



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DURHAM BULLS INVITE HEART
RECIPIENT MELISSA SIMON TO THROW
OUT THE CEREMONIAL FIRST PITCH AT
THE MAY 22ND GAME**

**HEART RECIPIENT GATHERS WITH HER ORGAN
DONOR'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ENJOY AN OLD
AMERICAN PAST TIME**

Durham, NC – Throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at the May 22nd Durham Bulls game is Melissa Simon of Chicago, a 2007 heart transplant recipient. Melissa is visiting the Triangle this weekend to honor her heart donor, 14-year old Chloe from Chapel Hill. Following the ceremonial first pitch, Melissa and Chloe's family and friends have been invited to enjoy the baseball game that starts at 7pm.

Melissa was fourteen when a virus attached her heart making it slowly deteriorate until continuous IV medication was needed to support her heart's function. In the summer of 2007, a heart transplant was her only option to live long enough to turn twenty-seven years old. Then in June of that year, a young organ donor named Chloe saved her life. Chloe's gift brought Melissa from her sickest days to feeling more alive than ever before. However, not everyone is as lucky as Melissa. The national waiting list is more than 107,000 people long – including 3,400 people right here in North Carolina – and not everyone will receive an organ in time.

Saturday's game goers are invited to register to be an organ donor during the game by visiting the Carolina Donor Services table on the concourse. You can make a difference. Organ, eye and tissue transplantation gives hope to thousands of people suffering from organ failure, blindness, bone defects or burns. One organ, eye and tissue donor can save or enhance the lives of over 50 people. Learn the

facts and designate your wishes, you can make a difference.

About Carolina Donor Services

Carolina Donor Services is the federally-designated, non-profit organ and tissue donation organization serving 6.1 million people in 78 counties of North Carolina and Danville, Virginia. Carolina Donor Services maximizes the passing of the heroic gift of life from one human being to another through organ and tissue donation. In North Carolina, over 3,400 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant, and nationally, over 107,000 people are on the organ waiting list. For more information, visit www.carolinadonorservices.org; call 1-800-200-2672 or write 3621 Lyckan Parkway, Durham, NC 27707.

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