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Duke Children's Champion to Sing National Anthem at Mini-car Race to Benefit Children's Hospital

WILMINGTON, N.C. -- Local businesses will race their customized mini-Nascar go-carts around a one-third mile track for the Cape Fear Mini Grand Prix Saturday, October 7 at Westfield Independence Mall to benefit kids like Abron Kelly at Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center.

Abron Kelly, 11, the 2006-2007 Duke Children's Champion child and Wilmington resident, is slated to sing the national anthem to kick off the go-cart race Saturday, October 7. Her miracle story video will be unveiled at the Cape Fear Mini Grand Prix Pre-race Party Friday, October 6 at 8:00 p.m. The Pre-race Party will be held at Screen Gems Studio beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Abron was born with a rare disease called ocular motor apraxia and also suffers from a kidney disease called nephronophthisis that has resulted in advanced kidney failure. After spending about a year on dialysis both at Duke Children's and at home, Abron has recently undergone a successful kidney transplant. She has been feeling great and is focusing on her role as the Duke Children's Champion child.

The Cape Fear Mini Grand Prix raises money to benefit pediatric programs at Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center in Durham, N.C. Funds from the event support endeavors such as research, family education classes, toys and outreach programs. More than 1,500 children from the New Hanover area receive care at Duke Children's annually making events such as the Cape Fear Mini Grand Prix not only a fun way to spend a Saturday, but also an essential part of helping kids heal physically, mentally and emotionally at Duke Children's.

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. Caring for children is our number one priority, from routine check-ups and immunizations to the treatment of life-threatening injuries and illnesses. At Duke Children's, we provide hope and the most advanced health care available. Offering innovative procedures including stem cell and bone marrow transplants as well as a variety of support services for our patients and their families, Duke Children's cares for children from around the world. For more information visit www.dukechildrens.org.

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