



dedicated to finding a cure

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**MAZDA PRESENTS NEW MX-5 MIATA
TO JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION
WINNING “WALK TO CURE DIABETES” FAMILY TEAM**

Jim O’Sullivan of Mazda North American Operations is Corporate Chair for record-breaking Walk



Irvine, CA, January 2008—Jim O’Sullivan, President and CEO, Mazda North American Operations (MNAO), and Corporate Chair of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) “Walk to Cure Diabetes” was clearly pleased with the results of this year’s Walk. Although he was unable to attend the Walk Awards Ceremony, he sent his congratulations in a letter read by Bob Mercer, JDRF Board member and MNAO Vice President, Dealer Operations.

“At Mazda, we are proud to support JDRF,” said O’Sullivan, “It has become an annual opportunity for our employees to work together outside of the daily business routine. It has created new relationships within our company, and has allowed some of our most promising employees to develop leadership skills and experience success.”

As part of Mazda's participation as presenting sponsor of the Walk, the use of a brand new 2008 Mazda MX-5 Miata for two years was the incentive prize for the Family Walk Team that raised the most money for this year's Walk. Dan MacMillan, captain of Walk Team KTQ, was the winner. MacMillan's Ladera Ranch team raised more than \$26,000. The total raised for this year's Walk is \$1.1 million, maintaining the chapter's million dollar walk status for three years.

"I am so excited that we won, but we are going to raise even more next year," MacMillan said. "We walk with the hope that we will find a cure for diabetes."

Team KTQ is named for MacMillan's neighbor Katie Lee who was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of three. The entire neighborhood participates in fundraising for the walk. Katie, her sister Jessica and dad Yong Lee all joined Dan as he received the keys to the car from Bob Mercer.

As the presenting sponsor for this year's Walk, MNAO has been a key supporter of JDRF Orange County for the past six years. To date, MNAO has raised more than \$600,000 to help JDRF find a cure for diabetes and its complication through the support of research. Jim O'Sullivan, MNAO's president and CEO has participated in the Walk since 2003. It was his idea to offer a car to the winning team.

"Mazda's ongoing participation through their companies' walk teams and sponsorships is corporate citizenship at its best," said Kelly O'Brien and Dirk Thornley, 2007 JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes co-chairs. "We are immensely appreciative of Jim's personal involvement, and his leadership and dedication to our walk. Diabetes and its complications affects all of us, and Mazda's employees really are committed to finding a cure for diabetes."

Mazda is part of the Ford Global Walk Team, a Global Partner with JDRF nationally. Robert Tarlton, Regional Community Affairs Manager for Ford Motor Company, announced that the Irvine organization was named the top Ford Team for the 2007 Walk. The Irvine Ford Global Team has raised \$1,244,513 since 2001.

The top 10 Corporate Walk teams for this year were: 1) Mazda North American Operations, 2) Ford Global Walk Team, 3) Marshall's, 4) First American Corporation, 5) Doner Advertising, 6) Marina Medical Billing Service, 7) Allergan, 8) JDRF-UBS and US, 9) Team GT (Grant Thornton), 10) ESL Family of Companies.

Louise Cummings, Executive Director of JDRF Orange County, announced last night that Jon Kaplan, of Chapman University, Argyros School of Business, will chair the 2008 Walk scheduled for November 9 on the University of California, Irvine Campus. “The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation grew out of a promise from the founding parents to their children, that other children would not have to suffer as they have. The Walk came from that promise. The Walk to Cure Diabetes is the signature fundraising effort of JDRF and represents more than 50% of JDRF’s income each year to raise funds to find a cure for diabetes.”

About Mazda

The Mazda MX-5 Miata is the best selling two-seat roadster of all time. Starting at \$21,585, the 2008 model is powered by a highly responsive 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine that pumps out 166-horsepower and 140 lb-ft of torque. Other standard equipment includes Anti-lock brakes with Electronic Brake Distribution, dual front and side impact air bags, tire pressure monitoring system, AM/FM/CD audio system and much more.

Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., Mazda North American Operations oversees the sales, marketing, parts and customer service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States, Canada and Mexico through nearly 900 dealers. Operations in Canada are managed by Mazda Canada, Inc., located in Ontario, Canada, and in Mexico by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City.

About JDRF

JDRF was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with type 1 diabetes – a disease that strikes children, adolescents, and adults suddenly, makes them insulin dependent for life, and carries the constant threat of devastating complications. Since inception, JDRF has provided more than \$1.16 billion to diabetes research worldwide. More than 85 percent of JDRF's expenditures directly support research and research-related education. JDRF's mission is constant: to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. For more information please visit www.jdrf.org.