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## IZOD IndyCar® Series driver Justin Wilson and Star Mazda Championship driver Connor De Phillippi to visit patients March 24 at All Children's Hospital

**What:** IZOD IndyCar® Series driver and Racing For Kids representatives Justin Wilson and Star Mazda Championship driver Connor De Phillippi will visit youngsters at t All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg leading up to the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, March 25 – 27. Wilson will drive the #22 car for Dreyer & Reinbold Racing in Sunday's race.

Wilson and De Phillippi will visit children in the hospital and spend time with youngsters at the Racing For Kids Showcar. Afterwards they will make bedside visits to hand out Racing For Kids caps, sign autographs, pose for photos and talk about their passion for racing.

Racing For Kids Executive Director, J. Patrick Wright will accompany Wilson on the visit.

**When:** 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 24, 2011

**Where:** All Children's Hospital, 501 Sixth St. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**Who:** Justin Wilson, IZOD IndyCar Series driver  
Racing For Kids Executive Director J. Patrick Wright  
Connor De Phillippi, Star Mazda Series' Driver

### Background Info:

**Racing For Kids**, which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009, is a Detroit-based national charity founded in 1989. Racing For Kids uses the increasing popularity of motorsports to focus public awareness and funding on the health care needs of children. Racing For Kids has visited more than 24,000 children in more than 475 children's hospitals in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Australia. It has raised more than \$5.4 million for the hospitals visited and other children's health institutions.

Major sponsors of Racing For Kids include Humana, Inc., TranSystems Bridgestone Firestone Trust Fund, Z-Line Designs, Health Plan of Michigan, and Benson Ford, Jr.

Toyota Motorsports and The Grand Prix Foundation of Long Beach have made Racing For Kids a major charity of The Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach

All Children's Hospital

Children are the sole focus of **All Children's Hospital** and its new, million-square-foot St. Petersburg, FL campus devoted to pediatric specialty care. The ten-story All Children's Hospital and its adjacent Outpatient Care Center (dedicated in January 2010) replace an existing 42-year old facility just two blocks away.

All Children's Hospital is the only hospital on Florida's West Coast totally devoted to children's care - a leader in pediatric treatment, education, research and advocacy. As a regional referral center for children with some of the most challenging medical problems, All Children's draws patients from throughout Florida, all 50 states and 36 foreign countries. The mission of this private, not-for-profit hospital is rooted in its beginnings in 1926 as Florida's first Crippled Children's Hospital for polio victims. All Children's understands that it's not enough to treat disease - that true progress comes from teaching and research to cure disease. All Children's shares its pediatric expertise through research and education affiliations with the University of South Florida (USF Health) as well as Moffitt Cancer Center, an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Justin Wilson**

**Justin Wilson** began racing as a teenager in England, becoming the first 16-year-old to win a British auto race. His career with the IZOD IndyCar Series began in 2008, where he finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the series for Newman/Haas/Lanigan Racing and won at The Raceway at Belle Isle in Detroit.

In 2009 he finished 9<sup>th</sup> in IndyCar Series standings for Dale Coyne Racing and gave them their first IndyCar Series victory at Watkins Glen. Also during 2009, Justin recorded three top-five and seventop-10 finishes. He led a total of 129 laps, including season-high 52 in finishing third at St. Petersburg.

Justin, who drives the #22 Z-Line Design car for Dreyer & Reinbold Racing this season, came in second in the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg last year. He finished the 2010 IZOD IndyCar Series Championship in 11<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Connor DePhillippi**

After winning many national karting championships, California native Connor DePhillippi switched to open-wheel racing in 2007 and won the Skip Barber Scholarship Shootout in 2008 with his prize being a full season of racing in the BF Goodrich Skip Barber National Series. He went on to win the Skip Barber championship in 2009 along with a full season of racing in the 2010 Star Mazda Championship, where he won both the final race of the season as well as the *Rookie of the Year* award, finishing third overall in the championship. For 2011 he has joined the new St. Petersburg-based Team Pelfrey, a competitive IZOD IndyCar team from 1998 - 200, which will field a two-car effort in the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear for De Phillippi and teammate Nick Andries.