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Volunteer of the month: Searching for a cure

August 2009 – Jeffry Ullman – Florida



Jeffry Ullman earned a 2008 President's Volunteer Service Award for his work in finding a cure for diabetes.

program.

"IBM's Community Grants is a great program, and I am quite proud of IBM for making it available to employees and retirees," says Ullman. "It is straightforward, easy-to-use and provides for critical IT resources for schools and nonprofit organizations. I've been fortunate to use it 14 times to obtain grants for DRIF." Ullman estimates the total value of the grants to be approximately \$15,000.

The impact Ullman has made on DRIF by leveraging On Demand Community tools and resources is immense. "The technology planning that Jeffry assisted us with, as well the IBM Community Grant donations of desktop PCs, ThinkPads and printers, has enabled us to spend more money on research-related activities instead of diverting these monies for necessary office equipment," says Foundation President and CEO, Robert A. Pearlman.

IBM support for a cure

"IBM supports and deeply believes in the volunteer work of our employees and retirees," says Rick Qualman, vice

In 1987, IBMer Jeffry Ullman and his wife Ellen became first-time parents when Zachary came into the world. At fifteen months — after consultations with their pediatrician about Zachary's insatiable thirst, excessive urination and an emergency room visit — doctors confirmed that their son had type 1 diabetes.

Since Zachary's initial diagnosis, Ullman has become a tireless champion for finding a cure through his work at the [Diabetes Research Institute Foundation](#), (DRIF) as well as an advocate for On Demand Community tools.

A smarter approach to volunteering

Since 1990, Ullman's volunteer advocacy activities with DRIF have included participation as the Foundation's Community Outreach Chair, utilization of the On Demand Community's [Technology planning solution](#) and a tenacious use of IBM's Community Grants

Diabetes and the ECCC



To date, almost \$400,000 has been donated to the DRIF through the IBM's Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign (ECCC), with other Diabetes-focused organizations, such as the American Diabetes Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, receiving an additional \$720,000 towards finding a cure.



The Ullman family.
(Photo reprinted with permission of JES Publishing. Ullman family photo originally appeared in the May/June issue of Boca Raton Magazine)

president, Strategy & Business Development Telecom Industry and Florida's Senior State Executive.

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"Jeffrey's passion and commitment for DRIF is reflected in his long-term commitment to this valuable organization. IBM is proud to share in Jeffrey's accomplishments for the Foundation."

As for Jeffrey on IBM, "I've taken on this cause as a personal mission, and the support I've received from IBM colleagues and

friends has been truly amazing," he says. "Zachary is doing fine today, attending the University of Florida, and is happily pursuing his goals. However, type 1 diabetes has the propensity to be destructive, debilitating, and even deadly... Hopefully, my efforts, along with those of the DRIF, other similar organizations and hundreds of thousands of concerned parents and individuals, will lead to a cure some day very soon for Zachary and all who live with diabetes."

About DRIF

Located in Hollywood, Florida, DRIF was founded in 1971 by a small group of parents of children with diabetes who were committed to finding a cure for this devastating disease. Supported by private philanthropy, DRIF has been the organization of choice for those who are serious, passionate and committed to finding a cure for their loved ones.

For more information, visit [Jeffrey's Web site](#), or [read](#)* a previous article on his work.

This story is based on employee and retiree submissions. [Tell us your success story](#) so we can share it with other volunteers.

* link available to IBM employees only

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