



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Suncoast Super Boat Grand Prix Festival June 25-July 4***

Sarasota, FL. – May 16, 2011 – Walgreens presents the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Suncoast Super Boat Grand Prix Festival which gets underway soon to benefit Suncoast Charities for Children. Spearheading this year’s ten day Festival are Festival Director, Lucy Nicandri, Volunteer Festival Chair and Board Member, Julie Brown, and Race Chairman, John Carbonell. This year’s Festival will offers 22 events over 10 days for the entire family to enjoy.

**New Events This Year Include: 2 Ticketed VIP Race Viewing Areas on Lido Beach - Fashion Show - High Heel Hike for Autism - Official Pre and Post Parade Parties at The Broadway Bar - Cornhole Competitions Casino Style Gaming “Pre-Race” Party at the Hyatt Regency - A Celebrity “Meet and Greet Reception” with Johnathan and Andy Hillstrand of the Fishing Vessel Time Bandit featured on “Deadliest Catch”.**

The Festival generates an estimated economic impact of approximately \$9.6 Million dollars and is one of the longest continuously running race sites in the country. Over the past 26 years, the Festival has contributed more than \$14 million towards the construction and maintenance of various non-profit facilities that provide programs and services to physically and mentally challenged children and adults which include Loveland Center, Special Olympics, Community Haven and Adult Center, The Florida Center, and Oak Park School.

Official Festival merchandise is available at select Walgreens store locations within Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Major sponsors for this year include Budweiser, Sarasota And Her Islands Convention & Visitors Bureau, FCCI Insurance Group, Sarasota Ford, Hyatt Regency Sarasota, SNN Local News 6, Comcast, Bright House Networks , 107.9 WSRZ, and 4sarasota.com. For Festival information visit [www.suncoastoffshore.org](http://www.suncoastoffshore.org) For press credentials visit

[www.superboat.com](http://www.superboat.com) and click on the Press Credentials tab at the top of the home page.