

**Racing for a Cause**  
**McDonough, Georgia**  
**www.racingforacause.org**



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Atlanta Model & Talent Anna Jay accepts position of Education Ambassador for Racing for a Cause**

(McDonough, Ga) A little over 10 years ago, 19 year old Anna Johnson met a young boy, living with a rare disease. Over the years their friendship grew into a closeness rivaling that of siblings. This week, Ms. Johnson, who goes by Anna Jay as a fashion model and talent, joined up with her little "brother" Ricky to support his program, Racing for a Cause, as an Education Ambassador.

Springer was born with an Eosinophil Gastrointestinal Disease (EGID), specifically Eosinophilic (E-O-sin-O-phil-ik) Colitis. EGIDs occur when eosinophils, a type of white blood cell, accumulate in one or more areas of the digestive system, causing inflammation.

As a go-kart racer at the age of 7, Springer founded Racing for a Cause to create awareness of eosinophilic diseases because of his own battle to obtain an accurate diagnosis. Due to the lack of knowledge in the medical community, Springer suffered for the first 21 months of his life, while 18 physicians were unable to diagnose his illness. The goal of Racing for a Cause is to educate both the general public and the medical community about these diseases. Since the start of the program in 2009, with assistance from racers from around the world who have joined with Springer, over 7 million people have been educated about EGIDs.

Being close to Springer, Anna Jay has witnessed the struggles of daily life for him and his desire to educate others. Over the last year, Anna Jay has provided financial support to help Springer obtain a non-profit status for his program. "Ricky Springer inspired me by stating No One should have to suffer in pain like he did" said Ms. Johnson. "I personally want to educate people about the illness Ricky and others live with."

Anna Jay is currently a Fashion Model and Talent with Advantage Talent Agency. Anna has worked for Banana Republic, Dillard's, Prada, Burberry, Miu Miu, Armani as well as numerous other designers. She is a Brand Ambassador for Nina's Couture, Soleil Swimwear, Bramer Leon Couture, HVM, New York Fashion Cruise, Miami Fashion Cruise, Revel Cosmetics, Antoine Lenard Cosmetics, ATLFirm Apparel, Atlanta's Acoustic Stages and TrebleKote. Ms. Johnson is also a Champion Competitive Irish Step Dancer, 3 time WORLD Qualifier, 3 time North American medalist, and future Irish Dance instructor. She has won titles of N. American Champion in Irish Traditional Singing as well as Irish Concertina. For 3 consecutive years, Ms. Johnson has been employed with Woodruff Arts Center Young Audiences Program performing and teaching about Irish History & Culture. She has been a member of 3 different traditional Irish Bands. Ms. Johnson has been the recipient of 5 scholarships in Irish Music, several in Irish Dance & a scholarship to the New York Film Academy.

Ms. Johnson will support Racing for a Cause through appearances at special events and speaking engagements in order to further awareness efforts of eosinophilic diseases.

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### **About Racing for a Cause**

Racing for a Cause was founded in 2009 by then 7 year old Ricky Springer, a go-kart racer, to create awareness of eosinophilic diseases. Since the start of the program, over 7 million people around the world have been educated about these rare diseases.

[www.racingforacause.org](http://www.racingforacause.org)