



PRESS RELEASE

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**Swim for Smiles Foundation Gives \$17,000 to
North Carolina's Children's Hospital**

--Chapel Hill-Based non-profit makes huge donation to UNC Hospitals--

Chapel Hill, NC - (November 29, 2007) – Swim for Smiles Foundation, a Chapel Hill-based charity in which youths participate in swim-related sporting events that benefit hospitalized children, donated \$17,000 to the North Carolina Children's Hospital.

Swim for Smiles held three events in 2007 – all aimed at raising money for the North Carolina Children's Hospital on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“We had a great time this year”, said Swim for Smiles co-founder Gary Kayye. “Our Youth Triathlon, was held in June during the only tropical storm of the year, and still drew over 230 kids who weathered rain, the coldest June day in recent memory and even 20-30 MPH winds to finish. And, for over 90% of them, that was their first triathlon.”

In addition to a USA-T (USA-Triathlon association) certified Youth Triathlon, Swim for Smiles also held a fundraiser swim meet between two local swim teams, a Wacky Relay Day and a Swim-A-Thon where over 400 kids from the Chapel Hill Summer Swim League swam UNC's Koury Natatorium one Sunday morning in July.

Two local middle-school kids and CHSSL swimmers made the \$17,000 check presentation during the North Carolina Hospital's Annual Pinwheels and Promises Luncheon.

Swim for Smiles co-founder, Laura Gondek explained, “Having two of our CHSSL swimmers present the check at the hospital’s luncheon was a great idea as not only were they able to meet hospital staff and administration but they saw and heard stories from kids who were former patients of the North Carolina Children’s Hospital and it will motivate them, as it has us, to raise even more in 2008!”

2008 will be an exciting year for the Swim for Smiles Foundation as they will not only hold their 2nd Annual Youth Triathlon on Sunday, June 1st but they will be adding another new event – an All-Star Swim Meet with kids from Chapel Hill, Durham, Cary and Raleigh competing for their home towns for local bragging rights in the pool. All the details of the meet haven’t been finalized, but it will be held in mid-June and more information will be posted on the Swim for Smiles web site by mid-January.

In addition to Kayye and Gondek, Swim for Smiles’ board includes a local high-school kid, UNC’s Head Swimming and Diving Coach, Rich DeSelm, and a former UNC swimmer.

Swim for Smiles began in 2005 when co-founders Gary Kayye and Laura Gondek had a vision to create exciting, worthwhile charity event that would inspire young swimmers to use their talents to help others. It started as a dual-swim meet between the CCR Sharks swim team (based in Chapel Hill) and the Hope Valley Farms' Flying Fish swim team (based in Durham) to raise money for the North Carolina Children's Hospital.

Kayye’s dream is to eventually take Swim for Smiles national and they’re on their way with events in North Carolina and in two other states for 2008.

There are more than 2,800 summer swim leagues in the U.S. Each has an average of 10 teams, with most team rosters listing more than 75 swimmers. Summer swim leagues are known for having both great fun and competition. The Triangle area is no different. In Chapel Hill and Durham alone there are more than 25 summer league teams and a half dozen year-round teams.

If you’re interested in being part of the Swim for Smiles Foundation or in volunteer activities, please contact co-founder Gary Kayye at gakayye@kayye.com or through their website.

Swim for Smiles is recognized by the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools and is approved for high school service learning hours.

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