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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 Walk to Cure Diabetes Rocked in Big Results

Jacksonville, Fla. – (March 25, 2009) – Over 6,000 people participated in North Florida’s 2009 Walk to Cure Diabetes on March 7th at Metropolitan Park themed “Rock the Walk,” currently having raised over \$350,000 and expects to reach \$450,000 by the end of June for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, (JDRF). Proceeds raised from the event go toward further advancing research to find a cure for diabetes and its complications.

“With the good weather, food and music we had, the setting for the Walk to Cure Diabetes could not have been better! And, the thousands of people at Metropolitan Park was a visible demonstration of how committed our community is to finding a cure for Juvenile Diabetes,” said Karin Grantham, corporate recruitment chairman and vice president of Vistakon. Grantham led team Vistakon to exceeding their team goal from last year by \$50,000 with 217 walkers. “From the volunteers to the staff to the walkers, everyone came together for the chance to make a difference... and we did! It was a privilege to take part in the event, and I know that with our continued focus, we can advance the research and find a cure!”

Walkers were led out of the park by the UNF Drumline along the Riverbank and then into downtown Jacksonville for a 3 mile walk (a one mile option was also available). Dan Hicken and Joy Purdy from First Coast News were the emcees for the event and really added to the excitement of the day. The band “The Architect Sound” helped put everyone in a Rock n’ Roll mood and the testimonial from lead singer Kyle Hallman who has type 1 diabetes gave walkers a clearer understanding of what it is like to live with this disease. The kids had a great time jumping in the bounce houses and playing carnival games provided by Space Walk. Upon returning from the Walk, everyone was able to enjoy a complementary lunch provided by JDRF Sponsors including Chick-fil-A, Firehouse Subs, Coffee Perks and Coca-Cola.

“The Walk to Cure Diabetes keeps growing each year and it’s because of the wonderful sponsors, volunteers and staff that help make it a continuing success,” said Brooks Biagini, executive director of the North Florida Chapter of JDRF. “We are all working for one common goal—to find a cure for diabetes. The innovative research funded by JDRF is bringing us closer and closer to having a cure for this devastating disease and in the meantime developing so many advanced control options. The money raised from the Walk to Cure Diabetes is what helps those advances keep happening!”

Generous 2009 Walk to Cure Diabetes corporate sponsors included: CSX Transportation, Vistakon, PGA TOUR, Gate Foundation, MPS Group, Accu-Chek, Gale Force Web Pros, Crowley, Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc., and Jacksonville Home & Patio Show.

The 2010 Walk to Cure Diabetes is planned for March 6th at Metro Park.

To learn more about JDRF and the Walk to Cure Diabetes visit www.jdrf.org.

JDRF, the world's leading charitable funder of type 1 diabetes research, was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with juvenile diabetes – a disease which strikes children suddenly, makes them insulin-dependent for life, and carries the constant threat of devastating complications. Since inception, JDRF has provided more than \$1 billion in direct funding to diabetes research. More than 80 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, visit the JDRF web site at www.jdrf.org.

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