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Record \$1.2 Million raised in “Walk to Cure Diabetes”

Walk rescheduled due to fires has record turnout

Irvine, CA, November 2007--More than 4,000 walkers comprised of corporate teams, family teams and individual walkers raised \$1.2 million towards research to cure diabetes at the JDRF Orange County “Walk to Cure Diabetes.”

“We are thrilled with the turnout,” said Walk Co-Chairs Kelly O’Brien and Dirk Thornley. “We were concerned that rescheduling due to the fires would affect our turnout. Our supporters are passionate about funding a cure and although many couldn’t make the date change, many more joined us making this a record year for fundraising.”

The walk, which took place on the UCI Campus, began at 9:00 with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Mike Nakashima, Director, Strategic Planning Mazda North American Operations, of presenting sponsor Mazda Motor Corporation and 14 year-old Timothy Bakthy and his sister Tiffany, winners of presenting sponsor Kingston Technology’s t-shirt contest.

“There are 200,000 people in Orange county living with diabetes, 19,000 of them children,” said Louise Cummings, Executive Director. “The need for a cure has never been more urgent. Current trends suggest that our children are being diagnosed at a greater rate—and at earlier ages—than ever before. Unlike both heart disease and cancer—which are seeing decreases in their mortality rates—the mortality for diabetes is actually increasing. JDRF is the leading charitable funder and advocate of juvenile (type 1) diabetes research worldwide. The money raised at the walk goes to fund research.”

For many this was their first walk such as little Kailie who at 5 years old was diagnosed with leukemia this summer. Others, such as 10 year old Travis are seasoned veterans. This was Travis' third walk and he has raised an impressive \$18,000 towards research to fund a cure.

The Walk has several fun components including a family fun zone, complimentary cuisine after the walk by food sponsors The Fish Market, BJ's Restaurants, Peppino's Italian Family Restaurant and Coca Cola. The walk start is made even more colorful by the rainbow of t-shirts designed by walker teams. Winners of the t-shirt design contest included Diabetic Divas for the best family shirt category, Mazda for best corporate shirt, Sophie's Supporters for best overall shirt, and YPM for the best use of the JDRF logo. Still to be announced in late December, the winner of the Mazda XXX, awarded to the family team that raises the most amount..

Walkers and donors have until December 15 to get their money in.

This year's JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes sponsors included Presenting Sponsors Kingston Technology and Ford Motor Company/Mazda. Other sponsors included Allergan, Doner Advertising, Mazda Dealers of Orange County, The First American Corporation, Rite Aid, Bank of America, Z Sweet, Lindora comprehensive weight control centers, Carlton DiSante & Freudenberger, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Greenberg Traug, Advanced Medical Optics, Howrey LLP, Joslin Diabetes Center at the University of California Irvine, Union Bank of California, Old Orchard, Chapman University, Grant Thornton, Marina Medical Billing Service, Ralphs Food4Less Foundation, Identity Board Shop, Winthrop Couchot, Armstrong World Industries, New Dental Choice, Experian, Wells Fargo Bank, Prudential (The Greater Orange Coast Agency), Eli Lilly, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital and ESL Family of Companies.

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.