

WIN! \$150 to give to an OC nonprofit #iheartOC



Do you *heart* Orange County?

As a native to this fine county, I sure do! The Orange County Community Foundation ([OCCF](#)) is holding the first ever countywide [GIVING DAY on April 21-22](#). During a 30-hour period Orange County can give to one of [340 pre-approved nonprofits](#) in hopes that we can collectively raise \$2 million. It is kind of, sorta of, like an online telethon.

Leading up to that day, OCCF is giving away \$150 to three winners! These winners will be given \$150 to grant to the nonprofit of their choice. (Gift cards will be in \$25 increments.) For all the rules and more information, go [here](#).

Sounds pretty good, right? You could win a tax-deductible donation to give to, let's say, The Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Alzheimer's Association: OC Chapter, Angel Cat Pet Adoptions or Free Wheelchair Mission, just to name a few of the more than 340 participating in Giving Day.

Please take the time to enter! The giveaway ends on April 20 at 8 a.m. so don't put it off!

[a Rafflecopter giveaway](#)

Test Drive: Look at that Cadillac

I didn't even realize I was a Caddie Girl until General Motors asked me what kind of car I wanted to test drive for a week. "Pick any car you want!" They told me. I had an Escalade that I loved, but traded down to a smaller 2005 Cadillac SRX about a year ago. Man I love that car. Zippy and with the raddest license plate ever.



Right? (I'm a little bit of an Anaheim Ducks fan) So I thought I'd give the new 2011 Cadillac SRX a spin. I made the right choice. With its V6 turbo pick up, in blue frost metallic and soft leather seats it quickly drove itself right up to the top of my "next car" list. Equipped with a GPS that allowed me to simply key in "Ruby's" and it pulled up the address and sent me right there. I love that! We drove it up to stay at The Georgian in Santa Monica. My kids loved the DVD system and I loved that the whole trip—OC to LA and back—didn't even take a whole tank of gas. We even drove around Los Angeles, hitting the Skirball Center, Mel's Diner and The Grove. Watch the video for the play by play of that trip.



After the week was up all five of the blogger spent one last morning with our cars shooting this video in Newport Beach. We all loved our cars and when the cameras stopped rolling, we

schemed together on ways we could keep them for longer. We had a blast shooting this and check out Marcy's trip in the opening sequence. Classic.



Mom Bloggers invade etnies

This week etnies, the OC-based action sports footwear and apparel maker, invited a whole load of mom bloggers (and a dad blogger) to their headquarters in Lake Forest to learn more about the company, tour the facilities and meet the founder and CEO, former professional skateboarder, Pierre Andre Senizergues.

I'm supportive of any company that sees the value of the mom blogger and who understands our needs—childcare, Diet Coke and discount shopping were all provided. It was fun to get an inside look at how much research and actual science goes into making a great pair of shoes.

etnies products irrefutably swank and smartly made, but, what impressed me the most was the people of etnies. Everyone I met was gracious, helpful and you got the feeling they were all just happy to be there doing their job. As in most cases, I believe this kind of company spirit starts at the top—with the leader.

Pierre's passion (which again, was felt in the staff as well) for quality, safe footwear for the sport he obviously loves was infectious and I found myself interested in the biochemics of skateboarding, their patented cushioning technology, and the 2,500 cycles each prototype of shoe endures in the Ollie /

Kickflip Test Machine.

I guess that's why I spend a lot of time in this video listening to Pierre talk about how he got where he is today and what motivates him. I get downright giddy about people with a purpose, don't you? (And it's not just his French accent, but all the mom bloggers agreed that there is nothing cuter than hearing a man with a French accent say, "Babies.") He is also wildly committed to the environment, but I will let Green Mom cover that for you.

Hope you enjoy the video:

[OC Family Mom Bloggers tour etnies headquarters](#) from [Suzanne Broughton](#) on [Vimeo](#).