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PRESS RELEASE

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Connecticut Triathlete Raises Over \$34,000 for ITP Foundation

Darien, CT, August 20, 2004 - Michael E. McGuire, Jr., Chairman of the Darien-based ITP Foundation, raised \$34,500 for the Foundation through his participation in the Lake Placid Ironman CEO Challenge on July 25.

McGuire, who is the CEO of Darien-based business technology firm ARIASYS, is an amateur triathlete who began competing in earnest as a way of earning funds to help children with ITP (Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura), a serious bleeding disorder. By asking individuals and corporations to sponsor him in triathlon competitions, he has succeeded in raising more than \$135,000 in less than 18 months.

“As the parent of a child with ITP, I know firsthand how difficult this condition can be, both for those children who suffer from the disorder and for the families that support them,” McGuire says. “That’s why I want to do everything I can to help them get the aid and the information that they need.”

Next up for McGuire is the Ironman Florida triathlon on November 6 in Panama City. The course includes a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile biking course, and a 26.2-mile run.

“These are grueling events,” McGuire says, “but knowing that what I’m doing is helping kids with ITP makes it all worthwhile.”

(more)

Individuals who wish to support the ITP Foundation can do so online (www.itpfoundation.org) or by phone (203-655-6954). Those who are athletically inclined can also join the ITP Team and raise funds for the organization through participation in triathlons, marathons and other events. (Details at www.itpfoundation.org.)

ITP is an autoimmune disorder of unknown cause that affects both children and adults. In children, it is usually an acute, temporary condition with rapid onset typically following an infection. In adults, ITP is a chronic condition distinguished by a severe onset. ITP occurs when the immune system malfunctions and produces antibodies against the body's own platelets. These antibodies destroy the platelets, resulting in a decreased level of blood platelets needed for normal blood clotting. Characterized by a low platelet count, notwithstanding normal bone marrow production and the absence of other specific causes (such as leukemia or aplastic anemia), ITP can lead to life- threatening bleeding episodes.

Founded in 2003, the ITP Foundation spreads awareness of ITP, funds medical research and provides financial assistance to families with children affected by ITP.