



December 2, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

THE 19TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR BALL, BLACK-TIE GALA AUCTION

DURHAM, N.C. - Supporters of Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center will gather Friday for a formal, fun night of festivities including a wine tasting, silent and live auction bidding, hors d'oeuvres and dancing. The 19th annual Teddy Bear Ball, a black tie gala benefiting Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center, takes place this December 5, at the Durham Marriott at the Civic Center.

This year's event is themed "Flights of Fancy" and is chaired by Dan and Wendy Cooper, parents of pediatric brain tumor patient, Matthew Cooper. The Cooper family commuted for a number of years from California for Matt's treatment. They have since relocated to Durham to be near Duke Children's.

The event has seen great success in the past, raising more than \$3.5 million for the kids at Duke. Attendees bid on more than 250 auction items such as weekend getaways, arts and entertainment excursions, and sports packages, all paired with themed teddy bears. The live auction offers amazing packages including a trip to New York City with tickets to two Disney Broadway Shows and a behind the scenes tour given by a cast member. The auction also includes other unique trips such as a tour of the United States Capitol building hosted by United States Congressman, David Price and a private shopping party at Saks Fifth Avenue at Triangle Town Center Mall among other fabulous offerings.

The final auction item of the evening will be the "Flights of Fancy" quilt. Coinciding with this year's theme the quilt features whimsical birds created from fabrics that were hand-

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dyed, painted, collaged, beaded and stitched by hundreds of patients at Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center.

The best item the Ball has to offer is not an item at all; it is the chance to help the children at Duke.

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 and is an important local source of primary care. For more information visit www.dukechildrens.org.

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