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Thursday 21 July, 2005

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### Sacking juvenile diabetes

Jessica Marshall, Staff Writer

July 21, 2005

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**Jared Allen, far right, defensive end for the KC Chiefs, explains during a Tuesday pep rally at LabOne's corporate headquarters in Lenexa how his 7-year-old friend Jed Rellihan (on lap) helped him become aware of juvenile diabetes.**

Kansas City Chiefs defensive end Jared Allen joined Tom Grant, LabOne president, Tuesday, at the company's headquarters, 10101 Renner Road, Lenexa, for a pep rally with employees and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation youth ambassadors.

Allen is serving as the celebrity spokesman for the foundation's 2005 Walk to Cure Diabetes and Grant is the corporate chairman. Both men encouraged employees to join the company's walk team to help "sack" the illness.

Grant said LabOne's goal is to raise \$50,000 for the cause and that he is challenging other area businesses to match or surpass their fund-raising efforts.

"It's one thing when (Allen) blindsides a quarterback on a blitz," Grant said. "But when juvenile diabetes blindsides an innocent child, that's another thing entirely, especially since this horrible disease causes more devastation to children and their families than a Jared Allen sack."

Advertisement

About 1.3 million Americans suffer from juvenile or Type 1 diabetes, which strikes suddenly, making them dependent on injected or pumped insulin.

Each year, more than 13,000 children are diagnosed with the illness, an autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks and destroys the pancreas's insulin-producing cells. It also carries the constant threat of complications such as kidney failure, blindness, nerve damage, amputations, heart attack and stroke.

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The foundation, founded in 1970 by parents of children with the illness, has provided more than \$800 million in funding to diabetes research and education.

"I hope this event will motivate and encourage everyone to join the JDRF walk team, because it will take a great deal of support to ensure that juvenile diabetes does not blindside any more children in the future," said Yvonne Miller, executive director of the foundation's Kansas City chapter.

LabOne is a diagnostic services provider, offering risk assessment information services for the insurance industry; diagnostic health care testing to physicians, hospitals, managed care organizations and employers; and drug testing services and related employee qualification products to employers and the government.

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