

The four lucky winners and Darren Wolke prepare to race after placing winning bids for rides in the NASCAR.

Revvin' Up Dollars for the United Way 2005 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN Communications Sep 30, 2005

Have you ever dreamed of manning the wheel, gunning the engines and accelerating at speeds of more than 100 mph in an actual NASCAR? Three Fleet Services' employees and one employee family member did just that on Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 27, at Raceway Park in Shakopee, Minn., after each winning one of four NASCAR drives in the United Way e-auction. Darren Wolke, remarketing associate and NASCAR owner, donated the drives for the e-auction.

Wolke, who has been racing the NASCAR in the Late Model division of the NASCAR Dodge Weekly Series for the more than 30 years, said he wanted to do something different for this year's e-auction.

"I thought that we could raise some money for the United Way and have a lot of fun doing it." Wolke said of his donation. "Also, it gave me a chance to expose people to racing who might not be familiar with it on a high level."

And exposed they were. Randy Graunke, small fleet sales account manager, Mike Kellen, husband of Rhonda Kellen, reporting associate, Tom Miller, global sourcing senior counsel, and Mike Shea, operations leader, all looped the track several times and experienced the trials of being a NASCAR driver.

Miller said of the experience, "Driving the NASCAR was intimidating at first, but it greatly increased my appreciation of the skill that the professional drivers must have in order to be successful. These cars are extremely powerful and responsive. The slightest misjudgment can cause you to lose control, which fortunately didn't happen to any of us."

All four drivers said they would like to thank Wolke again for what Shea summed up as an "awesome experience."



Randy Graunke, who owned and ran an Endura class car at Raceway Park, gets a "little taste" of NASCAR driving.



Mike Shea gets instructions from Darren Wolke before speeding off.