



**March 28, 2007**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Notes to Editors:*

*A b-roll package containing footage of Washington, D.C. events will be available via satellite feed. Please visit [www.cmn.org/pr](http://www.cmn.org/pr) to register for an uplink time slot. The satellite media tour featuring Miss America 2007 Lauren Nelson will take place on Friday, March 30, 2007.*

## **FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD HONORED AS CHAMPION IN D.C., DISNEY WORLD VISIT**

MICOLE HOLLEY WILL REPRESENT NORTH CAROLINA AT THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK CELEBRATION IN D.C., ORLANDO

DURHAM, N.C.(March 28, 2007)— Micole Holley of Butner, N.C. will visit Washington, D.C. and Walt Disney World as part of Champions Across America presented by CO-OP Financial Services. This Children's Miracle Network event gives kids the opportunity to share their remarkable stories with the world.

Before she goes she'll be honored locally in grand fashion. Micole will be picked up from South Granville High School in a limousine, where Mayor Darryl Moss will declare March 28 Micole Holley Day with an official proclamation. Micole and her family will then travel to the McGovern-Davison Children's Health Center for a small celebration before heading off to the airport.

Micole, who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma—bone cancer—at the young age of 10, is a true champion. This trip is a way to honor her victory over cancer and the soldiers in that battle—the caregivers at Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center. Micole's courageous tale began when she fell on the playground at school. No one expected that tragedy would hit and lives would be changed forever, Micole had cancer.

Four years later, with a steel bone in her leg and no signs of cancer Micole has much to celebrate, and the nation will celebrate with her. As one of more than 50 children representing each state in the Champions Across America program, she has been invited to Washington, D.C. as an ambassador of more than 17 million hospitalized kids.

While in Washington, D.C. the champions will tour the sites of the city, have lunch with senators and representatives and participate in a national press event with country music artist Tracy Byrd and Miss America 2007 Lauren Nelson. They will then board a plane bound for Orlando, Fla. where they will be honored in a Champions Medal Ceremony at Walt Disney World and then have time to enjoy the theme park.

“I never cease to be amazed at the incredible strength and courage these Champion children display,” said Tracy Byrd, active Children’s Miracle Network supporter. “Each one’s life is a testament to the phenomenal pediatric care being provided at Children’s Miracle Network hospitals.” Byrd will accompany the Champion children to Washington, D.C., then to Walt Disney World.

“What an honor to spend a few days getting to know these incredible children,” said Lauren Nelson. “I look forward to meeting each child and helping them share their remarkable stories with the entire country.”

### **Background:**

Micole is treated at Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center, one of 170 Children’s Miracle Network hospitals. Today she represents the three North Carolina Children’s Miracle Network hospitals: Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center, Durham, N.C.; The Children’s Hospital at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, N.C.; and University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina’s Children’s Hospital, Greenville, N.C.

Duke Children’s Hospital is nationally ranked among the best in pediatric health care programs. Caring for children is our number one priority, from routine check-ups and immunizations to the treatment of life-threatening injuries and illnesses. Duke Children’s provides hope and the most advanced health care available. For more information about Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center visit [www.dukechildrens.org](http://www.dukechildrens.org).

The Champions Across America program is sponsored by CO-OP Financial Services, a proud supporter of Children’s Miracle Network.

Children’s Miracle Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children by raising funds and awareness for 170 children’s hospitals throughout North America. Each year these non-profit hospitals treat 17 million children with diseases and injuries of every kind. For more information visit [www.cmn.org](http://www.cmn.org)

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## **About Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center:**

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