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Miss Black USA 2007 Named Celebrity Advocate for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

(For Immediate Release) In recognition of Diabetes Awareness Month, Kalilah Allen-Harris, Miss Black USA 2007, has been named the official celebrity advocate for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

As a diabetic, Allen-Harris has dedicated her lifelong service to juvenile diabetes education and is currently campaigning nationwide to promote diabetes awareness. *“As someone who manages their diabetes each day, I experience first-hand the ups and downs of this disease,”* says Allen-Harris. *“I understand how far research has come and the increase treatment options that are now available. Those affected with this disease need to know that diabetes is no longer a death sentence if it is diagnosed early and properly monitored. My goal is to spread this message.”*

The Facts

Diabetes is a disease that affects an estimated **20.8 million** people in the United States and millions in other countries throughout the world. African Americans are **1.8** times more likely to suffer from diabetes than Caucasians. Diabetes is listed as the **6th leading cause of death** in the United States. The number of people affected by this disease is growing at a staggering rate each year. Unfortunately, approximately **6.2** people suffering from diabetes in the United States **have not been diagnosed**.

About JDRF

JDRF was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is a disease that strikes children, adolescents, and adults suddenly making them insulin dependent for life, and carries the constant threat of devastating complications. Since inception, JDRF has provided more than \$1.16 billion dollars to diabetes research worldwide. For more information about JDRF, please visit www.jdrf.org.

Miss Black USA is currently conducting a nationwide media tour to promote Diabetes Awareness Month. For scheduling, please contact Natalie Williams, MBUSA National Publicist, at (202) 904-9466.