

Champions for Charity

Grandmaster Dong's Martial Arts in Morehead City along with other branch instructors and Grandmaster Seung Dong presented a check in the amount of \$28,337 to the Children's Hospital Foundation on November 13. The funds were raised during the 41st annual school tournament in Richmond, Virginia. Twenty-one students from the Morehead City school of Grandmaster Dong's Martial Arts participated in the event with more than 300 competitors and 2,000 spectators in attendance. Grandmaster Dong began holding the annual tournament to benefit the Children's Hospital in 1996 and, since then, has donated nearly \$330,000 to the Foundation.

This year's opening ceremonies included demonstrations from black belt students and performances by several demo teams. One touching demonstration was performed by the Chesterfield, Virginia, school which honored the lives of five students that were lost this year. Grandmaster Seung Dong also gave special recognition to Morehead City's Kayla LeMay, who had injured her leg in PE and was put on crutches by her doctor just days before the event. Though unable to compete, she still made the trip to Richmond to support her classmates and support the Children's Hospital. Master Phillip Henry states: "Kayla is a champion in our book whether she competed or not. She put others ahead of herself and demonstrated what our program tries to instill in our students. Instead of fighting for medals, she was there to help give others a fighting chance." Instructor Shannon Henry adds: "We are proud of all of our students for sharing the heart of the martial arts with their community. It's about family and everyone coming together for a good time while raising money for a great cause."

All 21 students who participated from the Morehead City school of Grandmaster Dong's Martial Arts earned 1st through 3rd place medals in their divisions: first place - Ryan Winstead and Sean Willis; second place - Conrad Tamagne, Sabrina Jones, Sam Jones,



Elijah Mizell, Ben Gilliam, Kamal Ogunda, Connor Ballou, Charles Jones and Riley Wikel; and third place - Aiden Snavely, Jamison Paylor, Josh Sheppard, Sam Hough, Travis Pittman, Kasey Oregon, Clayton Daniels, Makayla Sharp, Austin Purifoy and Andrew Moles.

Grandmaster Dong's Martial Arts School is located at 5270-A Highway 70 West in Morehead City and offers both day and evening classes for ages four through adult. The school is owned and operated by husband and wife instructors Phillip and Shannon Henry. For more information about the program visit the website at www.DongsKarate.com or call 222-0444.

For more than 80 years, Children's Hospital Foundation has been dedicated to funding and advocating for pediatric initiatives that improve the status of health care and the quality of life for children in our region. The Foundation provides support for the programs and initiatives of Children's Hospital of Richmond (CHoR) and the more than 150,000 children it serves each year, as well as other pediatric health care programs in the community.



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