



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - UPDATE

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**MEMPHIS MOTORSPORTS PARK JOINS THE NASCAR NATION FOR
THE 4TH ANNUAL NASCAR FOUNDATION BLOOD DRIVE**

Race Fans Rally to Save Lives on September 11th at Methodist-North

MEMPHIS, TN (September 9, 2009) – In NASCAR, unity is a quality that defines our sport. In Memphis, Methodist North Hospital – the Official Healthcare Provider of Memphis Motorsports Park – unites with the American Red Cross to host the **NASCAR Foundation Blood Drive** on Friday, September 11.

In honor of the acts of kindness displayed by donors, everyone who participates at Methodist North on September 11 will receive a gift bag and a gift certificate from Memphis Motorsports Park towards the purchase of a NASCAR race ticket or souvenir merchandise for the 'Kroger On Track for the Cure 250' on October. 24.

All donors will also be entered to win a special NASCAR experience, courtesy of the NASCAR Foundation.

Nationally, the drive mobilizes some of NASCAR's biggest entities – tracks, drivers, teams and sponsors – in an effort to help meet the ongoing need for more than 39,000 blood donations every day. Approximately four million people give blood through the Red Cross each year, making it the largest single supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. Through its partnership with the American Red Cross, the NASCAR Foundation hopes to expand the annual drive to help maintain safe blood supply levels and lessen the blood shortages that often occur during the summer months and around holidays.

Locally, the Memphis area continues to experience a significant blood supply shortage in all types. With the eighth largest medical center in the United States and the second busiest trauma center in the nation, local hospitals use blood at twice the national average, requiring more than 100,000 units of blood every year.

"We are excited about partnering with Memphis Motorsports Park and the NASCAR Foundation on September 11th for this blood drive. Methodist North is proud to be providing the venue for this event, and we encourage the community to support our efforts by coming out and being a part of it, as well," said Michael O. Ugwueke, Senior Vice President and CEO of Methodist North Hospital.

Donating blood is simple, takes less than 10 minutes, and one blood donation can save as many as four lives. Individuals 16 and older who bring a photo ID, meet state age eligibility requirements, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in good health are generally eligible to donate.

To schedule an appointment in advance at Methodist North Hospital on September 11, call (901) 277-3099.

All scheduled appointments will be honored. Walk-ins will also be welcome as time allows.

Methodist North Hospital is located at 3960 Covington Pike (38128). The American Red Cross mobile unit will be located in the circle drive at the front of the hospital from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11.

For more information, call Memphis Motorsports Park at (901) 358-RACE (7223).