



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****RESCHEDULED DATE****

**Wilmington Girl to Sing National Anthem at Mini-car Race
to Benefit Children's Hospital**

WILMINGTON, N.C. (Nov. 4, 2005) – **Abron Kelly**, nine-year-old Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center patient, is slated to sing the National Anthem to kick off the first-ever Cape Fear Mini Grand Prix go-cart race at Westfield Independence Mall this Saturday.

Abron suffers from a very rare disease called ocular motor apraxia and is awaiting a kidney transplant. She along with three other children will represent the strength and courage of all Duke Children's patients as they start each heat of the mini grand prix with the famous words, "Gentleman, start your engines!"

The race raises money to benefit pediatric programs at Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center. Funds from the event support research, family education classes, toys, outreach programs and much more. 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 Saturday but also an essential part of helping kids heal physically, mentally and emotionally at Duke Children's.

Sponsors are eager to jump behind the wheel to support the event and the kids. Teams have customized their cars, designed uniforms and made up spirit cheers. Most of all...they have been practicing. Competition has heated up and should make for an exciting race. This free event is open to the public and offers a KidZone, concessions and of course racing excitement. Race day fun begins at 10:00 a.m.

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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