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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DUKE CHILDREN'S PATIENT TO BE HONORARY RINGMASTER AT
DUKE GRAND PRIX**

RALEIGH, N.C.— The Duke Children's Benefit Horse Show Grand Prix will be off to a trotting start with patient Sarah Crawford holding the reins. The event, which benefits the Duke Children's Hospital, jumps into action at the Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. Horse Complex in Raleigh at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 12.

Raleigh's own Sarah Crawford, who loves riding ponies, will kick off the evening's equestrian competition.

The nine-year-old, born with spina bifida, a birth defect of the spinal cord, joined the Duke Children's family when she was six hours old. She underwent her first major surgery less than a day later.

Many years ago, spina bifida was a death sentence. Sarah proves this is no longer the case and she will ride a pony into the ring Saturday night.

Aside from her annual visit to Duke Children's, Sarah leads a normal life. She has gone from a one-day-old having major surgery to a nine-year-old riding ponies and studying Greek mythology.

About Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center:

Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center, located in Durham, N.C., is nationally ranked among the best in pediatric health care programs. For more information please visit www.dukechildrens.org

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