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1971 FORD MUSTANG MACH 1 TO BE RAFFLED OFF TO BENEFIT JDRF

One of Most Iconic Cars of the 1970s, Muscle Car Lovingly Restored to Its Original Condition

CHICAGO — **Angela Babala** and "Angel's Garage" will raffle off a custom 1971 **Ford Mustang Mach 1** race car at the 2017 Chicago Auto Show to benefit **JDRF**, the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research.

This one-of-a-kind vehicle is a blue and silver Ford Mustang Mach 1. The car is an all-original, C6 Automatic with a 351C, 460 horsepower engine with internal upgrades. This particular vehicle is unique since it features a rear defrost (a rare feature on the Mach 1), as well as a blue metallic vinyl interior. The car has been driven by comedian and actor Tommy Chong and Hip Hop Duo Audio Push, both of whom have autographed the car. The car will be on display at the Ford booth at the Chicago Auto Show.

The Mach 1 is one of the most powerful and iconic cars of the early 1970s, having been featured prominently in dozens of movies, including, memorably, the 1971 James Bond film "Diamonds are Forever" starring Sean Connery (with Bond driving the car during a 3.5-minute chase sequence through the Las Vegas strip, ending with his narrowly eluding police by driving the car on two wheels).

The vehicle was found in Marlette, Michigan, covered by snow in a barn. It was rusted and much neglected. Angela Babala of Yermo, California acquired the vehicle in 2011 and invested $35,000 to restore the vehicle to pristine, original condition. Babala used only original parts, sourced from dealers across the United States.

Each year Babala, who later this spring will appear in new reality show "Angel's Garage," raffles off a custom car to benefit a charity. This year she chose JDRF because of the organization's impact on the lives of those living with T1D as well as the longstanding JDRF/Ford partnership.

"We are tremendously grateful to Angela for her incredible generosity," said Mimi Crabtree, Executive Director of JDRF Illinois. "This vehicle truly is unique and beautiful, and very fun to drive. Any car-lover will surely appreciate the immense effort that went into restoring it to its original condition, and we feel very lucky that JDRF was chosen to benefit from this raffle."

Raffle tickets can be purchased online now and at the Ford booth at the Chicago Auto Show from February 11-20, 2017. Tickets are $10 each, $50 for six tickets, or $100 for 12 tickets, and JDRF will receive 50% of all proceeds.   Tickets can also be purchased on-line at https://jdrffordmach1raffle.eventbrite.com.

The winner will be selected on Monday, February 20. For questions and to purchase tickets, please contact Erin Miller, Senior Development Manager for JDRF, at 312-423-7192 or emiller@jdrf.org.

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About JDRF Illinois
JDRF is the leading global organization funding T1D research whose mission is to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent and treat T1D and its complications. It has invested nearly $2 billion in research since its inception in 1970. JDRF is an organization built on a grassroots model of people connecting in their local communities, collaborating regionally for efficiency and broader fundraising impact, and uniting on a national stage to pool resources, passion, and energy. We collaborate with academic institutions, policymakers, and corporate and industry partners to develop and deliver a pipeline of innovative therapies to people living with T1D. Our staff and volunteers at JDRF Illinois, and in 75 locations throughout the United States and our six international affiliates are dedicated to advocacy, community engagement and our vision of a world without T1D. For more information, please visit jdrf.org/Illinois, follow us on Twitter: @JDRFIllinois, and like us on Facebook: Facebook.com/jdrfillinois.