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'Hoot' gives a hoot for the needy

Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney, successful car dealer and philanthropist, has been named this year's Support Our Capuchin Kitchen chairperson. It will be the 35th year for the annual event which typically draws more than 1,400 people from throughout the metro area.

A native of Detroit and now a Bloomfield Hills resident, McInerney has been a supporter and co-chair of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen since 1980. He has chosen to revive the original baseball theme from the original SOCK dinners. Once billed as the "Men's Only" Baseball dinner, SOCK originated in 1942. More than 100 men showed up for the dinner, which was held in the old Soup Kitchen building on Mt. Elliott Street.

Each attendee paid \$5 and listened to Connie Mack talk baseball for over two hours. Over the years, such notables as Ted Williams, Casey Stengel, Joe Garagiola, Mickey Mantle and Satchel Paige came to the event to talk baseball.

Retired Tigers players are scheduled to be on hand for the 35th annual SOCK dinner, 6-9 p.m. Oct. 15, at the

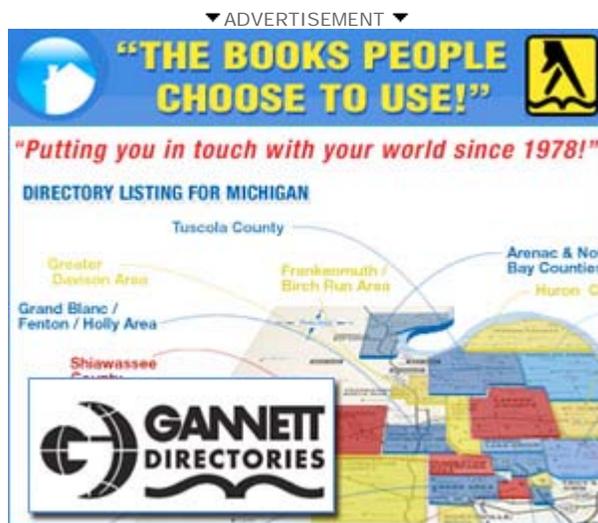
Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center. The evening includes a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner and entertainment.

Sport personality Jim Brandstatter will serve as this year's SOCK emcee.

McInerney began his career in the auto industry as a young boy working for an auto dealership on the east side of Detroit. He was paid 50 cents a week to keep the coal furnace stoked over cold weekends. McInerney also "hung out" at the dealership, running back and forth between the dealership's one radio and the workers, announcing the ball scores. In 1963, Chrysler offered him his first dealership. Fifty years later, McInerney has become a successful

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businessman, owning seven dealerships in the metro Detroit area.

The list of charities McInerney supports is extensive. He established the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Men of Mercy in 1974. He is one of the founders of the J.P. McCarthy Foundation in honor of his late and renowned radio personality friend who was diagnosed with and succumbed to myelodysplastic syndrome, and the Millie Schembechler Memorial Golf Benefit.

In 1983, McInerney received the March of Dimes Humanitarian Award. In 1999, he was honored with the George Romney Award for Lifetime Achievement in Volunteerism; 2003, he was awarded with the Goodfellow of the Year Award; 2005, on the 30th anniversary of Men of Mercy's Celebrity Night, he was honored as one of the "Original Man of Mercy" by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Last year's SOCK dinner raised more than \$400,000. Tickets for this year's event are available at \$250 per person and can be purchased by calling (313) 579-2100, Ext. 202. A silent auction with more than 100 items will be featured.

Founded in 1929, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen serves metro Detroit by providing food, clothing and spiritual counsel to those in need. Preparing and serving more than 2,000 meals a day, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen also distributes household items and operates a shower program, food pantry and children's tutoring and art therapy program. Additionally, its Earth Works organic garden produces vegetables for Detroit's hungry, and educates the community in regards to sustainable relationships between human beings and the earth.

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