



17872 Mitchell Avenue North #100  
Irvine, CA 92614  
FAX 949.553.8813

**Media Contact:**

Donna Mogilski  
949. 553-0363  
dmogilski@jdrf.org

***NOTE TO EDITORS: Bios and photos are available upon request.***

**Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation raises \$1.4 Million**

*Time for a Cure Dream Gala grosses \$1.4 million to fund research to find a cure for diabetes; \$460,000 goes directly to JDRF cutting-edge research to prevent diabetes and reverse the disease at the point of diagnosis.*

**IRVINE, CALIF., March 11, 2008** – Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), Orange County chapter announced today that its 2008 “Time for a Cure” Dream Gala grossed \$1.4 million in support of research to find a cure for diabetes. The gala was held on March 8, 2008, at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort and Spa in Dana Point, and was co-chaired by Kim Cohen, of Newport Coast, California and Joann Leatherby of Modjeska, California.

The event attracted 600 guests, including gala family honorees Adrienne and Richard Thomas and their sons Randall and Scott as well as Shirley MacPherson, Jeff MacPherson, Anne MacPherson and Jim MacPherson who accepted the honor in memory of auto industry pioneer Joe MacPherson. The evening’s festivities commenced with cocktails and a silent auction, including an exclusive wine auction and a diamond earring opportunity drawing sponsored by Lugano Diamonds. Maria Hall Brown of KOCE presided in the ballroom as mistress of ceremonies, Broadway legend Ben Vereen entertained and Jeff Stokes was the auctioneer at JDRF’s signature live auction.

“The energy and excitement at our eighth annual dream gala was palpable as was the sense of urgency to accelerate the search for a cure for type 1 diabetes,” said Louise Cummings, executive director, JDRF Orange County. “In addition to the fabulous auction items and wines donated by our supporters, we had a tremendous outpouring of support for Fund-a-Cure, which began with a \$100,000 gift from an (anonymous) donor.”

Guests watched a video underwritten by PIMCO, about the realities of living with type 1 diabetes. In the video, the parents of 4-year-old Aidan Berlinger and 6 ½ -year-old Katherine Hellmers, JDRF President Brad Cohen and Gala Co-Chair Joan Leatherby (both living with type 1 for more than 30 years), and Adrienne and Richard Thomas along with sons Randall and 25-year-old Scott, who has had diabetes for 20 years, shared the reality of living with type 1 diabetes.

“I believe that our guests were truly moved and impacted by the seriousness of the disease,” said gala co-chair Kim Cohen, whose husband, Brad Cohen, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes as a child. “Through the rapid advancements made just in the past five years, we are convinced more than ever that diabetes will be the first chronic disease to have a cure since polio. The key is research.”

A Roberto Cavalli and Alberta Ferretti Milan runway show and stay at Alberta’ Palazzo Viviani, were two very exclusive live auction items that were sold to Mike and Tami Kahn. Other items included the signature puppy, a 12-week- old King Charles Cavalier Spaniel that went home with Anne MacPherson-West. Gala Co-Chair Kim Cohen was thrilled with the His and Hers White Gold Bulgari watches donated by Bulgari of South Coast Plaza. Neiman Marcus provided party favors for the guests along with the Alberta Ferretti Fashion Show experience and other auction items.

--more--

“We owe every thanks to our generous and caring honorees: The Thomas and MacPherson Families, and to all of our supporters and donors,” said Joann Leatherby, gala co-chair. “We would like to extend our appreciation to our amazing committee, the JDRF Orange County board and staff, the Dream Guild and its board, and Michael Mora, for the creativity and imagination he brings to our events year after year.”

**2008 Dream Gala Sponsors**

- **Presenting Sponsors:** Bulgari and Neiman Marcus
- **Inspiration Sponsors:** Mary and Dick Allen, The Leatherby Family
- **Dream Sponsor:** Hoag Memorial Hospital
- **Hope Sponsors:** Toni and Steve Berlinger, Missy and Chris Callero
- **Vision Sponsors:** Charlene and Phil Bosl, Jacki and Norm Kallan, the Joe MacPherson Foundation, Shirley MacPherson, Mike Russell-Lee Gjolme-Frank DiBella.

**Wish Sponsors:**

Allen Matkins	The Allergan Foundation
Bank of America/Brad & Connie Dinsmore	Judy and Ray Brandt
Carlton DiSante & Freudenberger, LLP	Kim and Brad Cohen
Marsha and Mike Connellan	Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Grant Thornton LLP	Greenberg Taurig, LLP
Rodger Grove	Julie and Michael Hellmers
Donna Longo and Chris Tykarski	Sharon and Jim Henwood and Friends
Lesley, Thomas, Schwarz & Postma, Inc.	Miracles for Kids
Cindy and Norm Morales	Northern Trust Bank
Prudential Financial Greater Orange Coast	Hanna and Greg Skjonsby
South Coast Plaza	Straddling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth
Adrienne and Richard Thomas	WinthropCouchot
Woodward Labs/Lida and Ken Gerenraich	

**Research Patrons:**

Suzy and Jeff Elghanayan	Hetrick Group/Smith Barney & Co
Heather and John Kline	Heather and Jim Madden
Maji Skin and Bodycare Clinic	Elaine and Mike Mata
Dierdre and Joe Rodriguez	Debbie Simon

**Underwriters**

Rick Dobler	Susan and Warren Lortie
Ford Motor Company	Historic Mission Inn and Spa
The PIMCO Foundation	

**Committee:**

Joann Leatherby and Kim Cohen, Co-Chairs			
Iris Adams	Mary Allen	Karen Anapoell	Cindy Baragno
Judy Brandt	Jennifer Condas	Connie Dinsmore	Laura Eadie
Julie Hellmers	Darlene Knoop	Pamela Lowry	Elaine Mata
Michael Mora	Cindi Morales	Janice Ramocinski	Elyse Roberts
Dierdre Rodriguez	Eric Seedman	Stacy Simondi	Hanna Skjonsby
Adrienne Thomas	Sharon Wackeen	Ann Winthrop	Greer Wylder

**About JDRF**

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the world's leading nonprofit, nongovernmental funder of diabetes research, was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with juvenile diabetes — a disease that strikes children suddenly, makes them insulin dependent for life and carries the constant threat of devastating complications. Since its inception, JDRF has provided more than \$1 billion to diabetes research worldwide. The organization’s mission is constant: to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research.

The Orange County chapter of JDRF provides valuable information about juvenile diabetes and research to people with diabetes, their families and the general public. In Orange County, JDRF holds annual events, including the Walk to Cure Diabetes, Fore the Kids Golf Classic and Dream Gala, which raise much-needed funds for diabetes research. The chapter intends to raise more than \$4 million during its 2008 fiscal year. For information on how to become involved or to attend a JDRF event in Orange County, please call (949) 553-0363 or e-mail [orangecounty@jdrf.org](mailto:orangecounty@jdrf.org).

####

###