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***$680,000 Pledged; over 2,000 Participated at Annual JDRF Event…***

**EMPIRE CITY CASINO AT YONKERS RACEWAY**

**HOSTED WALK TO CURE DIABETES ON OCTOBER 14; VICE PRESIDENT AND COO BOB GALTERIO CAPTAINED “CURE FOR CARA” TEAM**

**New York, October 17—**Yonkers Raceway’s historic half mile harness strip was a sight to behold on Sunday (October 14) when more than 2,000 Empire City Casino employees, volunteers and participants gathered to take action in the Walk to Cure Diabetes for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. A total of $680,000 was pledged.

Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway Vice President and COO Bob Galterio’s daughter Cara was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10, and the Bedford resident immediately was compelled to take action to fight the disease. So, “Cure for Cara” was born 10 years ago. Galterio served as captain of the “Cure for Cara” team.

With the help of many volunteers and donors, JDRF is moving research from the laboratory bench to the patient's bedside, translating scientific advances into longer, healthier lives for those with diabetes, moving closer to our goal...a cure for diabetes and its complications.

The walkers representing local corporations, families, schools, and other organizations that participated in the Westchester County Chapter of the JDRF annual Walk to Cure Diabetes. The walk started  at 10am. Nearly $700,000 was raised for research to find a cure for diabetes and its complications.

“It’s great to be partnering with JDRF and working together on such an important goal – curing a disease that kills one American every three minutes. The recent statistics are staggering and reveal that health care expenditures surrounding diabetes cost our nation more than $174 billion,” says Corporate Walk Chair, Bob Galterio, Vice President and COO of Empire City Casino.  “These are the reasons we are committed to raising money for the cutting-edge research that JDRF funds. By working together, we can make a difference.”

In addition to wide-spread corporate support, entire families from kids to grandparents take part in the fundraising efforts of the Walk to Cure Diabetes – many affected themselves by the disease. However, even those who are not among the 14 million Americans with a personal connection to diabetes come out to support the cause. At the Walk, there will be games, vendor booths, pony rides, live music, food and most of all FUN!

“JDRF is immensely appreciative of Empire City’s participation,” said JDRF Executive Director, Rebecca Santoli. “This is corporate citizenship at its finest.  The commitment of Bob Galterio and his employees enables us to accelerate research to find a cure for diabetes.  Insulin is not a cure, merely life support for the estimated 3 million Americans suffering from type-1 diabetes and its complications. Research is the only answer.”

Local JDRF Walk Sponsors include: Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway, Bayer HealthCare, Bleakly Platt, Entergy, Brown & Tarantino, Stop & Shop, WestMed, Serendipity Magazine, Country Bank, DressBarn, American Transit Host, Lockton Companies, LLC and Acura of Westchester.

JDRF Walks are held in more than 200 cities worldwide. Nearly 500,000 people nationally walked last year and raised $90 million to cure diabetes.

JDRF’s Walk to Cure Diabetes National Corporate Partners are: Advance Auto Parts, Albertsons, Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc., Discover Financial Services, Ford Motor Company, Fresh Market, Marshalls, Old Orchard, UBS, Turner and Walgreens. Unite to Cure Diabetes partners are: Delta Air Lines, and Medtronic MiniMed.

**About JDRF**

JDRF is a leader in setting the agenda for diabetes research worldwide, and is the largest charitable funder and advocate of type 1 diabetes research. The mission of JDRF is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. Type 1 diabetes is a disease which strikes children and adults suddenly and requires multiple injections of insulin daily or a continuous infusion of insulin through a pump. Insulin, however, is not a cure for diabetes, nor does it prevent its eventual and devastating complications which may include kidney failure, blindness, heart disease, stroke, and amputation. Since its founding in 1970 by parents of children with type 1 diabetes, JDRF has awarded more than $1.4 billion to diabetes research, including more than $100 million in FY2009.

To register now and participate, sponsor the event, build a Walk team, or for more information please visit [www.walk.jdrf.org](http://www.walk.jdrf.org/) or call the JDRF Westchester County Chapter at [914-686-7700](tel:914-686-7700).