

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COMMUNITIES COME TOGETHER AT THE 3rd ANNUAL  
RACE4RESPECT™ PRESENTED BY  
KOONS OF SILVER SPRING  
LOCAL CELEBRITIES TO HOST AND PERFORM**

*Bethesda, MD. – April 18, 2016 - Devenio, Inc., is thrilled to announce the third annual Race4Respect™ 5K & 1K Kids Dash presented once again by Koons of Silver Spring held Saturday, June 4, 2016.*

*“This event isn’t just a race. It’s a barrier-breaking opportunity for the community to interact and engage with people with Down syndrome and other disabilities,” says Gena Mitchell, President Devenio, Inc. and Race4Respect™ founder. Mitchell continues, “Along with Koons of Silver Spring, one of our biggest supporters, we will stop traffic for a third time in the nation’s capital for Down Syndrome Awareness.”*

The 5K and 1K Kids Dash will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 with Fox5 news anchor, Allison Seymour, leading the participants. The Master of Ceremonies will be joined by sibling-sensations Davison Duo, a brother and sister Rock-band based in the Washington, DC area. Davis and Madison Gestiehr, will be singing and signing the National Anthem. Davis has performed at Washington Wizards, Washington Nationals, Baltimore Orioles, and University of Maryland games.

The mission for the Race4Respect™ is to empower, support and enrich the lives of those with Down syndrome living, working and contributing in our communities.

*“Race4Respect has had such a positive effect on the entire community that we couldn’t wait to recommit to 2016. It is truly one of the hallmark events in the area that brings the deserved attention to the Down syndrome community.” Says Alex Perdakis, ManagingPartner at Koons of Silver Spring. “The Race4Respect’s ability to bring the community together in such an inspiring and positive way creates a tremendous environment for displaying the value of every individual and focusing on their ability, not their disability. It is with great pleasure that we are returning as the Race4Respect’s presenting sponsor.”*

Located in the DC Metro area, Devenio works with local and national disability groups to connect to their communities and inspire each other. Devenio encourages community building through partnerships that provide lifelong opportunities for people with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. By leveraging resources and working together, Devenio aims to benefit both the Down syndrome community and the greater community at large.

The Race4Respect™ is organized by Devenio in conjunction with eight Down syndrome

affiliate groups from Baltimore, MD to Richmond, VA. They include the Down Syndrome Network of Montgomery County, Down Syndrome Association of Northern VA, F.R.I.E.N.D.S of Frederick County, Down Syndrome Association of Southern Maryland, Chesapeake Parent Down Syndrome Group, Parents of Down Syndrome of Prince George's County, DS Connection in Ann Arundel, MD and the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond.

Koons of Silver Spring, located in Silver Spring, MD; sells and services new Fords, Lincolns, Mazdas and has an extensive pre-owned operation. Koons of Silver Spring has over 120 employees and was selected as one of the "Best Places to Work" by Washington Business Journal again in 2016, the 6th year in a row. Koons of Silver Spring was founded in 2010. Follow Alex Perdakis: @alex\_perdakis ; Follow Koons of Silver Spring: @Koonsauto ; www.koonsofsilverspring.com

For additional information and to register for the Race4Respect™, go to: [www.race4respect.com](http://www.race4respect.com) #race4respect. Contact: Gena Mitchell, President @ Devenio, Inc. [gena@devenio.org](mailto:gena@devenio.org) [www.devenio.org](http://www.devenio.org)