



QuEd up for Education

People and programs impacting our QCSD community

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Making his mark on race car circuit

Paul Owens III of the Sixth Grade Center, a nationally ranked Quarter Midget racer, has become a Youth Ambassador for Kart 4 Kids to aid Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.

By Gary Weckselblatt

Paul Owens III, a student at the Sixth Grade Center, loves Quarter Midget auto racing and helping people. This year, he's combined both passions as a Youth Ambassador for Kart 4 Kids.

Kart 4 Kids, in its eighth year, has raised more than \$400,000 for Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. The Pro-Am event was created as a tribute to Dan Wheldon, who lost his life in an October, 2011 racing accident, and had a "huge space in his heart for kids," said Chris Russick, the organization's marketing director.

This is the first year for Kart 4 Kids' Youth Ambassador program, and Paul and fellow Bucks County buddy Chase Buscaglia of Yardley were the two youngsters tasked with promoting the event.

"We love that they're involved," Mr. Russick said. "We're honored that they came to us. This was the boys' idea. They said 'We love what you guys do. How can we help you?' They're making a very



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Paul Owens III

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large impact. We're very proud of that."

Paul, 12, recalls that several years ago one of his sisters was hospitalized, and he vowed that if given the opportunity he would help others in a similar situation. "I wished someone was helping her so I knew if I ever could I would help someone else," he said. "I really do like helping people, especially kids with a bad disease. It's important to me to help kids who are in need."

Shannon Owens, Paul's mom, said "Paul truly lives and breaths racing, and for him to get the opportunity to do something he loves while raising awareness for a charity that helps kids makes the race season even more special for him." Along with being a Youth Ambassador for Kart 4 Kids, Paul also represents AFCEC Racing/Ultimate QM.

Paul, who aspires to be a professional race car driver, has been racing for as long as he can remember, and is a regular at Oaklane Quarter Midget Speedway in Trumbauersville, where he holds three track records:



Senior Animal, 5.498; Light 160, 5.695, and Light World Formula, 5.455. This is more than a hobby for Paul, as his national ranking proves.

"This is what I want to do," he said. I want to be a professional race car driver."

While the Kart 4 Kids event is scheduled for March 6 at Andersen RacePark in North Palmetto, FL, Paul has competed around the country in Alabama, Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

"It's not like anything else," he said of racing. "The wind is coming on your face. You're driving really fast, and are on the edge of your seat, and you have to make decisions really fast. It's nice and fun."

Though Paul is a very competitive person, he keeps the composure of a sportsman with compassion, his mom said. "Win or lose he congratulates all of the competitors in a race with him."

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