



**POISED** to break a world record and raise money and awareness to help kids is Jared Isaacman, flanked by the rest of his team — flight instructor Douglas Demko (left) and Shaun Leach, a pilot for Mr. Isaacman's company, United Bank Card.

## 79 Hours To Circle The Globe? Biz Whiz's Adventure Is Fundraiser For Ailing Kids

By Curtis Leeds

UNION TWP. — Jared Isaacman is a 24-year-old who long ago learned how to give wings to his dreams. He's the founder and CEO of credit card processor United Bank Card. Based in Union Township, the company processes more than \$8 billion in credit card transactions a year. He gets a tiny percentage of each transaction, and that adds up. Mr. Isaacman has been featured in *Business Week* and *Inc.* magazines and profiled on ABC News and NBC's *Today Show*.

Mr. Isaacman said he's now poised to set a new world speed record for circumnavigating the globe, flying his own Cessna Citation Mustang. That's a light jet that is actually slower and has less range than the plane the current record-holder flew 17 years ago. Mr. Isaacman expects to take off from Morristown airport around midnight tomorrow and finish the trip in less than 79 hours, beating the record by about three hours.

Mr. Isaacman said he and his

crew of three "want to do this as pilots. But it would be selfish to do this just for ourselves." So he's using the effort to raise money and awareness for New Jersey's Make-A-Wish Foundation, which works to lift the spirits of children suffering from life-threatening disease.

Mr. Isaacman and his company will donate \$5,000 to Make-A-Wish for every hour he trims off the existing world record. They'll also match every donation — up to \$10,000 each — including Cessna's. Cessna already chipped in \$10,000.

While Mr. Isaacman concedes that "there's no way to know for sure" that he'll succeed, he hopes his training and airplane's technology will give him the edge, by giving him information to help him take advantage of wind, temperature and weather. His flight can be tracked at [www.speedaroundtheworld.com](http://www.speedaroundtheworld.com), where visitors can also donate to the effort.

Mr. Isaacman may seem ambitious for a pilot who started flying

at Sky Manor and Alexandria Field airports only two years ago. But ambition is part of his personality. "I like to commit myself," he said, and doesn't like to tackle projects half-heartedly. Besides, "this is a lot simpler than running a business," he said. Besides, the flight is something others have done, even if they might not have done it as quickly as he plans.

Like any good executive, Mr. Isaacman is already laying plans for his next big undertaking. "This is just getting our feet wet," he promised. His next project, which he won't reveal, will be "something never done before" in the sky. It will take a special type of airplane, he said. He thinks he'll be ready in about 18 months.

In the interim, Mr. Isaacman thinks about the kids that Make-A-Wish Foundation helps every year. "When you hear these stories, about the kids with these illnesses, you want to help. It's hard not to break down." He just hopes his Cessna holds up.