

Contact: Jenna Tie
Jenna.Tie@duke.edu
919-385-3147

For Immediate Release

North Carolina Champion Honored with Send-Off Event at Seaboard Ace Hardware in Raleigh, N.C.

Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center patient heads to Orlando, Fla., and Washington, D.C., as Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion

DURHAM, N.C., September 26, 2011– Jayla Turner was the guest of honor at a fun-filled event on Saturday, September 24, 2011 as family, friends and representatives from Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center gathered at Seaboard Ace Hardware Store in Raleigh to bid "bon voyage" to the soon-to-be traveler. The ceremony helped kick-off Jayla's official involvement as North Carolina's Champion for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®, a charity that raises funds for 170 children's hospitals across North America.



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.

Jayla was recognized by Duke Children's as well as Ace Hardware store owners Bob and Donna King, who presented Jayla's family with a \$150 in-store gift card. The family-friendly community event included special guest Maddisson Sheppard, Miss Gastonia 2011 and Miss North Carolina 2nd Runner-Up; Zoe the Clown; face painting; the Ace Hardware Worker Ant mascot; and live music.

Community members unable to attend the send-off event can still participate by supporting Jayla and other children like her. From Sept. 28 through Oct. 31, customers at all participating Ace Hardware stores who make a donation of \$1 or more will receive a "Champion Icon" to sign to support their local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, which prominently displays Jayla's photo. The Champion Icons will be displayed in-store to raise additional awareness for the campaign.

The 2011 North Carolina Champion Icon with Jayla's photo will be displayed at all participating Ace Hardware stores across North Carolina.

In addition, from Sept. 28 through Oct. 3, each customer who makes a donation of \$1 or more will receive a \$5 coupon to redeem on a future visit at Ace Hardware. Customers can also purchase featured products from

Procter & Gamble, another supporter of the Champions program. This year, 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.

The Children's Miracle Network Hospitals fundraising campaign taking place at participating Ace Hardware stores is part of the larger Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' Champions program. Each year, the organization designates a child from every state and Washington, D.C., who has been treated at an affiliate hospital for a serious injury or illness. These children become Champions and serve as ambassadors for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals during the charity's annual *Celebration* event at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Champions conclude their trip with several days in Washington, D.C., to tour the city and visit the White House.

To learn more about the program and to read about Jayla and other Champions' stories, please visit www.cmnhospitals.org/champions. For photos of this week's send-off event, contact Jenna Tie at jenna.tie@duke.edu.

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.

About Children's Miracle Network Hospitals:

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® raises funds for more than 170 children's hospitals across North America. These hospitals use the money where it's needed the most. When a donation is given it stays in the community, helping local kids. Since 1983, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has raised more than \$4 billion, most of it \$1 at a time. These donations have gone to support research and training, purchase equipment, and pay for uncompensated care, all in support of the organization's mission to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible. Learn more at CMNHospitals.org.

About Ace Hardware:

For more than 85 years, Ace Hardware has been known as the helpful hardware store in thousands of communities across America. Customers depend on Ace to help them take care of their homes quickly and easily so they can get on with their lives. In 2011, Ace ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Home Improvement Stores for the Fifth Consecutive Year," according to J.D. Power and Associates. With 4,500 locally owned and operated hardware stores, Ace is the largest hardware cooperative in the industry. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace currently operates 14 distribution centers in the U.S. It also has distribution capabilities in Shanghai, China; Panama City, Panama; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Its retailers' stores are located in all 50 states and more than 60 countries. For more information on Ace, visit www.acehardware.com.



About the Ace Hardware Foundation:

At Ace, we believe in giving back to the communities we serve. From busy and bustling cities to rustic and rural towns, we truly care about the communities in which we do business. This is why the Ace Hardware Foundation was established in 1991: to serve as an umbrella over the charitable fundraising efforts of Ace Hardware retailers, Ace Hardware Corporation and Ace vendors for the benefit of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

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