

# discoveries



## 21st Annual Rainbow Gala Raises \$1.4 million

On Saturday, April 20, more than 700 guests gathered at The Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh Hotel to celebrate the 21st Annual JDRF Rainbow Gala. Gala honoree, Maureen Breen Barunas, and corporate chairperson, Robert D. German, teamed up to raise funds for a cure for type 1 diabetes (T1D) and its complications through the support of research. Through the generosity of many, the Rainbow Gala has raised over \$15 million since 1993 including this year's total of \$1.4 million.

Maria Metro and Cindy Paul served as co-chairs who, along with an active committee, worked for months to create this spectacular event. Procurement chair, Nancy Glynn, worked with the committees and board to assemble an incredible silent auction with over 350 packages that raised over \$150,000. The event would also not have been a success without the work of Dave Sharick, VP of Development, and the entire development committee.

Guests had the opportunity to bid on one-of-a-kind live auction items including a trip to London to cheer on the

Pittsburgh Steelers this September, a Napa California vacation and a private research update dinner with local Pittsburgh JDRF funded researcher Dr. Massimo Trucco. In all, the live auction raised more than \$125,000.

Many guests were inspired to participate in Fund A Cure after listening to Joseph Galley, a sophomore at Washington & Jefferson College, speak passionately about his younger sister Sara's journey with T1D, his commitment to finding a cure with future plans of attending medical school and ultimately his own T1D diagnosis. All Fund A Cure donations are 100 percent tax-deductible and go directly to support diabetes research.

Larry Richert from KDKA Radio served as emcee, and guests danced until the end of the evening with the sounds of Gary Racan & the studio-e band. Such a good time was had by everyone that guests are eager to attend, and honor Arthur J. Rooney II, President of the Pittsburgh Steelers, next year. Save the date for April 12, 2014.



Ryan & Maureen Barunas



Gary & Maureen Barunas with Anne & Rob German



Sara & Joseph Galley



Dr. Dave & Maria Metro with Cindy & John Paul



JDRF Past and Current Presidents



# 21st Annual Rainbow Gala Corporate Partners



### Platinum Partners



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## Summer Golf Classic

Monday, August 5, 2013  
Ligonier Country Club



We are looking forward to another successful year in Ligonier! The event will again be led by co-chairs Rich Myers, David Maxwell and Ron Kurpiel. Enjoy the option of a morning or afternoon tee time while competing for individual awards including the longest drive, closest to the pin and a putting contest.

Sponsorships and foursomes are available. Contact Carol Yannuzzi at 412-471-1414 x1 or [cyannuzzi@jdrf.org](mailto:cyannuzzi@jdrf.org) for more information.



Presented by



Monday, September 23, 2013  
Valley Brook Country Club

Plans are underway for the 23rd Annual Tee Up to Cure Diabetes golf outing. Co-chairs Kerry Pulaski and Eric Rader are leading the golf committee to another successful event. Join us for a great day of golf followed by cocktails, dinner and awards. If you are interested in joining the golf committee, or are interested in sponsorship or foursome information contact Carol Yannuzzi at 412-471-1414 x1 or [cyannuzzi@jdrf.org](mailto:cyannuzzi@jdrf.org).



WALK TO CURE DIABETES

## Walk with Us!

We are gearing up for a fabulous walk season this year. Please mark your calendar for all the important walk events:

- **July 27** – Westmoreland Family Team Captain kick-off event at University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
- **July 31** – Westmoreland Corporate Team Captain kick-off breakfast at Westmoreland Country Club
- **August 7** – Pittsburgh Team Captain kick-off lunch at the Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh Hotel
- **September 21** – Pittsburgh Walk to Cure Diabetes at Schenley Park, Pittsburgh
- **September 28** – Westmoreland Walk to Cure Diabetes at University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
- **January TBD** – Awards Reception (*Note: this has traditionally been held in November*)

Have you registered your team? Sign your team up now! It is easy and only takes a few minutes. We need the support of the entire community to raise awareness and the much needed funding to find the cure for type 1 diabetes. Together, we can do it. Register your team at [www.walk.jdrf.org](http://www.walk.jdrf.org) today!

Thank you to this year's walk leadership. We know that with their passion and dedication we can grow our walks and raise valuable dollars for JDRF.

### Pittsburgh Walk

Walk Chair – Jim McVay  
Corporate Chair – Dan Lebish, Allegheny Health Network  
Family Team Chairs – Tiffany Merovich-Winter & Amanda O'Leary

### Westmoreland Walk

Walk Chair – Julie McCutcheon  
Corporate Chair – Calvin McCutcheon, MEI  
Family Team Chairs – Marcie Anderson & Tara Dulkis

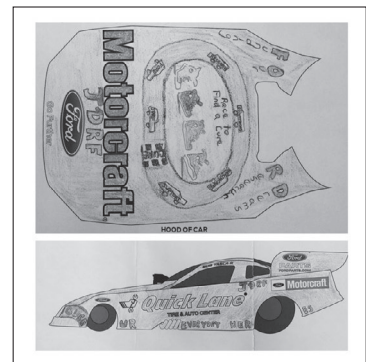
If you have any questions, or need help organizing your walk team, please let us know. There are valuable resources including team building tips, sample solicitation letters and guides to help you fundraise on our website at [www.jdrf.org/westernpa](http://www.jdrf.org/westernpa). Please reach out to Lara Daly, at 412-471-1414 x5 or [ldaly@jdrf.org](mailto:ldaly@jdrf.org) for additional assistance on your family team or walk details. For help with corporate sponsorship opportunities and corporate walk teams, please contact Jennifer Zgurich at 412-471-1414 x4 or [jzgurich@jdrf.org](mailto:jzgurich@jdrf.org).



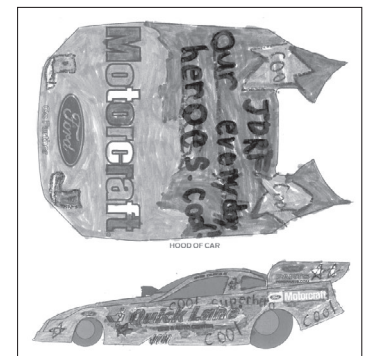
**Correction:** In our last issue, we mistakenly omitted the Wolper Family/Max's Crew Team from our listing of Circle of Excellence Teams. Their team raised an amazing \$26,496 and have been a dedicated walk team for years. Our most sincere apology for the mistake.

## Our Everyday Heros

Congratulations to Caroline Simms, 12 (Butler, PA) and Tyler Zoldak, 7 (New Kensington, PA) for making it into the top 10 finalists for the national Ford "Our Everyday Heros" Race Car Design Contest. This contest, now in its sixth year, has raised more than \$250,000 for type 1 diabetes research. Caroline and Tyler have both already won \$250 for each of their walk teams, will be paired with a local Ford dealership in their area to help continue their fundraising efforts and are still eligible for the grand prize trip to the Route 66 National Hot Rod Association Nationals in Joliet, IL from June 28-30, 2013. Go get 'em Caroline and Tyler!



Race car design by Caroline Simms



Race car design by Tyler Zoldak

### Grant Writer needed

Are you a grant writer? Are you willing to donate your time to helping JDRF write grants? If you can help or know someone who can, please contact Gillian McTieman at 412-471-1414 x2 or [gmctieman@jdrf.org](mailto:gmctieman@jdrf.org).





Every two years a very select group of young people (ages 4-17) are chosen to represent those with type 1 diabetes (T1D) at *Children's Congress* in Washington, DC from July 8-10, 2013. This year more than 1,500 applications were submitted and only 161 delegates were chosen for this honor. We are thrilled to report that 12-year-old Caroline Simms will represent the Western PA Chapter. Caroline will join other kids and teens from every state and around the world as they converge on Capitol Hill to represent the T1D community and urge Congress to continue funding the crucial research that will produce better treatments and a cure for T1D.

## Erie Update

### 16th Annual Beach Ball Gala



**David Belmondo, guest emcee and Nancy Schiffer during Fund A Cure portion of the program,** courtesy of John Huegel Photography

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center was transformed into a tropical oasis to celebrate the 16th Annual Beach Ball Gala honoring Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. The tropical-themed event drew nearly 300 guests to enjoy an array of live and silent auction items. Dinner entertainment was provided by local

musician, Dick Buckle. The Fund A Cure segment of the evening featured a very moving video that included a few of our local families and their struggles with T1D. To close the Fund A Cure portion, Nancy Schiffer, a local woman who was diagnosed with T1D 56 years ago, shared her experiences with diabetes and how JDRF's advancements in treatment therapies have improved her quality of life. Our sincere thanks to all of the sponsors, volunteers and to our families—the real “Heroes” for JDRF.

### Pittsburgh Steeler, Kendall Simmons, meets with local T1D children in Erie



**Nick Pold (wearing Kendall's Super Bowl ring) and Kendall Simmons,** courtesy of John Huegel Photography

Courtesy of Novo Nordisk, former Pittsburgh Steeler Kendall Simmons met with families in Erie on April 29th at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center. A former Super Bowl champion, Kendall Simmons talked about being diagnosed with diabetes in his second year in the NFL and how he went on to have a successful football career. Thank you Novo Nordisk and Kendall for inspiring our youth!

## “Like” us, please!



Do you have a Facebook account? Have you “liked” the JDRF Western Pennsylvania page yet? If not, what are you waiting for? We post great event photos, share research and advocacy updates from our national office and will even be hosting our Walk t-shirt contest on Facebook this year. “Like” us now

and encourage your friends, family and walk team members to “like” us too!

## West Virginia Update



### WV Kick-Off events

On March 19th, kick-off events were held in Hurricane, Parkersburg, Beckley, Morgantown, Martinsburg and Wheeling, WV. Thank you to all the families who attended and learned more about the Walk to Cure Diabetes.



### Charleston Walk



**Our amazing WV Volunteers – Gina Frye, Tammy Owen and Lori Haapala.**

We just wrapped up another successful Walk to Cure Diabetes in Charleston, WV with over 900 in attendance. We were also thrilled to have great sponsorship from a number of local businesses. Also this year, for the first time,

we had a great walk team from Wheeling, WV who walked on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Bethany College in support of the Charleston Walk and raised over \$4,100. Great efforts all around!

### T1D Symposium

The WV Branch will be hosting their Second Annual Fall Symposium for Families on October 12-13, 2013 in Flatwoods, WV. Topics will include traveling with diabetes, grandparents and non-custodial care givers, research updates, school issues, transition to adulthood and more. There will be activities for kids of all ages. For more information, please call Lori Haapala of the WV Branch at 304-965-3862.

# How I raised \$150 million for type 1 diabetes research

by Leigh Hopkins

Advocacy. That's it. That's how I helped to raise \$150 million this year. And how I've helped to raise \$150 million for the past 6 years. Advocacy is the secret weapon JDRF has when it comes to research dollars. Time magazine called JDRF "one of the nation's most forceful disease advocacy groups." But our advocacy team needs more members. We need those of you who want to make a difference. A BIG difference. A \$150 million difference. Currently, the federal government has been looking for ways to cut their budget. Medical research is treading on dangerous grounds. The Special Diabetes Program, SDP, is in jeopardy. This program has been instrumental in funding new research for type 1 diabetes. In 1997, the SDP was created by Congress to significantly increase the nation's investment to prevent, treat, and cure type 1 diabetes. It has been renewed multiple times. It is currently set to expire in September of 2014.

That's where you come in. Please join our advocacy team. It is so easy you'll wonder why you didn't join sooner. Once registered, the Government Relations team in Washington, DC will guide you through every step needed to reach our senators and congressmen. You will receive 'Action Alerts.' These are emailed to you with very detailed instructions. They have you linked to the appropriate representatives.

*"If you are currently not an advocate, please go to [www.advocacy.jdrf.org](http://www.advocacy.jdrf.org) and register today! It will be the easiest fundraiser you have ever participated in."*

They provide you with the information to be sent and even show you where you can 'add your story.' You don't have to add anything, but if you are like me, you'll want your representatives to know why this is so important. Life or death important!

Currently, our Western Pennsylvania Chapter of JDRF has 1,757 registered advocates. Our last 'Call to Action' recorded 6% participation. We can do better. We need to do better. The more advocates speaking up about issues like research funding, the more likely we are to succeed when they come up in Congress. I have been to Washington, DC many times representing JDRF. They know us. They know our mission. It makes me so proud to walk in to a representative's office and hear how their office has been flooded with calls and emails from JDRF. One call or email may not make much of an impact, but imagine what 1,757 would do!

Advocacy. One little word filled with so much hope. If you are already a registered advocate I implore you to participate in every 'Call to Action.' It will be the best 5 minutes you spend that day.



## Do you know about our Outreach Program?

JDRF's Outreach Program offers personalized support to families and adults living with type 1 diabetes (T1D). Our goal is to provide you with the information and resources to help you best manage and cope with this disease during each new phase of life. The following are some of the resources and programs available to you through JDRF:

### Resources for the Newly Diagnosed:

- **Bag of Hope**—Newly diagnosed? Please take advantage of our Bag of Hope program for newly diagnosed children and teens (within three months). The bag comes with Rufus the bear—he has T1D, too!—an Accucheck meter and lots of great educational materials for both parents and children alike.
- **Adult T1D Pak**—People over the age of 18 are being diagnosed with T1D more and more frequently. JDRF has recently introduced the new Adult T1D

Pak. The Pak is similar to the Bag of Hope, but is geared toward individuals age 16 years and older. The Pak contains educational materials pertinent to the adult life stage and a Bayer Contour Next glucometer.

### Ongoing Programs:

- **Mentor Program**—T1D is a complicated and consuming disease that can be extremely difficult to navigate. Through our mentor program, JDRF matches newly diagnosed individuals and families with others in similar situations, who can offer support and advice. Not only does our mentor program provide tremendous support, but often results in lifelong friendships.
- **Support Coffees**—Our parent support coffees are an opportunity for parents of children with T1D to be educated, socialize, and give and receive support from similarly situated individuals.

- **Adult Type 1 Diabetes Group**—The Adult T1D Group provides an opportunity for adults living with T1D to network, receive support from others who face similar challenges in this life stage, and continue to be educated on diabetes management.
- **Toolkits**—JDRF also offers a variety of kits to help in various stages of life. Please visit our website at [www.jdrf.org/westernpa](http://www.jdrf.org/westernpa) to request and learn more about the below toolkits.
  - Adult Type 1
  - Pregnancy
  - Student Advisory

Please contact Gillian McTiernan at 412-471-1414 x2 or [gmctiernan@jdrf.org](mailto:gmctiernan@jdrf.org) for more information on the JDRF Western PA Chapter's Outreach Program and resources.



JDRF Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes season is in full swing! For the third year in a row, Panera Bread is again serving as the presenting partner and continues to promote the school walk program in invaluable ways. This year, JDRF and Panera Bread also welcome Highmark Blue Shield as a sponsor of the program in Western PA, West Virginia, Central PA and Delaware.

The program consists of educating children through an interactive school assembly about type 1 and type 2 diabetes and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The students then have an opportunity to help fellow classmates affected by T1D by raising money for research for a cure. Each school celebrates and promotes staying active by holding a school walk at the end of a two-week fundraising period.

On the day of the Kids Walk, Panera



**Pictured above (left):** Students at Independence Middle School paid \$1 on the day of their Kids Walk, raising over \$5,000, to “pie” their teachers in the face.



**(right):** David Pomarico helps pass out Panera Bread mini bagels to his fellow classmates on the day of the Norvelt Elementary Kids Walk. Norvelt raised over \$5,900 this year.

Bread generously donates mini bagels and \$5 gift cards to all of the participating students. As if that is not incentive enough, Panera Bread also awards a \$50 gift card to the top fundraising student at each school, and sends the overall top fundraising student from the Western PA Chapter’s participating schools through the year on an all-inclusive trip for four to Aruba!

With the tremendous support of our presenting partner, Panera Bread,

and the support of our new sponsor, Highmark, the program has already raised over \$70,000 this year – reaching over 15,000 students in 25 different schools throughout the region. The program is so successful that schools are already scheduling their walks for next year! Don’t miss this easy and fun way to educate your students and raise money for a cure. You can sign your school up by contacting Gillian McTiernan at 412-471-1414 x2 or gmctiernan@jdrf.org.

## Team JDRF runs in Pittsburgh Marathon



Some ran for their child, some ran for their mom or dad, sister or brother, and many ran for themselves; but they all ran for a cure for type 1 diabetes (T1D).

Laurie Swisher turned 40 and wanted to do something special to commemorate the year. She is running one race per month raising money for

JDRF in honor of her nephew Zeke. Pittsburgh was her fifth race this year and very special to her because Zeke lives in Indiana, PA and was on the route cheering on his aunt. Visit [www.jdrf.com/teamjdrf](http://www.jdrf.com/teamjdrf) and search “Laurie Swisher” to read more about her journey.

Fran Fuhrer, a dedicated JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes volunteer, ran with her grandson in support of Fran’s daughter and Matt’s mom, Michelle, who lives with T1D.

AJ Owen ran his first half marathon but he is no stranger to a challenge. He has lived with T1D for more than 15 years.

Kerry Gholson traveled from Virginia to run the half marathon with her sister, Katie, who was diagnosed with diabetes at age 27. Together, the two of them raised more than \$2,300! Lindsay Palmer ran for her cousin. Ron and Krysten Fingers ran for their son, Maddox.

So many stories, so much inspiration and so many reasons to run for a cure. In all, 64 runners raised \$30,000 for JDRF and for a cure. To read more stories, visit [www.jdrf.org/pittsburghmarathon](http://www.jdrf.org/pittsburghmarathon) and consider running with Team JDRF in 2014.



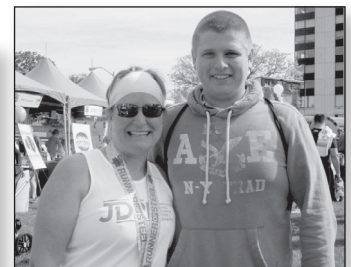
**Greg Weed from Omnipod** talks about the tubeless insulin pump to an interested runner



**Fran Fuhrer & grandson, Matt Fennell**



**Sisters Kerry Gholson & Katie Vivar-Sullivan**



**Laurie Swisher with her nephew, Zeke**



**Krysten & Ron Fingers**

## Many thanks to Hefren-Tillotson!



Maddox Fingers speaking to the audience of Hefren-Tillotson.

Thank you to our friends at Hefren-Tillotson for the invitation to speak in their South Hills and Greensburg offices and at their United Way campaign wrap-up party in February. We enjoyed the opportunity to educate their staff on type 1 diabetes and important work of JDRF.

Hefren-Tillotson has always been generous to JDRF and this year increased their support by donating a portion of the proceeds of the wrap-up party to our efforts.

Many thanks also to our families – Nicole Nickischer and Maddox & Krysten Fingers – who helped us with the presentations.

## Feb. 28th thank you event

On February 28th, we were honored to have the opportunity to visit with some of our donors, volunteers, board members and friends. The purpose of the event was to say “thank you” for all that they have done and continue to do for JDRF. The evening included presentations by Nan DeTurk, Rob German and a research update from Carol Oxenreiter.

Special thanks to board members, Dusty Kirk and George Stewart for hosting this wonderful event at the law offices of Reed Smith. Thank you to Mary Beth Allegretti, Carol Oxenreiter and Lisa Sullivan for helping to plan the event.



Maureen Barunas with Carol Oxenreiter.

## Concert event benefits JDRF

A big shout-out and thank you to the McCutcheon Family for hosting a concert event to benefit JDRF. On March 9, over 500 people attended a concert by JD & the Squires at Freeport Community Park to benefit JDRF. The event raised \$5,500 for the MEI – McCutcheon walk team. Thank you to all who attended and supported the event!

## Imagine!



In 2005 at the age of 12, Rachel Tobin was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. She decided to take that diagnosis and combine it with her passion of designing handmade jewelry to create Rachel's Cure by Design (RCBD). In April, RCBD unveiled their latest creation, *Imagine!*, carefully designed using the JDRF color scheme. Stop for a moment to *Imagine* life without T1D – working together we can get there!

A portion of all jewelry sold benefits JDRF. To learn more about Rachel's story and see her beautiful jewelry, go to [www.rachelscbd.com](http://www.rachelscbd.com).

## Walk teams on a Roll

Several of our Walk teams have held wrap-around events to kick-off their fundraising events already. Thanks to Aidan's Advocates, Brett's Crew, Cardio for Caroline, Chuck E David, Jacob's Jewels, Lauryn's Life Preservers, Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C., Team Flinn and Tyler's Task Force.

Let us know how your fundraising is going and what unique events or activities you do to raise money for your team. Send updates to [ldaly@jdrf.org](mailto:ldaly@jdrf.org).

# Ride to Cure Diabetes



**You can wait for progress. Or you can ride.**

Burlington, VT	July 25-28
La Crosse, WI	August 15-18
Lake Tahoe, CA	September 6-9
Nashville, TN	SOLD OUT
Death Valley, CA	October 17-20
Tucson, AZ	November 21-24

Visit [ride.jdrf.org](http://ride.jdrf.org) to register!





# Western Pennsylvania Chapter Save the Date

## JDRF Children's Congress

July 8-10, 2013

Washington, DC

(see page 4)

## Westmoreland Walk Family Team Captain Kick-off Event

Saturday, July 27, 2013

University of Pittsburgh Greensburg

(see page 3)

## Westmoreland Walk Corporate Team Captain Kick-off Event

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Westmoreland Country Club

(see page 3)

## Summer Golf Classic

Monday, August 5, 2013

Ligonier Country Club

(see page 2)

## Pittsburgh Walk Team Captain Kick-off Event

Wednesday, August 7, 2013

Westin Convention Center

Pittsburgh Hotel

(see page 3)

## Pittsburgh Walk to Cure Diabetes

Saturday, September 21, 2013

Schenley Park, Pittsburgh

(see page 3)

## Tee Up to Cure Diabetes

Monday, September 23, 2013

Valley Brook Country Club

(see page 2)

## Westmoreland Walk to Cure Diabetes

Saturday, September 28, 2013

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

(see page 3)

## Erie Walk to Cure Diabetes

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Presque Isle State Park, Erie

Like the JDRF Western PA Chapter  
on Facebook to keep up with all the  
latest JDRF news!



[www.facebook.com/  
jdrfwesternpa](http://www.facebook.com/jdrfwesternpa)

See Chapter Website for all event details  
[www.jdrf.org/westernpa](http://www.jdrf.org/westernpa)

The official registration and financial  
information for JDRF may be obtained  
from the PA Department of State, by calling  
toll free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999.  
Registration does not imply endorsement.



Western Pennsylvania  
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JDRF

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## Donate Now

## 2013 Fund A Cure

JDRF is the leading global organization focused on type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. Driven by passionate, grassroots volunteers connected to children, adolescents, and adults with this disease, JDRF's goal is to improve the lives of every person affected by T1D by accelerating progress on the most promising opportunities for curing, better treating, and preventing the disease.

At the JDRF Rainbow Gala on April 20th, there was a moment after the Live Auction when the room was stilled and the story of hope unfolded... we call it **Fund A Cure**. By making a Fund A Cure donation, 100 percent of your tax-deductible contribution will drive research which focuses on developing new therapies to free people from the devastating long-term complications that can accompany diabetes, including diseases of the eyes, nerves and kidneys.

If you were unable to attend the Gala, you may still participate in **Fund A Cure** by mailing your contribution today. We hope you join us as we strive to increase the pace of science so that better treatments can be developed on the way to a cure.

**YES!** I want to support JDRF with a Fund A Cure gift of:

\$500    \$250    \$150    \$100    \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This Fund A Cure gift is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

my \_\_\_\_\_  
(relationship)

Check or money order enclosed, made payable to JDRF. Please note Fund A Cure donation in the check memo.

Please charge my:  Visa    MasterCard    American Express    Discover

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: JDRF, 960 Penn Avenue, Suite 1000, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Phone: 412-471-1414 Fax: 412-471-1417 [www.jdrf.org/westernpa](http://www.jdrf.org/westernpa)