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PHYLICIA RASHAD TO HOST TEDDY BEAR BALL BENEFITING DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL THIS DECEMBER

DURHAM, N.C. – Acclaimed television, movie and Broadway actress, Phylicia Rashad, will host the Teddy Bear Ball to benefit Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center on Saturday, December 3 at the Durham Convention Center. The Teddy Bear Ball is a formal night of fun and festivities, including a wine tasting, live auction, dinner and dancing. Rocky Mount-based FAC, a trucking and logistics company, will serve as the presenting sponsor of the event for the second year.

"We knew from the moment we stepped through the doors of Duke Children's that it was something we wanted to be a part of," said Jim Sabiston, CEO of Great American Equity, which is the parent company of FAC. "It was evident that Duke Children's means so much to so many children and their families. Being a sponsor is not the goal, but doing what we can to advance such a worthy cause as Duke Children's is."

This year's event has a stage and screen theme (Hollywood to Broadway) and will pay homage to Duke Children's role in serving children across the nation. Special Duke Children's songs written by Broadway great, David Friedman, will be performed by Duke Children's patients. Entertainment also includes the John Brown Jazz Orchestra.

Building on the coast-to-coast theme, The V Foundation for Cancer Research, a national cancer fighting charity organization, will be honored for its long-standing commitment to fighting pediatric cancer at Duke Children's.

Now in its 23rd year, the Teddy Bear Ball has been greatly successful, raising more than $2 million for Duke Children's in its history. This year, attendees will bid on more than 150 auction items such as weekend getaways, art, entertainment excursions, and sports packages, all paired with themed teddy bears. Tickets cost $250, and the remaining available sponsorships range in price from $3,000 to

$25,000. In addition to sponsoring the event, interested individuals can also get involved by donating dressed bears or auction items. For more information contact Robyn Soffera at robyn.soffera@duke.edu or 919-385-3141.

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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