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**NEARLY 700 ATHLETES RACE TO MAKE WISHES COME TRUE**

***The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Make-A-Wish Triathlon Raised Funds  
to Fulfill 32 Wishes for Local Children***

BETHESDA, Md., Sept. 23, 2009...Nearly 700 athletes participated in the 26th Annual Make-A-Wish® Triathlon at Sea Colony on Sept. 20 in Bethany Beach, Del. Their support helped make wishes come true for local children who will each have their greatest wish fulfilled by the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of the Mid-Atlantic, a nonprofit organization that fulfills the wishes of local children fighting life-threatening medical conditions.

The Olympic-distance course featured a 1.5K ocean swim, 40K bike and 10K run and was a USAT-sanctioned race and served as the Delaware State Qualifier. The event was a terrific success hosting nearly 700 athletes and raising funds to fulfill 32 wishes to benefit local children and their families.

As a special feature this year, participants and guests at the post-race picnic heard from Tyler Yates, a wish alumni who had his wish fulfilled by the Mid-Atlantic chapter. Tyler shared about his wish to train with the DC United team, and what the experience meant to him and his family. To complete the circle, Tyler gives back to the Foundation as a wish ambassador volunteer. He says he loves sharing the mission of the Make-A-Wish Foundation®—and letting the community know how wishes change lives and heal families.

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