

Fetal Hope Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FETAL HOPE FOUNDATION EXPERIENCES OVERALL GROWTH:
FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN NOT AFFECTED BY DOWNTURN OF ECONOMY**

Denver, CO – The Fetal Hope Foundation, in its 5th year of service, continues to experience increased growth, participation and revenue in its fundraising events around the country. Currently, the Foundation largely depends on this revenue to fulfill its mission in providing support, providing information, funding research, increasing awareness, and being an outlet for leading medical information pertaining to fetal distresses and syndromes.

The driving force of its fundraising and awareness campaign, the Race for Fetal Hope (formerly the TTTS Race for Hope), has grown from one host city to now four, and is planned for six in 2009. This year, the races experienced an average of 46% growth rate in participation per host city, and netted over \$40,000 in fundraising dollars for the Foundation. Overall, Fetal Hope has experienced an increase of 50% in fundraising dollars compared to last year. Among the top individual fundraisers, was Michael Zeller of Charlotte, NC, who solicited over \$12,000 in donations on behalf of the Fetal Hope Foundation for the Charlotte Race for Fetal Hope.

“With my wife, Traci, as the President of the Charlotte Mothers of Multiples, giving me the honorary title of ‘First Dad,’ I felt it was important to support Traci 100% and focus my fundraising efforts on an organization that related to us personally and to CMOMs. The Fetal Hope Foundation is one of the organizations that CMOMs works with, so I committed to raise \$10,000,” said Zeller. My son Henry suffered from Selective Intrauterine Growth Restriction, which resulted in our twins being born a little bit more prematurely than planned. Fortunately, he only had to spend a few days in the NICU and was able to come home. Had we not had an excellent doctor who recognized the symptoms, Henry could have had very serious difficulties.”

Through each event, the Foundation has also reached millions of households around the country with information on fetal syndromes and how to find help. This year’s National Race Series also welcomed a free satellite event in Jacksonville, FL hosted by Fetal Hope Director, Georgi Wick. With nearly \$5,000 in donations, the event will become a full-blown Race for Fetal Hope 5k event in 2009.

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In 2008, Fetal Hope also welcomed two charity events to its lineup of fundraisers, the Climb for Kids and the Fetal Hope Birthday Bash. The Fetal Hope Birthday Bash was a Silent Auction event that raised nearly \$4,000 and the Climb for Kids organization, which just started this year, hosted its first climb up Mt. Rainier to raise awareness of and funds for TTTS research. As the sole beneficiary of this event, Fetal Hope was recently given \$20,000 to further its mission.

“At Climb for Kids, we focus on raising awareness of and funds for research of fetal distress and syndromes such as Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome and others. When we learned of the Fetal Hope Foundation and its same goals, it made perfect sense to partner with them in these life-saving efforts,” said Matt Kowalczyk, Founder and Director of Climb for Kids. We were proud to have hosted the first Climb for Kids climb at Mt. Rainier this year, and are even more proud to contribute to the Fetal Hope Foundation in continuing their mission of saving babies’ lives.”

Among Climb for Kids and the Race for Fetal Hope National Race Series, in 2009 Fetal Hope will also welcome GolfHope, an Alabama charity golf tournament to its fundraising events.

“This year has been an amazing achievement for Fetal Hope. Our growth has been in large part due to the necessity families have had for our services and programs, and as a result of the wonderful supporters and amazing fundraisers, this has allowed us to meet the needs of those families,” said Lonnie Somers, CEO and Founder of the Fetal Hope Foundation. “My upmost respect and thanks goes to not only these amazing people who have hosted all these events, but to the entire Fetal Hope team who have worked hard with passion to make a difference.”

As a totally patient supported, non-profit organization whose members and Board of Directors have all been directly or indirectly impacted by fetal distress, the Fetal Hope Foundation has financially, emotionally and educationally supported over 15,000 families nationwide. With the more than 800,000 pregnancies affected by fetal distress each year, Fetal Hope will continue to raise funds in supporting research and families affected. For more information on Fetal Hope, please contact Talitha McGuinness at 980-721-5799 or visit the site at www.fetalhope.org.

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