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## **West Marine grand opening celebration raises over \$13,500 for local charities**

KEMAH, Texas -- [West Marine](#), the country's largest specialty retailer of boating supplies and accessories, announced that over \$13,500 was raised for local charities at the grand opening celebration of its newest flagship location in Kemah, Texas. Located at 1401 Marina Bay Drive, it is the largest West Marine Flagship Store in Texas. At 25,000 square feet, it is three times the size of a standard West Marine Store.

To launch the grand opening weekend, West Marine held a "Cruising for a Cause" event. Tickets were available for ten dollars through: the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Galveston Bay Foundation, Sea Legs, Inc., the Lakewood Yacht Club, Gateway Community Boating Center, Yachty Gras and the Texas Mariners Cruising Association. A live auction and raffle was held on site and all of the proceeds benefited these local charities.

"We at TMCA would like to thank West Marine for giving us the opportunity to participate in the Grand Opening event," said Steve Lee, Commodore of the Texas Mariners Cruising Association. "Our educational boating program will benefit greatly from this." The TMCA is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1979 to promote cruising and related activities.

A highlight of the live auction was a fishing trip donated by Capt. Bill Platt of Team Papatonic and Garmin. Edgar Hansen of the fishing vessel Northwestern, as featured on Discovery Channel's "Deadliest Catch" agreed to join the crew to sweeten the deal. The winning bid of \$3500 was donated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

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General Manager, Nolan Vander-Haagen and his wife, Ana Vander-Haagen, stand just outside of West Marine with Geoff Eisenberg, CEO, West Marine.

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