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\$3 million from Ryan families donated to Spring Point Project

**Within three years, cells from pigs are to be used in
clinical trials on a path to finally cure diabetes**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — For the estimated 300 million people worldwide who will be afflicted with diabetes by the year 2025, there is hope for a cure.

Spring Point Project is the recipient of \$3 million in donations from Pat and Ann Ryan and Jim and Colleen Ryan. Their donations included personal gifts and contributions through Ryan Companies US, Inc., which currently is led by third-generation family members and cousins Pat Ryan and Jim Ryan.

Spring Point Project, a non-profit organization, was created to expedite the widespread availability of islet tissue from pigs that could eventually lead to a cure for diabetes.

“Our ideals are firmly tied to finding a cure for this devastating disease as quickly and efficiently as possible,” said Pat Ryan. “We believe that Spring Point Project is the answer. Our families have been blessed in so many ways and will do everything we can personally and professionally to keep them on track.”

The Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation Islet Resource Facility, a 21,000 square foot biosecure building in Western Wisconsin, was built by Minneapolis-based commercial real estate and construction giant Ryan Companies US, Inc.

The breakthrough Islet Resource Facility, which has recently welcomed its first animal population, soon will be home to approximately 100 high-health pigs. Insulin-producing islet cells from future generations of these medical-grade pigs will be used to conduct clinical islet cell transplantation trials using patients with diabetes, slated to commence within three years.

The science is being led by Dr. Bernhard Hering, Scientific Director of the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation at the University of Minnesota, and his team who documented a medical breakthrough in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature Medicine* last year. The key finding was that the transplantation of islet cells, harvested from the pancreas of a pig, yields a long-term cure for diabetes in monkeys, opening the path to unprecedented new opportunities for human patients with the disease.

“This extraordinary result marks a turning point: pig islet replacement therapy holds potential for becoming a viable and widely available solution for diabetes,” Dr. Hering said. “However, to realize this for diabetes patients, it is necessary for donor pigs to be raised under ultra-clean or ‘biosecure’ conditions to maintain a healthy environment.

“It is through incredible support of families like the Ryans that we are able to continue on this path toward the cure. The Ryans are an asset to the Twin Cities and the entire diabetes community,” Hering added.

Based on the need to breed donor pigs, Spring Point Project was created. Charged with preparing for the next steps in preclinical research and clinical trials, Spring Point Project worked closely with Ryan Companies to build and begin operating its biosecure facility, and is now actively raising medical grade pigs in compliance with governmental regulations.

“We still have a long way to go – and continue to seek financial support – but thanks to the personal generosity and steadfast commitment of Pat and Jim, we’ve taken tremendous strides toward achieving our ultimate goal of finding a cure for diabetes,” said Tom Cartier, president and chairman on the board of Spring Point Project. “Under their leadership, Ryan Companies understood all of the aspects related to building a biosecure research facility. There are very few buildings of this kind in the world. They created a state-of-the-art healthy environment in which our pigs are completely secure and protected.”

Ryan Companies U.S., Inc. is a leading national commercial real estate firm offering integrated design-build and development as well as asset, property and facilities management services to customers. For more than 69 years, Ryan has used a single-source approach that offers flexibility in defining the scope of a project and strength in providing effective, timely solutions resulting in a higher certainty of success. In addition to its Minneapolis office, Ryan has offices in Chicago, Phoenix, San Diego, Tampa, Cedar Rapids, Davenport and Des Moines, Iowa.

The Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation, a not-for-profit worldwide network based in Washington, D.C., also has made a substantial contribution to Spring Point Project. It has donated more than \$30 million toward the cure for diabetes research, including the \$6.2 million to Spring Point Project to accelerate Dr. Hering’s clinical trials

To contact Spring Point Project, visit www.SpringPointProject.org. To contact Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation, visit www.diabeteswellness.net. To contact the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation, visit www.diabetesinstitute.org.

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