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EDITOR'S NOTE: For a full auction catalog go to <http://auction.dukechildrens.org>

**THE 16TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR BALL, BLACK-TIE GALA AUCTION TO
BENEFIT DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

DURHAM, N.C.- Hundreds will gather Friday for a night of elegance including dancing, hors d'oeuvres, and silent and live bidding. The 16th Annual Teddy Bear Ball, benefiting Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center will be held Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Durham Marriott at the Civic Center.

The event has seen great success in the past, raising over \$2 million for the kids at Duke. The event pairs teddy bears with more than 300 auction items. Weekend getaways, spa treatments, and golfing and sports packages are among the many items included in the silent auction. The live auction offers amazing packages including a trip to New York complete with two tickets to "Mamma Mia" on Broadway, a ski trip to Vail, CO, and the opportunity to be an honorary crew member for NASCAR's Jeff Burton, and a chance to take home a double strand of Mikimoto pearls. Last year's Ball raised more than \$350,00 for the kids at Duke Children's.

The final auction item of the evening will be the "Wishes" quilt. The quilt, inspired by the writings of Duke Children's patients, was designed and hand beaded by patients in the hospital and at Duke's Camp Kaleidoscope.

The best item the Ball has to offer is not an item at all; it is the chance to help the children at Duke. Children like Pierce Hoover, who will be featured at this year's Ball. Pierce, a 14-year-old cancer survivor, was a top local tennis player when he was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) the day before his 12th birthday. Now in remission, he is determined not to let his disease prevent him from playing the sports he loves. He has risen to

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the top of his game again and won the state doubles championship earlier this year. Pierce is a wonderful example of the determination so many patients at Duke Children's possess.

Duke Children's Hospital is one of the largest children's charities in the Southeast, providing more than \$48 million in unreimbursed charity medical care each year, making events such as the Teddy Bear Ball so important. For more information about the Teddy Bear Ball and Duke Children's Hospital visit www.dukechildrens.org.

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