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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**EVERGREEN HEALTHCARE TO HOST KIRKLAND TTTS RACE FOR HOPE;  
FORMER PATIENT JOINS RACE COMMITTEE TO RAISE AWARENESS**

**September 8, 2008 - Kirkland** – The second annual Kirkland Evergreen Healthcare’s TTTs Race for Hope will take place at Marina Park on Sunday, September 28, and will be presented by Portland Bolt Company. The event will consist of a 5K Run/Walk, a Kids Fun Run, the NOMOTC Family Festival, and a Sponsor Expo.

Many families who have ever required the medical attention of Evergreen Healthcare understand its importance and the quality of care in the local community. However, there are some families who unfortunately have to be introduced to the Evergreen Fetal Therapy Program, where doctors treat fetal distress and syndromes such as Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome, or TTTS. TTTS is a condition of the placenta that affects monochorionic twins and results in disproportionate blood and nutrient flow.

The Evergreen Fetal Therapy Program currently sees about 2,000 patients per month, and about 5-10 of those patients are diagnosed with a fetal syndrome. The program offers high risk obstetrical services, diagnosis, and ultrasound and treatment for a variety of conditions including: TTTS, Monochorionic Twins with Selective Intrauterine Growth Restriction, Acardiac/Trap Sequence, Lower Urinary Tract Obstruction (Posterior Urethral Valves), and Severe Fetal Anemia for a variety of reasons.

“For me, the experience of walking into the office at Evergreen was such a blessing. We had finally landed in a place where everyone knew what we were facing and it seemed like the world spun a little more slowly there,” said Lisa Beymer, Kirkland Race Committee member, and former patient of Evergreen Fetal Therapy Program. “Dr. Walker and the program coordinator, Melissa Dorn, offered us information and answers to make decisions for our babies that gave us the best chance of saving them both.”

Beymer’s pregnancy, like more than 800,000 pregnancies per year, began much the same as any other pregnancy. However, at 15 weeks, the Beymers learned they were expecting twins, and shortly after, their babies were diagnosed with TTTS. After realizing the pregnancy was too high risk for her OB/Gyn office, Beymer was referred to Dr. Martin Walker with Evergreen Fetal Therapy Program. At 18 weeks gestation, Beymer underwent laser surgery to treat the TTTS in efforts of saving her boys’ lives.

“All went well, and as early as the next morning an ultrasound showed that the fluid levels for both babies were beginning to level out. We were increasingly optimistic that we had beaten the syndrome and would soon have two beautiful boys at home with us,” said Beymer.

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Although Beymer was closely monitored for weeks and the surgery was considered a success, at 24 weeks, the Beymers learned they lost their donor, Jacob to unknown reasons. They also learned that the surgery caused a rupture in the membrane that could affect the recipient, Noah. Three weeks later, the shredded membrane became wrapped around Noah's umbilical cord, and the Beymers lost him as well.

Beymer said, "our journey with the twins was over, TTTS had beaten even our most valiant efforts and Noah and Jacob were born sleeping on Dec. 29, 2005. Although we clearly did not get the result we were hoping for, we were so touched by the kindness of the people we met along the way. We learned to believe in the strength of our relationship and that there was nothing we couldn't get through together, and we learned to believe in the kindness of strangers. So many have reached out with words of comfort upon hearing our story, and every single one helped us long our road to recovery."

Evergreen staff will participate in the race and the Sponsor Expo at the upcoming event that will be held at Kirkland's Marina Park.

"It is exciting to participate in a nationwide event that is helping to spread awareness about TTTS and raise money for a great organization like Fetal Hope," said Melissa Dorn, Evergreen Fetal Therapy Program Coordinator.

The event will feature the 5k and free Kids Fun Run, and will feature the NOMOTC Family Festival with other sponsors and vendors including Bree & Jodie Photography, Massage Envy, Saturn, Coda Coffee, and many others. For more information, please contact Corey Wilson at 503-919-1806.

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