



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Local Boy Joins National Ambassador Tour to Share Impact of Local Donations to  
The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart**

*The 2016-17 Champions of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Depart for  
Nation's Capital to Advocate for Support of Children's Healthcare*

On Saturday, June 25, 14-year-old Drew Barefield of Crestview will join pediatric patients from each state on an Ambassador Tour for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Drew was treated for multiple traumatic injuries at The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart, one of 170 member CMN Hospitals. Each "Champion" child has personally benefited from donations to the charity and illustrates how community support greatly impacts local children's hospitals.

CMN Hospitals' funds are helping to pay for a building expansion at Drew's children's hospital. This campaign is a promise to our region to provide life-saving care to more children and families, like Drew. Donations also cover equipment like syringe pumps and a transport ventilator, which helps stabilize kids like Drew between surgeries.

Champions and guests will fly into the District of Columbia, courtesy of Delta Air Lines, and will be welcomed by Champion alumni and supporters at a celebratory event at the JW Marriott Washington, DC. Throughout the week, Champions will share their inspiring stories to encourage charitable support for children's hospitals. Opportunities include touring Marriott International headquarters to thank associates and leadership for their continued support, attending Senate meetings on Capitol Hill, generating awareness at a Washington Nationals game and participating in a satellite media tour with TV stations across the country.

Drew will share his amazing story. After being struck by a boat, he spent 75 days in The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart in Pensacola and underwent 13 surgeries. During his treatment, he showed a positive, "can-do" attitude and genuine concern for other pediatric patients.

"Drew Barefield is a remarkable young man who inspires others to live each day to the fullest," says Carol Carlan, president of the Sacred Heart Foundation. "We are honored to have Drew represent the thousands of children treated each year as he meets with Senators and our CMN Hospital partners in DC. Miracles are happening in our community. Drew Barefield is showing our community, that miracles and life-saving care are being provided at The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart, your Children's Miracle Network Hospitals."

“The specialized care children’s hospitals provide is only partially funded by government and insurance programs,” says John Lauck, president and CEO of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. “As our Champions demonstrate, local donations are crucial to ensure children’s hospitals are able to fund pediatric research, equipment, treatments and services necessary to save and improve kids’ lives.”

The 2016-17 Champions program is presented by Delta Air Lines, Marriott International, Chico’s FAS, Inc. and Ace

Hardware. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Champions program, where a child from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico is selected to highlight the great work and tremendous needs of children’s hospitals. In honor of the program’s milestone year, 1996 Champion alumnus, best-selling author and Paralympic skier Josh Sundquist will return to address the new class of Champions. Miss



America 2016 Betty Cantrell, the national goodwill ambassador for CMN Hospitals, will also accompany the Champions and participate in media opportunities.

The 2016-17 Champions will reunite in March 2017 for the second half of their Ambassador Tour in Orlando, Fla., at CMN Hospitals’ annual Momentum event, where the charity’s 170 hospital members gather with corporate and media partners. Through additional speaking engagements, appearances and media interviews, the Champions will complete their year of service by thanking and inspiring those who support the children’s hospitals they depend on.

To learn more about our state Champion, and for a brief video of last year’s Ambassador Tour, visit [CMNHospitals.org/Champions](http://CMNHospitals.org/Champions). Watch for and use hashtag #ChampionsForKids for Champions updates.

#### ***About The Studer Family Children’s Hospital at Sacred Heart***

The Studer Family Children’s Hospital at Sacred Heart is a 105-bed facility that serves as the only Children’s Hospital in Northwest Florida. Children’s Hospital offers a wide range of services to meet all of a child’s medical needs, from a pediatric emergency room and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to a network of pediatric specialists and an outpatient center in partnership with Nemours Children’s Clinic. The Children’s Hospital provides quality, compassionate care to children, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information about the services available at The Studer Family Children’s Hospital at Sacred Heart, visit online at [www.sacred-heart.org/childrenshospital](http://www.sacred-heart.org/childrenshospital).

#### **About Children's Miracle Network Hospitals**

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals® raises funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals that provide 32 million treatments each year to kids across the U.S. and Canada. Donations stay local to fund critical treatments and healthcare services, pediatric medical equipment and

charitable care. Since 1983, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has raised more than \$5 billion, most of it \$1 at a time through the charity's Miracle Balloon icon. Its various fundraising partners and programs support the nonprofit's mission to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible. Find out why children's hospitals need community support, identify your member hospital and learn how you can Put Your Money Where the Miracles Are, at [CMNHospitals.org](http://CMNHospitals.org) and [facebook.com/CMNHospitals](https://facebook.com/CMNHospitals).

### **About Delta Air Lines**

Delta Air Lines serves nearly 180 million customers each year. In 2016, Delta was named to Fortune's top 50 Most Admired Companies in addition to being named the most admired airline for the fifth time in six years. Additionally, Delta has ranked No.1 in the Business Travel News Annual Airline survey for an unprecedented five consecutive years. With an industry-leading [global network](#), Delta and the [Delta Connection](#) carriers offer service to 337 destinations in 62 countries on six continents. Headquartered in Atlanta, Delta employs nearly 80,000 employees worldwide and operates a mainline fleet of more than 800 aircraft. The airline is a founding member of the [SkyTeam](#) global alliance and participates in the industry's leading transatlantic [joint venture](#) with [Air France-KLM](#) and [Alitalia](#) as well as a joint venture with [Virgin Atlantic](#). Including its worldwide alliance partners, Delta offers customers more than 15,000 daily flights, with key hubs and markets including [Amsterdam](#), [Atlanta](#), [Boston](#), [Detroit](#), [Los Angeles](#), [Minneapolis/St. Paul](#), [New York-JFK](#) and [LaGuardia](#), [London-Heathrow](#), [Paris-Charles de Gaulle](#), [Salt Lake City](#), [Seattle](#) and [Tokyo-Narita](#). Delta has invested billions of dollars in airport facilities, global products and services, and technology to enhance the customer experience in the air and on the ground. Additional information is available on the [Delta News Hub](#), as well as [delta.com](http://delta.com), Twitter [@DeltaNewsHub](#), [Google.com/+Delta](https://Google.com/+Delta), and [Facebook.com/delta](https://Facebook.com/delta).

### **About Marriott International**

Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ: MAR) is a global leading lodging company based in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, with more than 4,300 properties in 85 countries and territories. Marriott International reported revenues of nearly \$14 billion in fiscal year 2014. The company operates and franchises hotels and licenses vacation ownership resorts under 19 brands, including: The Ritz-Carlton®, Bvlgari®, EDITION®, JW Marriott®, Autograph Collection® Hotels, Renaissance® Hotels, Marriott Hotels®, Delta Hotels and Resorts®, Marriott Executive Apartments®, Marriott Vacation Club®, Gaylord Hotels®, AC Hotels by Marriott®, Courtyard®, Residence Inn®, SpringHill Suites®, Fairfield Inn & Suites®, TownePlace Suites®, Protea Hotels® and MoxyHotels®. Marriott has been consistently recognized as a top employer and for its superior business ethics. The company also manages the award-winning guest loyalty program, Marriott Rewards® and The Ritz-Carlton Rewards® program, which together surpass 54 million members. For more information or reservations, please visit our website at [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com), and for the latest company news, visit [www.marriottnewscenter.com](http://www.marriottnewscenter.com).

### **About Chico's FAS, Inc.**

The Company, through its brands, Chico's, White House Black Market and Soma, is a women's specialty retailer of private branded, sophisticated, casual-to-dressy clothing, intimates, complementary accessories, and other non-clothing gift items. Chico's FAS, Inc. currently operates more than 1,500 boutiques and outlets across North America, Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands. Each brand publishes a monthly catalog and offers online shopping at [www.chicos.com](http://www.chicos.com), [www.whbm.com](http://www.whbm.com) and [www.soma.com](http://www.soma.com).

**About Ace Hardware**

For more than 90 years, Ace Hardware has been known as the place with the helpful hardware folks in thousands of neighborhoods across America, providing customers with a more personal kind of helpful. In 2016, Ace ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Home Improvement Retail Stores, Ten Years in a Row," according to J.D. Power. With more than 4,800 hardware stores locally owned and operated across the globe, Ace is the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the world. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace and its subsidiaries currently operate 17 distribution centers in the U.S. and also have distribution capabilities in Ningbo, China; Colon, Panama; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Its retailers' stores are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and approximately 60 countries. For more information on Ace, visit [www.acehardware.com](http://www.acehardware.com).

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