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Contact: Kathy Bowers

205-939-9002

kathy.bowers@chsys.org

Children's Hospital Rolls Out Red Carpet For Film Premiere
Three Patients Compete in Teen Filmmaking Challenge

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (September 13, 2007) – Lights! Camera! Action! Three Children's Hospital patients are among local teenagers eagerly awaiting the premiere of the films they have produced for the 2007 Teen Filmmaking Challenge.

Andrew Brown, a seventh-grader at Pizitz Middle School in Vestavia Hills, Hoover High School senior Amy McElroy and Megan Smith, a New Orleans native who is a junior at Northview High School in Dothan, join other local 7th through 12th-graders in the Teen Filmmaking Challenge is part of the 9th Annual Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival to be held in Birmingham Sept. 28 – 30. Contestants are teamed with past Teen Challenge participants to produce a five-minute film that conveys a particular theme. This year's theme is "Celebrate Diversity."

The films produced by Brown, McElroy and Smith will be first shown during a special presentation for family, friends and fellow patients in the Room of Magic at Children's Hospital at 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28. A reception will follow at 7 p.m.

The films will also be shown at a Festival site elsewhere in the city on Saturday, Sept. 29, and broadcast to patients and families back at the hospital on Children's in-room patient television network.

"We are very excited to be partnering with Children's Hospital for the Teen Filmmaking Challenge. The contest challenges teenagers to make a five-minute film on the subject of diversity. By utilizing teens who have previously participated in the program as mentors, we are able to assist interested teenage patients to participate as well. This partnership allows Sidewalk to pursue its mission – to encourage film and filmmaking in Alabama – in a whole new way," said Sidewalk Executive Director Catherine Pfitzer.

The Children's Hospital of Alabama is the 10th busiest pediatric medical center in the United States. The UAB Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Children's Hospital is Alabama's single largest provider of specialized pediatric services for all forms of cancer, leukemia, brain and spinal cord tumors, hemophilia and other bleeding disorders and sickle cell diseases. It also is home to the Lowder Bone Marrow Transplant program, the only pediatric bone marrow transplant program in the state. Ninety-five percent of the children in Alabama diagnosed with childhood cancer and other blood disorders are treated at Children's Hospital.

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