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# PRESS RELEASE

NHRA FUEL FUNNY CAR SUPERSTARS, MATT HAGAN AND JACK BECKMAN, TO ENCOURAGE POMONA BOYS & GIRLS CLUB KIDS TO BELIEVE IN SELVES

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA

### WHO:

Racers Who Care spokesracers and National Hot Rod Association superstars, Matt Hagan, Defending 2011 Fuel Funny Car Champion, and Fast Jack Beckman, Hagan's 2011 season points runner up and teammate, are to encourage Pomona, CA, Boys & Girls Club members to believe in themselves and their dreams on November 7, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.



The Fuel Funny Car competitors will be donating valuable time from their season-ending race week at the NHRA's Full Throttle Drag Racing Series' Auto Club of Southern California Finals at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. This race season, Beckman has points lead on Hagan, and ranks among the top three Fuel Funny Car drivers.

Matt and Jack compete for Don Schumacher Racing. Matt drives the Team's DieHard Dodge Charger R/T Fuel Funny Car, while Jack drives the Valvoline NextGen/Aaron's Dream Machine Dodge Charger R/T Fuel Funny Car.



The 29-year-old Hagan broke an elapsed-time record he set in 2010 with the first sub-four-second 1,000-foot run, at 3.995, en route to his win in the second Charlotte race of the 2011 season. He also had the fastest lap, 322.27 miles per hour, during that event.



Last year's success comes on the heels of his phenomenal second season driving the DieHard Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car for DSR. Hagan came within a couple of rounds of the 2010 NHRA Full Throttle Funny Car Championship, finishing runner-up to John Force, culminating a season featuring setting the elapsed-time record - twice! - and the top-speed record; three national-event wins in six final rounds and four top qualifiers.

Wins in Houston - his first in an NHRA Funny Car, Joliet, IL, and Dallas, were supplemented by three other final-round appearances. A record-setting 4.022-second lap at the June Joliet race was eclipsed by Hagan's 4.011 during the October Reading, PA, weekend. And, his 316.15 mile per hour pass in Gainesville, FL, during the third race of the season was the fastest 1,000-foot run until Ashley Force-Hood topped it later in the year.

BE FLEXIBLE WITH DREAMS AND GOALS!

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Federal Tax I.D.: 95-4417337 California Tax I.D.: 1911416

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This story-book season followed a rookie campaign during which Hagan went to two finals and two number-one qualifiers, earning a 16-24 round record and 11th place in the Fuel Funny Car Championship.

Hagan has been racing for almost half his life. Starting on his family's quads as a teenager, he developed a passion for speed and the thrill of competition, and moved quickly into circle-track stock cars before he started bracket racing. He made a huge splash in Pro Mod, earning the 2006 Rookie-of-the-Year honors in the NHRA AMS Pro Mod Challenge.

In 2008, he jumped behind the wheel of a Nitro Funny Car sponsored independently by [Shelor.com](http://Shelor.com), his family's business. As an independent team owner and driver, he enjoyed great success, and placed third in I H RA competition points, amassing a class-best three event wins.

Hagan tested the waters at four 2008 NHRA events - Reading, Indianapolis, Charlotte and Memphis - and qualified once, at the U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis. His beginner's success caught the eye of team owner Don Schumacher, who called to congratulate Matt after making the cut at the U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis, a call which led to Hagan's present position behind the wheel of the DSR Fuel Funny Car.

While not racing multiple thousands horsepower, Hagan manages and works one horsepower with horses and cattle on the family's 1,000-acre Angus Cattle Farm in Christiansburg, VA.

Jack Beckman, has made Racers Who Care Quick Tips on Winning in Life presentations since 2007. On the track, his fastest speed to date is 333.66 miles per hour.

For some years, he has been an instructor at the Frank Hawley NHRA Drag Racing School where he has taught well over 7,000 racing students.

Beckman's love for racing grew and flourished while as a child he watched his uncle drag racing in Southern California. His career began in the National Hot Rod Association's Sportsman level, where he quickly scored four championships and 50 wins, including the 2003 Super Comp Championship.

Beckman was honored with the NHRA Pacific Division Person of the Year Award in 2004, following a six-month bout with chemotherapy treatments for lymphoma.

He eased back into racing, driving Top Fuel Dragsters for a while then, in late 2006, moved on to his true racing love, Fuel Funny Cars, quickly winning his fourth race in Las Vegas, and later setting two national records: a 4.662-second elapsed time and a 333.66-mph top speed for the Don Schumacher team. In his first full Fuel Funny Car season Beckman won back to back races in Seattle and Denver and finished fifth in point standings.

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2011 was Jack's best year as a professional Fuel Funny Car Driver. After winning three National events, he led the Championship points during the countdown and lost by a very narrow margin to teammate Matt Hagan in the final race of the 2011 season.

Beckman served four years as a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

Fast Jack made his first Quick Tips on Winning in Life Presentation in late 2007 to a group of youngsters at the Santa Monica, CA, YMCA's after school program. Some of the advice, garnered from his own career experiences, that he shared with the children was: "Don't gloat in your successes, and take losses as an education. Never be a poor sport. Be dignified."

After this first Presentation, Jack's observation about the experience was: "Oh, my Gosh! These six-year olds are tough! A six or seven-year old doesn't understand the cause and effect and consequences, as much as say, an 11- or 15-year old, so the message is different. With older kids I can talk about bad choices and good choices. Seven-year olds don't care about that. They just want to try on the helmet!"

Other favorite Quick Tips Jack likes to share during his presentations are: "Treat others as you want to be treated." and "Stick to your goals and maintain a positive outlook."

## **THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF POMONA VALLEY:**

**The Boys & Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley was founded in 1964 by Hon. Carlos Teran, a Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, who worked closely with the East Los Angeles Variety Boys Club. He encouraged many troubled youngsters to participate in the many Boys Club programs and activities.**

**In the early 1960's, when Judge Teran relocated to Pomona, he inquired about the local Boys Club. When he realized none existed, he decided to start a Boys Club in Pomona, and subsequently spearheaded the effort to bring a Club to the City of Pomona.**

**Last year over 2,500 boys and girls benefited from the services the Boys & Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley has to offer. In the past 40 years the Pomona Valley club has served over 50,000 youth. Boys & Girls Clubs offer programs and services that promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.**

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## **WHERE:**

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**1420 S. GAREY AVE.**  
**POMONA, CA**

## **CONTACT:**

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**909/623-8538**  
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## **WHY:**

The Quick Tips on Winning in Life presentations are an avenue through which professional racers can give back to the communities where they live and race, by inspiring, affirming, empowering, and fueling the dreams of children and teens.

Quick Tips presentations center on key universal truths RWC calls Quick Tips on Winning in Life, applicable to all children and teens regardless of age, cultural background, or life experience: find something to do in life that you really love, study, learn the art of teamwork, find a mentor, take the long view, be flexible with your dreams and goals, avoid the path of least resistance, and more.

Racers Who Care, Inc. is a West Hollywood, California-based 501c3 charitable corporation, founded in 1993, that works with auto, boat, motorcycle, truck and snowmobile racers dedicated to making a positive difference for our next generation. In Southern California, and throughout the U.S. in communities surrounding their tracks and in their hometowns, RWC's racers have unforgettably impacted kids with exciting observations on how to succeed, presented by people who have -- very publicly, and in a field perceived as ruthless, tough and unforgiving.

## **CONTACT**

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### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

[WWW.MATTHAGANRACING.COM](http://WWW.MATTHAGANRACING.COM)  
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