

Forget Horsepower, Toyota Indiana Plant Powered by People

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Dedication, eye toward quality and safety results in 4.3 million vehicles built past 20 years

Over the past 20 years, Toyota Indiana has built 4.3 million vehicles. But it isn't the planning, engineering, problem solving or high-pace of the assembly line that stands out to Norm Bafunno, the plant's president. It's the people.

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"My first day on the job as president, a team member came up to me and said she would like to talk about a policy the plant had. I thought to myself, 'oh boy, what's coming next.' As it turns out, it wasn't something she wanted changed that would benefit her, but, rather, she wanted to donate her vacation days to another team member whose son was sick and in the hospital. In a nutshell, that defines who we are."

Toyota Indiana leaders and team members commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Princeton plant. Team members marked the milestone by donating two Sienna minivans to local non-profits committed to helping get more people to more places, on the road and in life. (Photo: Business Wire)

Today, the Princeton, Ind., plant celebrates 20 years of building vehicles. What started as the original plant to

make the Tundra, now boasts the Sienna minivan, Sequoia full-size SUV and the Highlander and Highlander Hybrid midsize SUV. In addition to a celebration concert for team members in August and an open house planned for a later date, two local non-profit groups received Siennas to mark the anniversary.

These vehicle donations highlight Toyota's commitment to the future of mobility—getting more people to more places, on the road and in life. The Sienna minivans were given to Aurora Inc., an organization dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in the community, and the Gibson County Counsel on Aging, a group that provides transportation to seniors in need.

"This minivan will help us make an impact in the lives of people right here in Gibson County by keeping them mobile," said Michelle Fry, executive director, Gibson County Counsel on Aging. "Our service is the only way many of our seniors are able to get out to vital places such as the doctor, pharmacy and grocery store."

Since groundbreaking for that original Tundra in 1996, the plant and its 5,000 team members have plenty to celebrate:

- \$4.3 billion investment in the operation
- 24,058 jobs in Indiana (including direct, intermediate and spin-off employment)

- 29 top vehicle picks by Consumer Reports
- 11 J.D. Power Initial Quality Awards and 16 J.D. Power Vehicle Dependability Awards
- 265,000 volunteer hours donated by team members and \$23 million in donations to area groups
- 3 expansions
- Exports of vehicles to 27 countries

“From the first Tundra produced to the current vehicle line-up, we are proud of the accomplishments of the Toyota Indiana team members,” said Osamu “Simon” Nagata, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Toyota Motor North America, Inc. “It is clear the plant has a long and bright future ahead.”

Orvietta Shannon joined Toyota before the plant opened as a human resources specialist. It was through this role that she helped hire the original team and says it was, and still is, like a family. Twenty years later, Shannon works in Diversity and Inclusion and says TMMI’s first class team is always thinking about how to improve the product.

“It really comes down to our culture,” Shannon said. “Our team members have a special pride in their work and you see it in everything they do. We talk about continuous improvement, and you see them constantly going above and beyond to make things better.”

Bafunno, who started at TMMI 19 ½ years ago as a general manager, said in addition to the dedicated team members, the plant’s suppliers and community support played pivotal roles in helping the facility exceed expectations.

“Toyota Indiana has been a true community partner for twenty years,” said Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb. “They continue to make important local investments and provide a top-notch work environment for more than 5,000 Hoosiers, and we could not be more proud that they call Indiana home.”

And although TMMI has celebrated many milestones, team members say it was during the tough times that people saw Toyota’s true commitment to them. While idle for three months during the 2008 economic downturn, the plant kept all of its workers, setting up classrooms and teaching them skills needed for the future. Bafunno said those skills are still used today and help propel the plant forward. Team members were also given the option to volunteer at local non-profits and be paid by Toyota.

“Our team members’ capability to adapt and to learn and apply those skills each day has enabled those results to occur,” Bafunno says. “It not only helps establish a great reputation, but, also, really builds a bridge to the future.”

About Toyota Indiana

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, home of the Highlander and Highlander Hybrid midsize SUVs, Sequoia full-size SUV and Sienna minivan, is located in Princeton, Ind. The company broke ground in May 1996 and is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Nestled on 1,160 acres, more than 5,000 Toyota team members are employed at the 4.2-million-square-foot facility, which has been a zero waste to landfill facility since 2005.

More than 375,000 vehicles were produced at Toyota Indiana in 2015, and more than 66,000 units were exported to more than 27 countries.

To date, Toyota Indiana has donated more than \$23 million to nonprofit agencies in the Tri-State and paid more than \$119 million in local property taxes.

Those interested in taking a tour of the plant may call the Visitors Center at 888-696-8211 or go online at www.tourtoyotaindiana.com to request a reservation. “Like” our Visitors Center by going to www.facebook.com/tmmivc.

About Toyota

Toyota (NYSE:TM), the world's top automaker and creator of the Prius and the Mirai fuel cell vehicle, is

committed to building vehicles for the way people live through our **Toyota, Lexus and Scion** brands. Over the past 50 years, we've built more than 30 million cars and trucks in North America, where we operate 14 manufacturing plants (10 in the U.S.) and directly employ more than 44,000 people (more than 34,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships (1,500 in the U.S.) sold more than 2.8 million cars and trucks (nearly 2.5 million in the U.S.) in 2015 – and about 80 percent of all Toyota vehicles sold over the past 20 years are still on the road today.

Toyota partners with philanthropic organizations across the country, with a focus on education, safety and the environment. As part of this commitment, we share the company's extensive know-how garnered from building great cars and trucks to help community organizations and other nonprofits expand their ability to do good. For more information about Toyota, visit www.toyotanewsroom.com.

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Contact:

Toyota Motor North America
Karen Johnston
Manager External Affairs
812-215-9103

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