



NEWS RELEASE

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## **Jarit Johnson Ready for NASCAR K&N PRO Series Season Start at Greenville Pickens Speedway**

### ***Johnson Donates Primary Sponsorship to Non-Profit Organization-Racing 2 Cure***

Greenville (SC) -- Jarit Johnson Racing announced today entry into the Kevin Whitaker Chevrolet 150 at Greenville Pickens Speedway in Greenville, SC. Johnson will make his second ever start at the track piloting the no.74 Racing 2 Cure Chevrolet. In addition to Racing 2 Cure, Johnson's independently owned team will carry Auto Trakk and the Jimmie Johnson Foundation as sponsors. It was one year ago at Greenville Pickens that Johnson made his debut in the NASCAR East PRO Series. He contended inside the top ten until a late race mechanical failure ended his night early. The big difference heading into this year's season opener is Johnson's team has had more time to prepare.

"Last year I was driving for a team that fell apart financially just before the race. We weren't even going to make the race, but we didn't want the situation to stop us from racing, so we literally worked day and night putting a car together with very limited time and resources," said Johnson. "This time around we are much more prepared. We were able to spend some time and focus on setting up a good car."

"I'm really looking forward to getting the season going and especially proud to be promoting Racing 2 Cure this weekend. It's a great story on how it got started and just great people behind it. I'll have some extra motivation on my hood to showcase Racing 2 Cure with a good finish," added Johnson. "We still don't have all the big resources that some of these teams do. And we're still seeking sponsorship to get through the

year. But I'm not ever giving up. I can't thank the guys enough who basically volunteer for this team. I've got a whole crew coming down and they are just doing it for the pure passion of racing. I think heading into this year we can be much more competitive."

Racing 2 Cure (R2C) is a non-profit that was started by the inspiration of 7-year old Hunter Stewart after he learned his Mother was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Much like Jarit Johnson's start to racing, Hunter had begun racing youth off-road karts around southern California. He recognized a way he could help fight his Mom's cancer and started donating his weekly allowance for every race lap he completed. In addition, he carried the Susan G. Komen for the Cure logo on his race truck. What started as a very small act by a young man with a big heart grew and inspired others to donate and take action. Hunter's story made it to Ellen DeGeneres, who contacted Hunter and invited him to appear on the nationally syndicated Ellen DeGeneres television show.

Today Hunter is 10-years old and remains passionate about his efforts. Racing 2 Cure has been formalized in to a 501c3 non-profit organization and is now a Corporate Partner of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Racing 2 Cure provides unique support for families that are experiencing hardships while fighting cancer such as transportation to doctor visits, house cleaning services, day care, meals, children play events, etc. In addition, Racing 2 Cure provides scholarships, grants and resources to children who have lost a parent to Cancer.

"Undergoing cancer treatments can be a tremendous burden on the home," said Alycia Stewart, Co-Founder of R2C and Hunter's Mom. "Kids in the home are affected as well when Mom or Dad can't be there in the same way they normally are. We experienced this in our own home when I was undergoing Cancer treatments. It's the little things that we support like people who can't work while in treatment and are in need of financial support or transportation to doctor's visits. We hope that one day we won't be needed and there will be a cure for cancer. But until then we want to help relieve some of the burdens people experience while fighting the disease."

"We are so honored to be partnering with Jarit Johnson and grateful to his team for giving us such valuable exposure," added Stewart. "We are humbled and amazed by Jarit providing us this opportunity and can't thank him and his team enough."

Greenville Pickens Speedway has donated space for Racing 2 Cure to set up their interactive display. Fans at the race will have a chance to "beat Hunter's time" in the free R2C Racing Simulator. They also will have

their Helmets for HELP program on display and will be raffling off autographed Jarit Johnson items the night of the race.

In addition to donating the sponsorship of the race car Jarit Johnson Racing, Inc. will donate 50% of all merchandise sales to Racing 2 Cure. Hats and Sweatshirts are available at [www.JaritJohnson.com](http://www.JaritJohnson.com).

Gates open at Greenville Pickens Speedway at 10am. Practice begins at 1pm with Qualifying starting at 6pm. The fan autograph session will take place at 7pm where fans can meet Jarit Johnson and Hunter Stewart. The Kevin Whitaker Chevrolet 150 will take the green flag at 8:00pm. For ticket and track information visit: [www.GreenvillePickens.com](http://www.GreenvillePickens.com)

For more on Racing 2 Cure visit: [www.Racing2Cure.org](http://www.Racing2Cure.org)

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