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RECORD NUMBER OF 'PATIENTS' SEEN AT JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND GARDENS' 25TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR AFFAIR

Sponsored by Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville



Children's Specialty Care

August 25, 2015 – Jacksonville, FL – On Saturday, August 22, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) paired with Nemours Children's Specialty Care (Nemours) to host the 25th annual Teddy Bear Affair where a record 395 'patients' were given health check-ups, including x-rays, eye exams and colorful casts.

"At Nemours, we pride ourselves on being shared guardians of children's health and joy," said Erin Wallner, Manager of Marketing and Communications Programs. "We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to partner with the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens to host the Teddy Bear Affair for the past 10 years, bringing joy to thousands of children in that time. We look forward to continuing the tradition for many years to come."

'Injured' plush animals ranging from teddy bears to dinosaurs and flamingos received special treatment from the pediatric medical experts at Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville. This event gave children the opportunity to see how they would be taken care of, in the unfortunate event they would need to receive medical care. Even JaZoo, the Zoo's friendly lion mascot, received a check-up!

"The event was a blast," said Tony Vecchio, Executive Director of JZG. "Being able to partner with such a well-known and respected child care organization to provide a unique experience for the children of the community is always a wonderful feeling."

Photo Credit: Joseph Tremain – Photo 1, 2, 3, 4
Erin Wallner – Photo 5, 6

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About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,400 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit JacksonvilleZoo.org.

About Nemours Children's Specialty Care

Nemours (NAH-mors) is an internationally recognized children's health system that owns and operates Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware and the Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida along with other major pediatric specialty clinics in Delaware, Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Established as The Nemours Foundation through the legacy and philanthropy of Alfred I. DuPont, Nemours offers pediatric clinical care, research, education, advocacy and prevention programs to all families in the communities it serves. For more information, visit www.nemours.org/jacksonville.