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Stroke Coach & CEO/Founder of Bcenter Valerie Greene waves victory flag for stroke recovery to Drive FAST and Save Lives on World Stroke Day

Tuesday, October 29th at Orlando Grand Prix

ORLANDO, Fla. (October 22, 2013) – Stroke survivor, President of Central Florida Stroke Club and Bcenter CEO/Founder, **Valerie Greene**, teams up with area hospitals in an effort to raise awareness about the early warning signs of stroke and the importance of getting medical attention **FAST**. Join Greene and the Central Florida Alliance for Stroke Awareness, comprised of area hospitals and stroke support groups, at Orlando Grand Prix as local stroke survivors take to the track for a symbolic demonstration of **FAST (Face, Arm, Speech, Time)**, a lifesaving acronym aimed to save lives and limit disability from stroke. In honor of World Stroke Day, this FREE event is designed to educate Central Floridians about stroke, a leading cause of death and disability in the U.S., and celebrate the inspirational survivors in our community.

When: Tuesday, October 29th – 9550 Park south CT, Suite 400, Orlando, FL 32837

Schedule/Visuals: 11:30 am Local healthcare providers to discuss stroke signs and symptoms (FAST)

12:00 p.m. Stroke survivors and healthcare professionals driving FAST on the track

“World Stroke Day is an ideal time to remind everyone to learn about FAST, a lifesaving acronym symbolizing the warning signs of stroke. While stroke continues to be a worldwide debilitating and often fatal occurrence, this awareness day reminds us that knowledge of stroke directly impacts one’s prevention, treatment and when needed, recovery,” said Greene, who will celebrate her nearly 20 years of recovery.

Time is crucial in the treatment of stroke, as on average, every 40 seconds someone in the United States has a stroke and every 2 seconds someone worldwide suffers a stroke. The earlier a stroke is recognized and the person receives medical attention, the greater the chance of recovery.

“If you suspect a stroke, remember the word FAST,” said stroke survivor Dan Roberts. “F is for face: is it drooping? A is for arms: can you lift both arms? S is for speech: are you slurring your words? T is for time: call 9-1-1 immediately because with stroke, time loss is brain loss. My decision to act ‘FAST’ saved my life! Because I sought immediate emergency care, I was treated with (tPA), a lifesaving drug which quickly stopped my stroke by dissolving the blood clot and restoring blood flow to my brain.”

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About the Bcenter: The Bcenter is a nonprofit dedicated to furthering resources, hope and direction for stroke survivors and caregivers. Its mission is to empower, educate and light the path to recovery for stroke survivors and families. Visit Bcenter.com.

About Central Florida Alliance for Stroke Awareness: Central Florida Alliance for Stroke Awareness is a group of healthcare professionals in Metro-Orlando with a mission to raise awareness regarding the signs and symptoms of stroke.