



Cannon Catalina Challenge -- December 8, 2011

SAN Diego's **Blair Cannon** completed a fast 8 hour 18 minute Catalina Channel swim, the 7th fastest crossing of all time. He definitely did not want to waste any time as he was raising money for the **Monarch School** and the **Great Friends Foundation**. Blair is a San Diego-based philanthropist and vice president of Bernstein Global Wealth Management.

His swim - labeled as the **Cannon Catalina Challenge** - raised US\$10,000 per mile to benefit the annual fund of Monarch School, the San Diego-based school for children impacted by homelessness, and the Great Friends Foundation Scholarship Program for children of the military in San Diego.

"Blair is truly dedicated to this swim," said his coach Anne Cleveland. *"His determination is a testament that, just like him, the children of Monarch School and the Great Friends Foundation can do anything if they work hard enough."*

"The children at Monarch and those supported by the Great Friends Foundation face so many challenges," explained Blair. *"I wanted to do this because I know these kids have felt cold or hungry or scared before, yet they are going to school and working to improve their lives. They inspire me, and this is a chance for me to do the same for them. I want them to see that any goal is possible if you work hard enough."*