosts Don Pierce, Eydie Anderson, Steven Sustich, Miles Bradley, Randy Nester, Eric Frazier, Joe Maniaci, Giuseppe DiBlasio and also Flor, Julio, Juanito and Gino (porters and staff) for making this a truly memorable and successful event. Thanks also to our wonderful LSRPCA volunteers that evening, Ann and Jeff Kraase, Linda Parker, Kevin Roth, Murray Smith and Jack Smyth, who graciously gave their time, and to Ken Tubman and Greg Fuller, who orchestrated the web registration and announcements for the event.



And a very special thanks to LSR Member Brian Portugal, liaison with Ferrari, for all his hard work and efforts. Thanks to Brian, all aspects of the evening were covered and the event went flawlessly. If you didn't get a chance to attend, Don has kindly alluded to having another in 2017, so watch for opportunities to join us for another fabulous evening!



F40 Ferrari



Don Pierce, Ferrari of Houston C.O.O., leads the tour.



First Love.



The Italian Batmobile - LaFerrari in race trim.