

**MEDIA ALERT**

**PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY**

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**4-YEAR-OLD DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & HEALTH CENTER PATIENT  
HONORED AT SEND-OFF EVENT, WILL REPRESENT NORTH CAROLINA  
AS CHAMPION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND ORLANDO**

*Community Invited to Meet Champion and Her Family at Local Ace Hardware Store*

**WHO:** Jayla Turner, 4, Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center patient, and family  
Bob and Donna King, Seaboard Ace Hardware owners  
Maddisson Sheppard, Former Miss Gastonia 2011, Miss North Carolina 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up  
Staff from Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center

**WHAT:** Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center and Bob and Donna King, Ace Hardware owners, will honor Jayla as the North Carolina Champion in the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champions program. Ace Hardware staff and customers will greet Jayla and her family as she prepares for her trip to Orlando, FL, and Washington, D.C.

Additionally, Jayla is the focus of an upcoming Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' icon campaign for Ace Hardware stores in North Carolina. A surprise sneak peek of her photo on an icon product display will be available at the event. This family-friendly community event will include Zoe the Clown, face painting, the Ace Hardware Worker Ant mascot, live music and more.

Born with Complete DiGeorge Syndrome, a rare and often fatal disease that leaves babies without a working immune system, Jayla was forced to live in complete isolation from the outside world. After receiving a thymus transplant at Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center, Jayla was able to generate the disease-fighting T-cells that make up the immune system, making her attendance at a fun, public event like this possible. Today, she is a happy, healthy preschooler. For defying all odds, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has named her its North Carolina Champion.

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 24, 2011  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
Schedule of Events:

12:55 PM - 1:00 PM	Jayla and parents grand arrival to Champion Send-Off Event
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Champion Send-Off Event presented by Ace Hardware, includes presentations by Seaboard Ace Hardware
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Champion photo opportunity and Jayla will autograph fund-raising icons

- more -

**WHERE:** Seaboard Ace Hardware  
802 Semart Drive, Raleigh, NC 27604  
(919) 834-8600

**WHY:** Every year, the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® Champions program identifies a child with a remarkable medical story from each state. These Champions serve as ambassadors for the 17 million children treated at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals annually. The Champions and their families will travel to Orlando, FL and Washington, D.C., in October to highlight the vital work of children's hospitals.

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals raises funds for 170 children's hospitals across North America. Ace Hardware is celebrating its 20th anniversary as a Children's Miracle Network Hospitals supporter, having raised more than \$46 million for the charity since 1991.

**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. We are also a critical local resource - taking care of 60 percent of Durham's children with more than 70 percent of patients coming from central North Carolina. For more information please visit [www.dukechildrens.org](http://www.dukechildrens.org).

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