FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 8, 2026

Marbles Kids Museum and WakeMed Children's Inspire Next Generation of Healthcare Workers with New Ambulance Exhibit: *To the Rescue*

RALEIGH, N.C. – Marbles Kids Museum is excited to share plans for *To the Rescue*, a fully transformed ambulance and hospital play exhibit opening on June 12, 2026. The refreshed exhibit will immerse young children in hands-on emergency medical play that explores a wide range of healthcare careers. Designed to spark curiosity and confidence, *To the Rescue* will highlight emergency medicine, neonatal care, x-ray technology and more as kids and families engage in play-based medical exploration.

To the Rescue is presented by WakeMed Children's who shares Marbles' passion for caring for all who call our region home. Marbles and WakeMed Children's will host a joint ribbon-cutting event on Friday, June 12 from 9am – 10am, followed by a grand reopening celebration on Saturday, June 13 from 10am – 4pm featuring special activities like hospital career badge making, a Teddy Bear Clinic, splinting practice and more.

"Receiving medical care and building trusted relationships with healthcare professionals is part of the childhood experience," said Hardin Engelhardt, Chief Learning Officer, Marbles Kids Museum. "Medical play gives kids the chance to work through feelings, ask questions and feel empowered in healthcare settings and situations, turning fear into curiosity and helping children be brave during real-world healthcare experiences."

"Healthcare is about people in a way that goes far beyond the walls of a hospital or physician's office. We are honored to support this space at Marbles Kids Museum where children and families have a chance to experience the joy of helping others through creativity and play," said Donald Gintzig, President and CEO of WakeMed. "This new exhibit makes learning about health and wellness fun, approachable and inspiring. We hope every child leaves with a bigger imagination, greater confidence and a spark for a future career in the incredible field of caring for others."

To the Rescue will replace the beloved ambulance exhibit that has called Marbles' *Around Town* gallery home since opening in 2007. The transformed environment will provide more opportunities for learning and exploring and is fully accessible to ensure all guests can experience the unique, playful space.

Jonathan Frederick, CEO, Marbles shared: "WakeMed Children's exhibit is the center of all the action at Marbles, and this exciting upgrade will inspire children and families for years to come. *To the Rescue* creates new ways for Marbles' guests to explore what WakeMed means to our community while having fun learning about health and emergency medicine."





Photo Credit: Marbles Kids Museum

PHOTO GALLERY

***To the Rescue* Ribbon Cutting:**
Date: Friday, June 12 | 9am-10am
Location: 201 E. Hargett St, Raleigh, NC 27601
Note: Jonathan Frederick with Marbles and Donald Gintzig with WakeMed will be available for interviews at 9:45am.

***To the Rescue* Grand Opening Celebration:**
Date: Saturday, June 13 | 10am-4pm
Location: 201 E. Hargett St, Raleigh, NC 27601
For activities and more details, visit here.

About WakeMed Health & Hospitals:
Serving the community since 1961, WakeMed is a not-for-profit health care system founded and based in Raleigh, N.C. WakeMed exists to improve the health and well-being of our community by providing outstanding and compassionate care to all. WakeMed's 973-bed system comprises

a network of facilities throughout the Triangle area, including three full-service hospitals, a mental health & well-being hospital, eight emergency departments, a dedicated Children's Hospital and Rehabilitation Hospital, two exceptional Trauma Centers—a Level I Trauma Center in Raleigh and a Level III Trauma Center in Cary, and more than 175 physician and physical therapy practice offices. WakeMed's mission-driven team includes more than 12,800 employees, 1,300 volunteers and 1,300 affiliated physicians along with a network of 900+ primary care and specialty providers with WakeMed Physician Practices—all representing the best minds, the biggest hearts and the finest quality in health care and community health. For more information, visit www.wakemed.org or follow WakeMed on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn.

About Marbles:
Marbles Kids Museum, located in downtown Raleigh, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to spark imagination, discovery and learning through play. Since opening in 2007, Marbles has served millions of children and families with hands-on exhibits, award-winning programs, one-of-a-kind special events and immersive IMAX showings. Marbles is open Tuesday-Sunday from 10am-5pm and on Thursdays until 7pm. Member early entry is from 9am-10am. For more information on Marbles Kids Museum, visit https://www.marbleskidsmuseum.org/.

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