

For Immediate Release

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Media Contact: Danielle Palli at 888-936-2782 or danielle@aquanew.com

Team REDS/Watt-Ahh® Super Boat Offshore Racing and ChildHelp® Raise Awareness for Parents About Learned Bullying Behaviors

(Sarasota, FL.) – **Super Boat Offshore Racing Teams** recently banded together in support of a young student who is being bullied not only by his classmates but also by their parents. These same parents took their children out of school for a day in protest of the school administrator's disciplinary action against one of the bullies.

Sarasota's **Team REDS/Watt-Ahh®** –having the **ChildHelp®** emblem affixed to their Super Boat and **McGruff the Crime Dog** as an honorary team member to help stamp out bullying—could not stand by. Rob Gourley of **Team REDS** said, “When we heard about ‘Mike’ [name changed for privacy] and further discovered that the parents were encouraging the bullying behavior, we became even more alarmed and outreached to **ChildHelp®** to find out if the organization could provide guidance and resources to assist the school, its teachers and parents to cool the situation.”

Gourley continued, “We wanted to do something special for Mike himself so he can realize there are people who care about him, even outside of his own school.” During the July 4th Race Weekend in Sarasota, **Team REDS** asked their fellow racers to sign the back of a race t-shirt, hero cards, posters and a baseball hat for Mike. **Teams Geico, Stihl, Warpaint, Instigator, Qatar, Tilted Kilt, Raven, and many others, including Paul Sr. of the Orange County Choppers** wrote encouraging notes such as “Hang in there,” and “We believe in You, Mike.”

“Parents need to understand how much kids learn from their behaviors,” one of the school's administrator shared. “If your children see you being mean to someone at the grocery store, to a server at a restaurant – wherever – they are going to assume that's acceptable. When parents do not hold their kids accountable for their actions, they not only encourage bullying behavior, but the problem then only escalates.” Sadly, there are thousands of situations such as this one, and children who are bullied are at increased risk for suicide and depression.

As it turns out, ChildHelp® has a nationwide “Speak Up Be Safe” program that is taught to faculty and administrators of schools to effectively stop bullying and abuse in schools and – in turn – in the home. Visit SpeakUpBeSafe.org to learn more about this important program and how you can get your school involved.

To date, Watt-Ahh® Customers have donated over \$4,000 to ChildHelp®. Visit www.AquaNew.com/blog to learn more about this story. Contact Danielle Palli at Danielle@aquanew.com to arrange an interview with Rob Gourley or members of Team REDS Offshore Racing.

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