Personalize Your Page & Set Your Goal
Your story is powerful and sharing it is too. Customize your Participant Center to highlight your connection to type 1 diabetes (T1D). Even if you don’t have a direct T1D connection, share why you are passionate about the work of JDRF and why their vision of creating a world without T1D is so important to you. Add a picture to further paint your story. Don’t forget to set your fundraising goal while you are setting up your page! We recommend that you set your goal to $250 or more, but why stop there? Set your sights higher and become a JDRF One Walk® V1P—our exclusive club for walkers raising $1,000 or more.

Make Your Contact List
Think about all the people who will appreciate your story. Remember the larger the list you start with, the better your results will be! Gather names from your email account, address book, holiday card lists and social networking sites. Then, think about the people you interact with every day, people from your past, people at your local businesses and those extra-special people in your life to make sure you don’t miss anyone!

Start Fundraising
Once you’ve set up your personal page with your story and have gathered your list, it’s time to start fundraising! The Participant Center provides several samples of emails and postal mail letter templates, so you don’t have to start from scratch. Reach out on Facebook, Twitter and other social media, adding a personal appeal and providing a link for donations. Creating a video is also a great way to share your message! It is important to be specific about how you would like each person to support you—give them a suggested donation amount or ask them to join your team and fundraise for T1D research. The earlier you start, the more money you will raise. Don’t forget to follow up with everyone. All of us need and appreciate a little reminder now and then.

Collect Donations
As Walk Day gets closer, tally up your offline donations (checks and cash) and make sure that all checks are payable to JDRF. Enter any offline donations in your Participant Center to track your real-time fundraising results. We encourage you to send or drop off any cash or check donations to your chapter office the week before the Walk. Include the Donation Submission Form which can be found in your Participant Center to ensure your donations are accurately processed. And remember, when mailing donations, always convert cash to a personal check.

Say “Thank You”
A final, but crucial step is thanking your donors. Send a thank you note or video to everyone who donated to or joined your team. Recognizing your contributors’ generosity this year will help ensure their support for future JDRF events.

Every step toward a cure, every advancement to keep people healthy and every regulatory victory is possible only because of you! Thank you!