



*Home Of The Fourteen Time NHRA Powerade Drag Racing Champion*

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## **ASHLEY FORCE HOOD TO RACE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® (RMHC®) THEMED MUSTANG FOR CHARITY**

*- Points leader will race custom design in Seattle, Sonoma (CA) to Raise Awareness and Donations-*

SEATTLE, WA (July 15, 2009) --- Funny Car points leader and NHRA fan favorite Ashley Force Hood will race a specially designed Ronald McDonald House Charities Castrol GTX Ford Mustang during the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual NHRA Northwest Nationals in Seattle, July 17-19, and again at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual FRAM Autolite NHRA Nationals, July 24-26, in Sonoma (CA). The Mustang was unveiled today to the media at the famed Seattle Space Needle during the pre-event press conference for the Seattle NHRA national event.

"I am thrilled to be helping raise awareness and donations for Ronald McDonald House Charities. BrandSource, one of our major sponsors, is very involved with this organization and their president Bob Lawrence, started talking with us about getting involved earlier this year. We got really excited about all the opportunities to help so this program came together very quickly," said Force Hood.

"The biggest thing for me is being able to race this amazing looking Ford Mustang. I know it will draw a lot of attention and I want to turn that excitement into donations for RMHC. We'll be accepting donations this weekend in Seattle and again in Sonoma. People can also donate online if they can't get to the race. I have so many fans that are children I really want reach out to them and their families to encourage them to give to or volunteer with this great organization," added Force Hood.

RMHC Donation Boxes will be placed at John Force Racing souvenir trailers at the Seattle and Sonoma NHRA national events. Fans can also make donations online at [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org) or in RMHC Donation Boxes in participating McDonald's Restaurants.

After 35 years RMHC continues to create, fund and support programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. RMHC and its network of local chapters tailor these programs to address the most urgent needs of each community they serve through the Ronald McDonald House®, Ronald McDonald Family Room® and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® programs, as well as through grants to other non-profit organizations. Their superior reputation and good works have made them the Charity of Choice by respected companies like McDonald's® and BrandSource®.

"I am excited about the collaboration between Ashley, John Force Racing, BrandSource and RMHC. As a member of the RMHC Global Board of Trustees, I value the impact these events have on our ability to help serve as a bridge to accessible healthcare for over four million children each year." said Bob Lawrence, CEO and president of BrandSource.

John Force Racing, through their RaceStation online retail location, [www.johnforceracestation.com](http://www.johnforceracestation.com) will also begin taking pre-orders on the Ashley Force Hood Ronald McDonald House Charities Castrol GTX Ford Mustang die-cast today at 1:30 p.m. PT. A portion of the sales for this limited-edition adult collectible die-cast Mustang will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities on behalf of John Force Racing and BrandSource. The die-cast will be a 1:24 scale reproduction of the Ford Mustang Ashley will be campaigning at Seattle and Sonoma.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities Castrol GTX Ford Mustang will be introduced to the fans in attendance at Pacific Raceway, home of the NHRA Northwest Nationals as well. A special ceremony on the starting line will be held during the first qualifying session on Friday, July 17, at 3:30 p.m. PT to introduce the race car and talk about Ashley Force Hood's involvement with RMHC. The race car will return to competition again at 6 p.m. There will be two more qualifying sessions on Saturday, July 18, at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. before final eliminations begin on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. The race will be broadcast on ESPN2, check local listings.

For additional information about John Force Racing contact Dave Densmore, 214-244-0008, [denswood@aol.com](mailto:denswood@aol.com) or Elon Werner, 214-244-1184, [elon@johnforceracing.com](mailto:elon@johnforceracing.com).

**About Ronald McDonald House Charities**

Ronald McDonald House Charities, a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Its programs are grassroots-driven to enable the Charity to offer help where children need it most – right in their own communities. RMHC® makes an immediate, positive impact on children's lives through its global network of local Chapters in 52 countries and its three core programs: the Ronald McDonald House®, Ronald McDonald Family Room® and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®. These programs provide a bridge to accessible health care and allow families more time together, which help in the healing process. RMHC and its global network of local Chapters also have awarded more than \$460 million in grants and program services to children's programs around the world. For more information, visit [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org).