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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: May 10, 2007

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Gala Becomes First Fundraiser in Greater Hartford to Reach \$1 Million

Hartford, CT – Area fundraising records were shattered Saturday night at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Promise Ball at the Connecticut Convention Center, hosted by the North Central Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Chapter. Over \$1.3 million was raised for diabetes research, surpassing what any other charitable organization has raised through one event in Greater Hartford.

The success was driven by a team of local business leaders: John Kim, President of Prudential Retirement and the event's Honoree; Richard Forde, Chief Investment Officer for CIGNA and the ball's Honorary Chair; Howard Carver, Ball Chair and Former Managing Partner of Ernst & Young; Jack Leary, Fund-A-Cure Co-Chair and Retired Vice President of UTC; and Tony Sisti, Systems Director for Travelers and President of JDRF's Board of Directors.

The gala, named "A Million Wishes For A Cure," attracted 800 guests. The evening 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 John Kim. Then came a live auction of select items, including a celebrity golf experience at Florida's Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, a guitar autographed by Singer/Songwriter James Taylor, vacation trips to Hawaii, St. Croix, and Hilton Head, and a week's stay in Nicaragua at the luxury seaside home of former UCONN basketball star and NBA standout Travis Knight. A handmade quilt reflecting the gala's theme sold for \$7,000, and thanks to the winning bidder, will be displayed in the diabetes unit of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Two Simsbury children, Hannah & Meghan Corcoran, were featured speakers, and received an emotional standing ovation after telling the crowd about living with diabetes. Their speech was followed by JDRF's signature Fund-A-Cure auction. The highlight of the night was when Master of Ceremonies Kevin Nathan of NBC 30 announced the fundraising total. The entire ballroom erupted in applause and many shed tears. A proclamation from Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell was read aloud, declaring May 5, 2007 to be JDRF Day in the state.

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 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.