



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

Shriners Hospitals for Children Patients Bring Good Luck to NASCAR Driver



On April 23, Zamora Shriners of Irondale, Ala., invited a group of Shriners Hospitals for Children patients to spend an afternoon with NASCAR driver David Ragan at the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala. The 23-year-old race car driver promised the kids, who ranged from ages 3 to 17, that he would try hard to win the Aaron's 312 NASCAR Nationwide Series race for them.

Two days later, Ragan passed fellow NASCAR driver Ryan Newman right before the finish line and won by a mere 0.03 seconds. It was Ragan's first victory in 196 NASCAR starts, including the Sprint Cup Series and Camping World Truck Series.

During his visit with the children, Ragan signed autographs, posed for pictures and spoke to each child about racing and their favorite NASCAR drivers. Zamora Shriners Potentate Tyrone Davis also made Ragan an honorary member of his temple and presented him with a plaque and his Potentate's pin, which bears his theme for the year, "Wings of Love." He presented Ragan's entire crew with the pin, and everyone agreed to wear it during the race.

"We joked that the 'Wings of Love' pin carried him to the finish," said Tim Anders, a Shriner and member of the Public Relations Committee at Zamora Shriners. "The kids were excited the whole

time; you would think they were at a theme park riding one great ride after another! We all left the track being very proud to have David and his team representing Shriners Hospitals for Children."

Ragan publicly selected Shriners Hospitals for Children as his official charity of choice in July 2008. He has brought national attention to the organization through public service announcements and other public endorsements, such as wearing a Shriners Hospitals for Children helmet and driving a race car with a Shriners Hospitals for Children paint scheme. Ragan's most recent project was a partnership with Jet Food Stores of Georgia, Inc., to raise money for the pediatric health care system. For two months in spring 2009, customers were given the option to add a donation to Shriners Hospitals for Children to each purchase they made at Jet Food Stores. Updates about Ragan can be found on www.davidragan.com.

"We are very grateful for David Ragan and the NASCAR fans for helping increase awareness and funding for Shriners Hospitals for Children," said Ralph Semb, president and CEO of Shriners Hospitals for Children. "His energy and fast-climbing position amongst the best NASCAR has to offer has opened up many opportunities for our world-class health care system."

www.shrinershospitals.org