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NEWS RELEASE

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Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Achieves Second Consecutive \$1 Million Gala

Hartford, CT – The North Central Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) did something last year that many thought couldn't be done in Greater Hartford; they raised over \$1 million through their annual black-tie gala, the JDRF Promise Ball. On Saturday night, they did it again, achieving their second million dollar fundraiser at the 2008 Promise Ball at the Connecticut Convention Center on May 3rd. Proceeds of the Ball support diabetes research.

This year's leadership team was made up of respected local business people: Stephen Finger, President of Pratt & Whitney and the event's Honoree; Jothi Purushotaman, Vice President of Operations for United Technologies Corporation and the ball's Honorary Chair; Mike DeFeo, Ball Chair and Market Unit Vice President for Coca-Cola Enterprises; Corporate Committee Co-Chairs John Jepson, Vice President of Farmington Savings Bank and Karen Fallo, President of Perfect Productions; Fund A Cure Co-Chairs Howard Carver, Former Managing Partner of Ernst & Young, Jack Leary, Retired Vice President of UTC, and Mark Norman, President of MAN Associates; and Rick Levy, President of the local JDRF Chapter.

NBC 30's Kevin Nathan emceed the gala, named "A Million Wishes for a Cure – Under the Tuscan Sun." 800 guests attended the event, which began with a cocktail reception and silent auction of more than 200 items, followed by dinner and the presentation of JDRF's Star of Hope Award to Honoree Stephen Finger. Then came a live auction that included a *Christmas in Washington* experience, a guitar autographed by Singer/Songwriter James Taylor, vacation trips to Italy, Bermuda and Hilton Head, and a week's stay in Nicaragua at the home of former UCONN and NBA player Travis Knight.

Michael Samuels was the evening's featured speaker, and received a standing ovation after telling the crowd about growing up with diabetes. His speech was followed by JDRF's signature Fund A Cure auction, where direct donations to research were made. The ballroom erupted in applause when the final fundraising total of \$1.1 million was announced.

JDRF, the leading charitable funder and advocate of juvenile (type 1) diabetes research worldwide, was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with juvenile diabetes – a disease which strikes in childhood, adolescence or adulthood, lasts a lifetime, and carries the constant threat of devastating complications. Since inception, JDRF has provided more than \$1.16 billion in direct funding to diabetes research. In a typical year, nearly 86 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. To find out more about JDRF, visit www.jdrf.org.