



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESIDENT OBAMA MEETS MISSISSIPPI CHILD AT WHITE HOUSE**

*Wal-Mart Sponsored Trip lets Batson Hospital Patient meet Senators,  
Congressmen at Champions Across America event*

Photos Available at [www.ChildrensMiracleNetwork.org/ChampionsDC](http://www.ChildrensMiracleNetwork.org/ChampionsDC)

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (March 25, 2009)—A Mississippi child had the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama yesterday during a visit to the White House with Children's Miracle Network.

Cameron Smyly, 8, toured the White House and met the President, who then invited Smyly and other children to play on the playground on the South Lawn.

Smyly had the opportunity to meet President Obama while participating in Champions Across America presented by Walmart and Sam's Club. The program recognizes the 17 million children treated each year at Children's Miracle Network hospitals across the country. Champions Across America designates a Champion child in every state who has bravely battled and triumphed despite a serious injury or illness. The 2009 Champions have suffered illnesses such as brittle bone disease, brain tumors, leukemia and cerebral palsy and survived car accidents and plane crashes.

Cameron was treated at Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children for a near-fatal injury caused by an auto accident.

“The Champions Across America program has been raising awareness about the importance of children's hospitals for the past 13 years,” said Scott Burt, president and CEO, Children's Miracle Network. “It is always a privilege to be at the White House and we hope that President Obama was inspired by the children he met today.”

In addition to the White House visit, the Champions had the chance to visit with their senators and congressmen during a luncheon at Capitol Hill where Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) addressed the group.

Joining the Champions were Miss America 2009 Katie Stam and country star Mark Wills. “One of Miss America's most important and most rewarding duties is to serve as the official Goodwill Ambassador for Children's Miracle Network,” said Stam. “Being able to get to know each of these Champions on a personal level has connected me forever to them and their families. I look forward to visiting their hospitals and helping them raise money throughout the year.”

Wal-Mart's support for the Children's Miracle Network began in 1987. Since then, Walmart and Sam's Club associates, customers and members have raised and contributed more than \$460 million for Children's Miracle Network hospitals.

###

**About Batson Hospital**

The Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, part of University of Mississippi Health Care, is located on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. It is the only hospital in the state devoted exclusively to the care and treatment of sick and injured youngsters. More than 150,000 children from all of the state's 82 counties come to Batson Hospital each year. The spectrum of care ranges from well-child care for healthy newborns to care for cancer, birth defects, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, neurological disorders, pulmonary disease, trauma, allergies, diabetes and numerous other childhood illnesses.

**About Children's Miracle Network**

Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals. Each year, the 170 Children's Miracle Network hospitals provide the finest medical care, life-saving research and preventative education to help millions of kids overcome diseases and injuries of every kind. To learn more go to [www.ChildrensMiracleNetwork.org](http://www.ChildrensMiracleNetwork.org).

**About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.**

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Wal-Mart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Wal-Mart Foundation supports initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. In 2007, Walmart, Sam's Club and the Wal-Mart Foundation gave \$296 million to communities across the United States. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).

Press Contact: Aubrey Cichelli  
[Aubrey@childrensmiraclenetwork.org](mailto:Aubrey@childrensmiraclenetwork.org)  
Phone: 801/661-3054