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CONQUER PARALYSIS NOW TO HOLD INDY GALA

Founder Sam Schmidt to Drive Arrow Corvette at Event

Princeton, NJ, April 18, 2016— On Wednesday, May 18th at The Crane Bay, three-time Indy 500 winner Dario Franchitti and WTHR Sports Director Dave Calabro will be co-chairing the 17th Annual *Racing to Recovery* Fundraising Gala to support Conquer Paralysis Now (CPN) – a nonprofit founded by former IndyCar driver Sam Schmidt.

“Every year, the IndyCar drivers and the Indianapolis community are so supportive of this important fundraiser with a goal to cure paralysis,” said President/CEO Ida Cahill. “This year we are also excited to honor two very special people at our event, motorsports mogul Bill Simpson and CPN volunteer Ellen Oxley.”

The evening begins with a cocktail reception and silent auction at 6:00 pm. Guests will then move outdoors to cheer on former IndyCar racer Sam Schmidt, who is a quadriplegic, as he drives a modified 2014 Corvette C7 Stingray designed by Arrow Electronics. Later in the evening, the Syrens Cheerleaders will perform a dance routine underscoring the gala’s Greased Lightning theme in which guests can join in, while Dancing Wheels, a physically integrated dance company from Cleveland, will celebrate the universal spirit of dance with their enlightening message of inclusion and accessibility in a most unique performance.

“CPN gala sponsors, guests and volunteers really make this event the success it is,” said Cahill. “We are so appreciative of everyone who gets involved to help us in our mission including the IndyCar drivers who attend our event.”

Special guests at the gala this year include Ms. Wheelchair Indiana, Erin Padgett Walker, and Kevin Swindell, Chili Bowl Nationals racing champ, who was paralyzed last year in a racing accident. Sponsorships and auction proceeds from the event will support ongoing funding for scientific research in finding a cure for paralysis.

Conquer Paralysis Now is a nonprofit devoted to furthering advancements in spinal cord injury (SCI) research and treatment. Backed by an international coalition of medical doctors, research scientists and business leaders, CPN is motivated by the singular goal of finding a cure for paralysis – that is, restoring important functions for those living with SCI.

If you would like more information about the May 18th gala, please contact Debra Miller, Events Director, at 609.737.1919 or via email at dmiller@ConquerParalysisNow.org. Interested parties who wish to attend or support the gala can also register online on the events page of the CPN website at www.ConquerParalysisNow.org

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