



## 2016 Year in Review

Celebrations, wellness offerings, opportunities to give something back and opportunities to kick back were on tap in 2016. Herewith are some of the highlights...

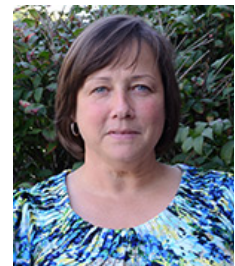
### *Charitable endeavors and a year of giving*

Quarterly Jeans Week fundraisers in spring, summer and early fall—Apna Ghar, Operation Save Our Troops and The Hero Initiative—collectively generated *more than \$10,000* during 2016--\$10,155 to be exact, with \$3,385 from direct MDRT staff contributions and matching funds from MDRT and the MDRT Foundation. Donations went to these charitable organizations on behalf of MDRT and **Shalini D'Souza, Kathy Angelini and Rob Mikrut**, who suggested the worthy fundraiser recipients:



*Apna Ghar provides holistic services and conducts advocacy across immigrant communities to end gender violence*

*Operation Support Our Troops-America provides comfort and care at home and away to active duty military, military families and veterans across the United States*



*The Hero Initiative is the first federally chartered not-for-profit corporation dedicated to helping comic book creators in need, creating a financial safety net and an avenue back into paying work*

MDRT's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive launched November 1. By holiday time, staffers collected boxes upon boxes of non-perishable food items and household staples for families in need throughout the community.



Left: Anne Dignan (left) and Vickie Lekan help launch MDRT's Thanksgiving Food Drive



During the more than three-week run of **Project Shoebox**, the MDRT family donated enough desperately needed items to fill nearly 30 gift boxes for Park Ridge-based Avenues of Independence, which provides homes, jobs and community living programs to Chicago-area adults with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Sue Armanetti was one of MDRT's many Project Shoebox donors in 2016

The first post-Thanksgiving Tuesday marked MDRT's and MDRT Foundation's participation in #GivingTuesday. Far surpassing 2015 results, 66 MDRT donors in 15 countries raised \$17,485 to support the MDRT Foundation's global grant programs, which benefit children and adults in need worldwide. The November 29 giving event—the fifth global event—marked MDRT's and the Foundation's third year of participation.



Led by Karen Matts (second from right), Awa Paniah, Liana Mora, Zach Mory and Jennifer Schimka collectively quarterbacked MDRT's worldwide participation in this year's #GivingTuesday event



Sixty-six MDRT donors in 15 countries contributed \$17,485 to support the MDRT Foundation's global grant programs

### ***Family celebrations--bridal and baby showers...***

A surprise lunch set the stage for Brittany Lange's bridal shower on August 8.





Mike DePilla, meanwhile, was caught off-guard at an October 5 baby shower in his honor just days before the birth of his first child. Katie Keuneke shared collective wisdom from Mike's co-workers to help him survive the first few months.



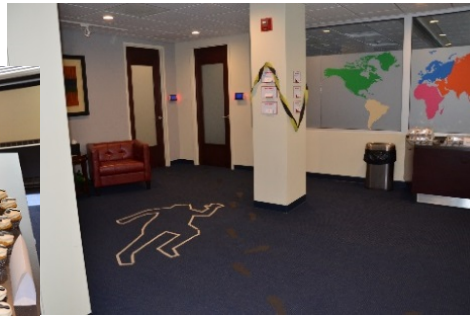
*...plus work anniversaries and retirements*

Mary Lou Jacobs' retirement was marked by accolades, a show of long-time appreciation and a photo montage on May 5 that celebrated her significant MDRT career.





A murder mystery theme and montage of career photos set to music set the stage for the July 11 lunch-time celebration of **Marie Holcomb's** significant tenure at MDRT:



Despite his request for a low-key exit after 32 years on the job, **Ray Kopcinski** returned from lunch with fellow directors to find the entire MDRT family poised for a surprise celebration on October 7.

*Post-retirement, Ray Kopcinski shares photo time with a meme that, according to MDRT folklore, followed Ray through much of his MDRT career*



A nostalgic recap, not short on humor, chronicled highlights of **Marianne Thvedt's** 30 years at MDRT, compliments of **Don Noverini**, at an October 17 celebration.

Rounding out the year was the December 9 recognition of **Sue Felix's** 25 years in Information Technology, Accounting/Finance and back to IT again with a Mexican food/Movie Night theme.

**Wellness, summer outings and just plain fun**

Health Week launched with a series of wellness seminars, demos and other offerings the week of July 18, including a two-day session by nationally recognized health expert and media personality Andrea Metcalf, featuring “Fast Food Fixes” and “10 questions employees want answered but are afraid to ask.”

The week progressed with healthy food options, art therapy (yes, *art* therapy), lunch- and break-time outdoor walks, make-your-own snack and smoothie stations, chair massages, mani/pedi appointments and more. MassMutual was on hand to focus on the importance of financial health, as well—all compliments of the Human Resources team’s **Laura Good** and **Naadia Chaudhry**.



Art Therapy sessions were a hit among those who gladly swapped computers and smart phones for paint, brushes and easels, while blood pressure dropped during this well-received Health Week offering.



Morning and afternoon Walk-Arounds during the summer months provided a chance to get outside and get the blood pumping.



The building emptied out mid-day on August 31 to make way for an **end-of-summer outing at TopGolf** in west suburban Wood Dale. Foursomes hit the computerized driving range and mini-links, punctuated by complimentary lessons with the resident pro, a Mexican-themed buffet, awards and, of course, plenty of photos to get us through the winter months. **Mike Bonifert** scored a hole-in-one on the mini-course... in a fashion, so did **Mary Ellen Klatt**.



*Left: Wielding the trophy for his winning foursome is Wayne Schmeiser, with (from left) Don Noverini, Audra Kubilius and an incognito Kim Cambric*



*Enjoying a break between swings are Mike DePilla (left), Vic Bianchini, Kathy Angelini and Meghan Keelean*



*Power foursome Laura McGrady (left), Linda Reamer, Patti Pereyra and Zach Mory*



*Power foursome plus one: Naadia Chaudhry (left), Gina Fadin, Laura Good, Steve Stahr and Tammy Johnson-Peón*



*Two holes-in-one highlighted Mike Bonifert's four-some, with Mike's impressive shot on the mini-links (near right), followed almost immediately by a hole-in-one of a different sort by Mary Ellen Klatt*



**Not to forget holidays and celebrations...**

First out of the gate, a soup-and-salad Souper Bowl Party on February 5 kicked off Super Bowl weekend before the big



the Friday game.

Hard Core T-Shirt Days celebrated our MDRTeam.





And a lavish sweet table was the centerpiece of a Valentine's Day Celebration.



Staffers picked up on a Halloween vibe with a contest to “Name the Pumpkin.” Gina Fadin captured first place honors with “The Grinch,” earning her a \$50 gift certificate. Second place, along with a \$25 gift certificate, went to Joanne Consiglio for her rendition of “Frankenvenge.” Mary Ellen Klatt nabbed third place and a \$10 certificate for “The Cubs.” Special recognition and \$10 certificates also went to Naadia Chaudhry for “Scary Pumpkin,” Griselda Verdin for “Sugar Skull” and Jennifer Witkov for “Big Bird.”

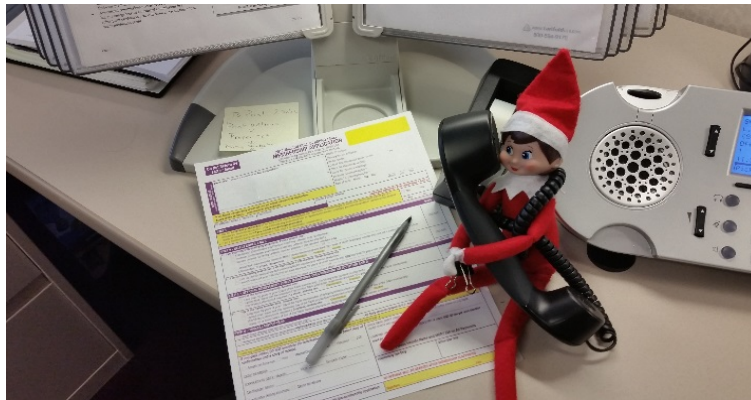
These edible mementos showed up at the office following the Cubs’ 2016 World Series Championship in early November. (The lone Sox cookie was in deference to Steve Stahr and other fans of Chicago’s South Side team.)



Staff joined a December 7 Executive Committee meeting-in-progress California-style—California *casual*, that is—at the Westin O’Hare, with a festive breakfast buffet, team photos with a Southern California-clad Santa with reindeer and palm trees, networking and a Q&A with the Executive Committee. ExCom members fielded questions about strategy, MDRT priorities and balancing work and personal time...



...while an elf named Pixie—the subject of a host of Yammers—continues to crop up in nearly every proverbial nook throughout MDRT headquarters.



The week of December 12 was a full one. **Monday Jeans Days** resumed for the winter, followed by a long-overdue **Staff Gift Exchange** and the annual **Cookie Exchange** on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a combined **Festive Sweater—and Pizza—Day** on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Crowning the week *and* the year was the **Annual Holiday Lunch “Yee-Haw”-style** at Bub City restaurant in Rosemont on December 16. Proceeds from the **Holiday Raffle** will benefit *Have Dreams*, a Chicago-area nonprofit organization serving children, teens and young adults impacted by autism.





*For those who are not featured in this abbreviated "2016 Year in Review," our apologies.  
An expanded version of this retrospective will find a home on the ATM.*

*December 2016*