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BE FLEXIBLE WITH DREAMS AND GOALS!

PRESS RELEASE

JOHN LOMBARDO, JR. SET TO SHARE WITH KIDS HOW TO STAY ON THE HIGH ROAD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHO:

Racers Who Care spokesracer, John Lombardo, Jr., team owner and driver for the Bea, California-based NAPA Auto Parts 2010 Chevrolet Camaro Top Alcohol Funny Car, is set to make a Quick Tips on Winning in Life life skills presentation to nearly 100 kids on Wednesday, August 28, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. at the LeGore Boys & Girls Club in Indianapolis, Indiana.

WHERE:

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JOHN LOMBARDO, JR.:

John Lombardo, Jr., is team owner and driver of the NAPA Auto Parts 2010 Monte Carlo Chevrolet Top Alcohol Funny Car (TA/FC) on the National Hot Rod Association's Mello Yello Drag Racing Series as well as the NHRA's Lucas Oil Central Region Series.

He will be stopping in at the LeGore Unit of the Indianapolis Boys & Girls Clubs to visit with kids and share his personal insights on winning in life while in the area to compete in the NHRA's Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals competition at Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Raceway.

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Lombardo, who's personal top speed is 266.37 m.p.h. at 5.45 seconds, grew up on the drag racing scene, helping out with his father, Lil' John Lombardo's team. Lombardo, Sr. began his career racing a '55 Chevy in the 1960's racing mostly on NHRA Division 7 events, graduating to national Series races in the '70's and '80's and running Nitro Funny Cars, also called Fuel Funny Cars.

The first funny cars were built in the mid-1960s. The name originated because the rear wheels on early cars had been moved forward on the chassis (altered wheelbase) to improve weight transfer under acceleration, increasing traction on the rear tires, which were oversized compared to stock. Looking at the cars, they didn't quite look stock, hence the name "funny". Eventually, they were designed with "flip-tops" where the shell of the car can be raised up away from the car's body to make the engine more accessible and to allow drivers ease of access. Fuel Funny Cars and Top Fuel Dragsters burn a highly volatile fuel mixture that is usually 85–90% nitromethane with 10–15% methanol, while Top Alcohol Funny Cars commonly known as "alky" cars, generally burn just methanol or ethanol. Top Alcohol Funny Cars with injected engines with no supercharger, can burn a percentage of nitromethane, though supercharged Top Alcohol Funny Cars are allowed into NHRA competition.

John Lombardo, Jr. won the 2011 Division 7 TAFC Championship and was Top Alcohol Funny Car winner for the NHRA's 2012 season-ending racing event, the Autoclub Finals, as well as TA/FC winner of the NHRA's 2013 season-opening event, the Winternationals, both staged in Pomona, California, near the Team's home base in Brea. Altogether, Lombardo has scored three career NHRA national racing event wins, and five Division 7 racing event wins.

He began racing on the NHRA's national championship series in 2009, and very quickly won one of the first national events he entered. He finished the 2010 season in 2nd place on Division 7. He started his career at age 23 by taking classes at the Frank Hawley School of Drag Racing, but economics at the time prevented him from going into full time NHRA competition. Instead, he began professional kart racing, then in 2000, moved on in to Sports Car Club of America's Formula Ford Series competition. Later, he tried out ACRL Cosworth Series racing and running the Cooper Tires F2000 Series.

In 1996, Lombardo purchased Jackson's Auto Supply in Brea, California and by 2007, had 15 years of open wheel racing under his belt, including numerous regional and national wins, but had also expanded his business enterprise to include a three-car race team ownership and a vastly expanded auto parts supply business. "Auto racing is much more than a hobby," he says, "it's a passion that requires business and marketing efforts," he says, speaking from the experience of watching his father race for years, and working in his Dad's Lil' John Auto Parts stores. Lombardo, also has two years' college-level business education.

The unexpected shut-down of the F2000 Race Series, suddenly rendering his successful three-car team obsolete, prompted Lombardo to think about entering drag racing again. "This was a new day for us," he says, "we wanted to approach drag racing with a well-thought-out, properly organized, program." Due to the difficulty of racing them, leading to great experience, and the comparably reasonable economics of running them, Top Alcohol Funny Cars were his first choice, though racing nitro cars like his father did, is his ultimate dream.

"Driving a five-second Funny Car is absolutely extreme, " he says, citing all the challenges of vibration, poor visibility, the need to be technically correct during staging, starting the run at the right time, keeping the car on target as it navigates down the track, and making decisions while the car is running at 200 m.p.h. "There's a lot more time to process information in road racing," he says. "In drag racing, you need to be capable of responding."

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Assisting with photography during John's presentation at the LeGore Unit will be Robert Villegas, Jr., owner of Indianapolis-based New Century Marketing Concepts, which specializes in motorsports marketing.

LeGORE UNIT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB:

The LeGore Unit Boys & Girls Club is one of seven Clubs that have served the greater Indianapolis community since 1893, and now provide programs for over 8,000 youth in the areas of career exploration and educational enhancement, citizenship and leadership, the arts, and health and fitness.

The Le Gore unit Clubs reaches out to kids of all races, religions and ethnic cultures who cannot afford other programs or lack access to them, and is open every day after school to provide a safe place for kids when they have free time and need positive, productive outlets. Dues are low, only \$10 per year.

Programs are offered to meet the special character development needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their development through involvement in groups where they learn skills in the areas of service to community, education, health and fitness, and social recreation.

A comprehensive homework help and tutoring program, designed to raise academic proficiency of Club members and enable youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, set goals, explore careers, prepare for employment, apply learning to everyday situations, and embrace technology to achieve success in a career, is also offered.

The Club also helps younger children to focus is on self-awareness, decision making, and interpersonal skills, while communicating age appropriate information to them about alcohol and drug abuse.

Additionally, the Club enables youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts, and creative writing by participation in drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media and sculpture classes.

The Club's Sports, Fitness and Recreation Department develops fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment, and social skills and helps build positive relationships and cooperation among young people.

WHY:

The Quick Tips on Winning in Life life skills presentations and events like this one 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 and encouraging them to believe in themselves.

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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 even 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, 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.

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