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## ***May 2<sup>nd</sup> Juvenile Diabetes Gala Draws Nearly 600 in Support of a Cure***

*Farmington, CT* – The May 2<sup>nd</sup> Promise Ball hosted by the North Central CT/Western MA Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) drew nearly 600 guests to the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The crowd came in honor of Thomas O. Barnes, Chairman of the Board of Barnes Group, Inc., and Larry Litton, Park President of Six Flags New England, for their individual commitment to the betterment of their communities and their support of diabetes research.

This year's Promise Ball was titled "A Million Wishes for a Cure, An Evening of Hope." Proceeds from the annual gala fund research to find a cure for diabetes and its complications, which is the mission of JDRF, the world's leading funder and advocate of juvenile (type 1) diabetes research. \$750,000 has been raised to date from the May 2<sup>nd</sup> event, with additional donations expected, bringing the total raised in the last 3 years to over \$3 million. The 2007 and 2008 Promise Balls each broke area non-profit records by raising more than \$1 million.

JDRF Chapter Executive Director Mary Ann Slomski is pleased with the results of this year's gala, especially considering the current environment. "We're very happy with what we've done this year. It's an indication of how fortunate we are to have friends and sponsors who remain steadfast supporters of our mission despite all of the changes taking place in the economy," she said.

One of the highlights of the Promise Ball was when Honorees Barnes and Litton were each presented with JDRF's Star of Hope Award by Honorary Chair Ronald J. Vance, Jr., President of CIGNA's Emerging Markets. In his acceptance speech, Barnes stated, "It is our fervent hope that children living today with type 1 diabetes will come to know a brighter and healthier future that no longer includes this disease." Litton's remarks encouraged those in attendance to help JDRF's cause. "Tonight is an opportunity to move research forward. This is an opportunity we cannot let pass by...people with diabetes are depending on us."

The Ball was chaired by Elise and Jerry Rosenstock of Avon, CT. NBC 30's Kevin Nathan emceed the event. Camryn Adams, an 8½-year-old from Pelham, MA, was the gala's Youth Ambassador and received a standing ovation for her speech about life with diabetes. The program included a Silent Auction, Live Auction and Fund A Cure, where 100% tax-deductible donations may be made directly to research. Guests enjoyed a gourmet meal and danced to the sounds of Legit, a Boston-based band.

Donations may still be made to the Promise Ball effort by visiting [www.JDRFpromiseball.org](http://www.JDRFpromiseball.org) or by contacting the local JDRF Chapter. Phone 860-470-0020 or 888-533-9255, or Email to [northcentralct@jdrf.org](mailto:northcentralct@jdrf.org) or [westernma@jdrf.org](mailto:westernma@jdrf.org).

*JDRF, the world's leading charitable funder and advocate of juvenile (type 1) diabetes research, was founded in 1970 by parents of children with juvenile diabetes – a disease that strikes in childhood, adolescence or adulthood, lasts a lifetime, and carries the threat of devastating complications. JDRF has provided more than \$1.3 billion in direct funding to diabetes research, including more than \$156 million in FY2008. In a typical year, more than 85% of JDRF's expenditures directly support research and research-related education. JDRF's mission is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. Visit [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org) to find out more about diabetes or JDRF.*

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