



Fighting for a Cure

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation pools resources, passion and energy

Edited by Kelli White

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is an autoimmune disease in which a person's pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone that enables people to get energy from food. It occurs when the body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, called beta cells. While its causes are not yet entirely understood, scientists believe that both genetic factors and environmental triggers are involved. It is believed that the onset of T1D has nothing to do with diet or lifestyle. At present, there is no known prevention of T1D, and no cure.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is the leading global organization funding T1D research. Its mission is to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent and treat T1D and its complications. To accomplish this, JDRF has invested more than \$2 billion in research funding since the organization's inception. JDRF is an organization built on a grassroots model of people connecting in their local communities, collaborating regionally for efficiency and broader fundraising impact, and uniting on a national stage to pool resources, passion and energy. JDRF

collaborates with academic institutions, policymakers, and corporate and industry partners to develop and deliver a pipeline of innovative therapies to people living with T1D. Staff and volunteers throughout the United States and six international affiliates are dedicated to advocacy, community engagement and JDRF's vision of a world without T1D. The Bay Area branch employees 18 staff and 22 volunteer board members who go to work each day to fight for a cure.

"After our daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) in 2016, we felt as though our world had been turned upside down. JDRF was a major source of support during that time, connecting us with other T1D families, many of which we are still connected with today. That is why we walk and look forward to participating in the JDRF One Walk every year."
- Nicole Liebelt, San Ramon resident.

One of the main fundraising events that every JDRF chapter holds is an annual Walk. In the Greater Bay Area, JDRF One Walk takes place each fall. It is a fun, family-friendly event where dedicated walkers, volunteers and sponsors raise money to make living with T1D safer and healthier, until it is no longer a threat. Everyone is welcome to participate—individuals, families, corporate teams and school teams. As the largest T1D event in the world, it's also an amazing experience filled with activities, entertainment and the celebration of coming together to change the future for everyone living with this disease.