

# JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION (JDRF):

## Children's Congress, Promise to Remember Me Campaign, New Member Outreach Initiative

### CHILDREN'S CONGRESS

Every two years, more than 150 children living with type 1 diabetes (T1D) gather in Washington, D.C., to meet face-to-face with some of the top decision-makers in the U.S. Federal Government. The children, ages 4 to 17, represent all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The delegates in JDRF's Children's Congress enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help Members of Congress understand what life with T1D is like and why research to fund life-changing therapies until a cure can be found is so critical. They speak up on behalf of the millions of people living with T1D and the families and friends who love them.

The JDRF Children's Congress T1D advocacy program was inspired by a boy from Massachusetts named Tommy Solo. At age nine, he asked his mother, "Why can't kids go to Washington and tell their Representatives about what it is like to have type 1 diabetes and let them know that we want scientists to find a cure?" His mom and other JDRF volunteers agreed and, in 1999, the first-ever JDRF Children's Congress took place in Washington, D.C.

Since then, eight successful Children's Congresses have been held, one every other year, and more than 1,000 kids with T1D have served as delegates. JDRF Children's Congress has been essential to securing continued government funding of T1D research and to raise awareness of the daily burden of Americans living with this serious autoimmune disease.

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### PROMISE TO REMEMBER ME CAMPAIGN & NEW MEMBER OUTREACH INITIATIVE

At home or in the nation's capital, JDRF Advocates are the voice for type 1 diabetes research.

JDRF Promise to Remember Me began in 2000 to build and strengthen direct relationships between legislators and their constituents in the type 1 diabetes (T1D) community. JDRF staff and volunteer leaders prepare individuals and families whose lives are impacted by T1D to meet their legislators in their home districts and states, educating them about their essential role in securing government funding and support for T1D research.

Promise campaigns begin in the summer of each odd-numbered year, and with each subsequent year, the program grows to new heights. In 2013, 400 Promise meetings were held with Members of Congress.

New Member Outreach Initiative is an extension of the Promise to Remember Me campaign focused on introducing new Members of Congress to JDRF, educating on the impact of T1D, and sharing ways in which new legislators can help advance T1D research in Washington. NMOI is held as each new Congress is seated in January of odd-numbered years.

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