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DURHAM JAYCEES PREPARING FOR 37TH ANNUAL HAUNTED HOUSE

DURHAM, NC (September 24, 2009) - With Halloween nearing, the Durham Jaycees are hard at work planning their Haunted House. Now entering its 37th year as a Durham tradition, this year's Haunted House will be held at in the American Tobacco Campus, Crowe Lobby (406 Blackwell Street) on October 23rd - 25th and October 28th – October 31st. Each night, with the exception of Sunday, we will be open from 6:45 PM – 11:00 PM. Sunday, we will be open from 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM for a children's Haunted House, which will be significantly toned down to allow for younger children to enjoy as well.

Admission will be \$7, but attendees can get \$2 off by bringing certain in-kind donations to benefit local charities. Additionally, \$1 off will be offered to attendees who donate gently used hats, scarves or gloves as part of the Coats for the Kids drive at American Tobacco. With this affordable price and a Haunted Prison theme, the Jaycee Haunted House promises to provide another year of best-value thrills and chills in town!

On Wednesday, October 28th, student athletes from UNC and Duke will be on hand to help staff the Haunted House. Attendees can receive \$1 off admission if they wear an item supporting the school of their choice. Each entrant will then pick whose team they are a "fan" of and the proceeds from the sale of their ticket will directly benefit a charity chosen by UNC, and a charity chosen by Duke. The student athletes from UNC have chosen to support the North Carolina Jaycees Burn Center at UNC Hospitals (www.med.unc.edu/burn), and the Duke student athletes have chosen to support the Downtown Durham Athletic Association (www.ddathletic.org)

This year also features a raffle of prizes including gift certificates to local area restaurants and sports memorabilia from both Duke and Carolina. At the small cost of \$2 a ticket, and at a deal of buy 5, get 1 free, there are chances for almost anyone to win a prize. The Jaycees are very fortunate to have already enlisted generous donations from Cuban Revolution, Chatham Hill Winery, Tyler's Taproom of Durham and Long Beverage.

As we did last year, each night we are open, we will be benefitting a local charity whose work we believe deserves the attention of a special night. The charities we have chosen to support, as well as their chosen fundraising days and in-kind donation items they are requesting in exchange for discounted tickets, are as follows:

- Friday, October 23rd to benefit the Genesis Home (www.genesishome.org), collecting kitchen utensils or kitchen linens
- Saturday, October 24th to benefit Crayons2Calculators (crayons2calculators.org), collecting composition notebooks
- Sunday, October 25th to benefit Kramden Institute (www.kramden.org), collecting small computer parts and equipment or flash drives
- Thursday, October 29th to benefit Urban Ministries (www.umdurham.org), collecting new or gently used towels, washcloths, twin bed sheets and blankets

- Friday, October 30th to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Durham (www.durhamhabitat.org), collecting tape measures
- Saturday, October 31st to benefit Animal Protection Society of Durham (www.apsofdurham.org), collecting canned dog food

In addition to ticket sales, the Jaycees are also privileged to have local corporate partners who help us provide increased donations to the Durham community. The Jaycees have already enlisted the support of KeySource Commercial Bank, Hyland and Padilla attorneys-at-law and the Aluminum Company of North Carolina, all of which are operated by longtime Durham residents who understand the importance of the Durham Jaycees Haunted House to the local nonprofit community.

Proceeds from the sale of both admission and raffle tickets, and the generous donations of our corporate sponsors directly benefit charities that serve Durham residents as all of the items have been generously donated to us from our local community partners. Over the past two years, the Durham Jaycees Haunted House has donated over \$20,000 to Durham-based nonprofit groups. In addition to the charities named above, in the past few years we have donated to invaluable organizations such as Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers (TROSA), Senior PharmASSIST, the Ronald McDonald House, Durham Crisis Response Center, Crime Stoppers, John Avery Boys and Girls Clubs, and Meals on Wheels.

The reward from the Haunted House is by no means a one way street though according to Jaycees Chairman of the Board Michael White, who says: “We really look forward to hosting the Haunted House each year, because we get so much out of it. We are so thankful to American Tobacco for letting us use their spooky basement space and to all the other countless businesses and individuals who dedicate time or money to help us with this. It’s something that helps the community, but also helps our members develop as individuals.” With representatives from the Durham Police Reserves assisting each night, the Haunted House also provides a safe venue for Halloween celebrations. Says member, Brooke Christian: “We would love to have everyone come out to enjoy a fun and safe Halloween with us, while helping out the Durham community.”

More information about our Haunted House, including more information about our charity nights, sponsors, in-kind donation items and online ticket sales can be found on our website at www.durhamjaycees.org/hh2009. We look forward to having a spook-tacular Halloween season!

About The Durham Jaycees

The Durham Jaycees is a chapter of the United States Junior Chamber and has been operating in Durham since 1938. The organization provides young professionals, ages 21-40 with an opportunity to develop essential leadership skills through local community service projects. Notable members of our organization have included Durham Mayor Bill Bell, Durham City Councilman Mike Woodard, and community leader E.K. Powe.