

The Pulse

Spring 2017 Quarterly e-News Update



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THE LIVES WE TOUCH

A Message from HealthWell Foundation President, Krista Zodet



Krista Zodet, President

Every time HealthWell launches a new fund, we are humbled by how many lives we touch. The people we help are more than patients – to us, they are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandparents, friends and colleagues. Our HealthWell family continues to grow with over 55,000 patients with active grants currently utilizing our programs.

I recently had the good fortune to spend time with the family of one of our grant recipients. Karis was only five years old when she was diagnosed with type-1 diabetes. Her mom, Alicia, was shocked by the diagnosis and devastated to learn her insurance wouldn't pay for all the diabetic testing supplies her little girl would need. The family faced the possibility of serious credit card debt before HealthWell

stepped in with a grant through our Pediatric Assistance Fund to pay for Karis' supplies, co-insurance for hospital and clinic visits, and an insulin pump.

Alicia and Karis shared their heartwarming story with attendees at CBI's annual summit on patient assistance and access programs, PAP 2017. You can learn more about their story, as well as HealthWell's participation at PAP 2017 and other events later in this newsletter.

I remember my excitement on the day we launched the Pediatric Assistance Fund, knowing it would provide much-needed financial relief to hundreds of families of children with chronic and life-altering medical conditions. I feel similar excitement every time HealthWell opens a new fund.



Karis and her mother, Alicia

That's why I'm pleased to let you know about two new funds we just launched this month: one for Medicare patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and one for people living with homocystinuria. More information on these funds can be found below as well as on our website at: www.HealthWellFoundation.org.

We are poised to launch additional new funds in the very near future, so please stay tuned for more news. 2017 is shaping up to be an exciting year for HealthWell, most importantly because

we will be able to touch even more lives, helping more people get the medical treatments they desperately need but cannot afford.

NEW FUNDS

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, HealthWell has launched two new funds to assist patients in need.

ALS Fund: On April 10, HealthWell launched a new fund to provide assistance to Medicare patients living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease). Through the fund, HealthWell provides up to \$15,000 in copayment or premium assistance to eligible Medicare patients who have annual household incomes up to 500 percent of the federal poverty level. Individuals may apply for a second grant within 12 months, depending on availability of funding.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. The motor nerves affected by ALS are the motor neurons that provide voluntary movements and muscle control. Onset of the disease typically occurs in people between the ages of 40 and 70. There is no cure for the disease.

"The financial impact on people living with ALS, and their families, is extreme and often results in their not benefiting from potential options," said Barb Newhouse, President & CEO, ALS Association. "This program will provide important financial assistance to cover copayments and premiums to eligible individuals, resulting in their ability to access care they would otherwise not be able to afford."

Homocystinuria Fund: On April 17, HealthWell launched a new fund to provide assistance to patients living with homocystinuria. Grants cover up to \$5,000 in copayment or premium assistance to eligible patients with annual household incomes up to 500 percent of the federal poverty level.

Homocystinuria is elevation of the amino acid, homocysteine (a protein building block), in the urine or blood. Acquired forms of elevated homocysteine are usually due to lack of vitamins B6 (pyridoxine), B9 (folate), or B12 in one's diet or the inability of the stomach to absorb the vitamins.

"The financial burden for families with homocystinuria is monumental," said Danae' Bartke, Executive Director, HCU Network America. "Not only are there numerous doctor's appointments and labs, but there are additional costs of medication, dietary formula and low protein foods. While some states require coverage of varying degrees, other states have no required coverage, placing the burden of paying for these lifelines on the patients who are sometimes in tremendous debt. HCU Network America is pleased to be able to present HealthWell Foundation as a means for copay and premium assistance for eligible HCU patients."

Visit the HealthWell Foundation website to learn more about our [ALS](#) and [Homocystinuria](#) funds: www.HealthWellFoundation.org.

SPREADING THE WORD

Spring is a busy season for HealthWell as we participate in a number of national conferences and events. Our participation in these events is crucial to spreading awareness for HealthWell's Total Patient Care programs and services.

Our conference season started in March, when HealthWell participated in CBI's 18th Annual Patient Assistance & Access Programs Summit in Baltimore. PAP unites manufacturers, copay foundations, non-profits, free clinics, advocacy organizations, hospitals and more to analyze the legalities, intricacies and best practices for vital patient assistance programs.

Our new exhibit booth at PAP provided a great forum for connecting with key stakeholders dedicated to prescription drug coverage, financial support and access to care. In addition to exhibiting and numerous meetings with new and potential donors, HealthWell President, Krista Zodet, chaired the conference's Legal and Compliance: Oversight and Frameworks for Compliance track, which included four panel discussions:

- Legislative and Regulatory Factors Influencing Advocacy and Access
- Analysis of the Most Recent OIG Special Advisory Bulletin
- Going Beyond the Legal Requirements: Best Practices Worth Considering
- Key Patient-Centric Considerations for Hub Services and Reimbursement Support

A highlight of the conference was the Voice of the Patient Panel. During the panel discussion focusing on the importance of copayment assistance programs, conference attendees heard from Alicia, mother of HealthWell Pediatric Assistance grant recipient, Karis. Alicia shared her emotional story about her beautiful young daughter being diagnosed with type-1 diabetes and how assistance through the HealthWell Foundation made it possible for her family to cover the cost of her medications, her insulin pump and a continuous glucose monitor.

"Before we had the monitor, I had to poke Karis' fingers 12-15 times a day to monitor her glucose," Alicia told the audience. "Talk about an improved quality of life for a six-year-old."



Alicia and Karis

HealthWell's next stop is the Asembia 2017 Specialty Pharmacy Summit in Las Vegas. This annual event is the largest U.S. conference for the specialty pharmacy industry. It gives HealthWell an opportunity to meet with senior executives and key decision makers from pharmacies, pharma/biotech manufacturers, payers, wholesalers/distributors, health systems and other industry organizations.

In June, the HealthWell team will head to Chicago for the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), which brings together more than 30,000 oncology professionals from around the world to discuss state-of-the-art treatments, new therapies and ongoing controversies in the field. HealthWell will exhibit in the conference's Advocacy Pavilion, attend educational sessions and connect with potential donors.

HEALTHWELL: A PLATINUM-LEVEL GUIDESTAR PARTICIPANT

HealthWell is honored to receive a Platinum Seal of Transparency, GuideStar's newest and highest level of recognition. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations. It gathers and disseminates information about every single IRS-registered non-profit organization, including organizations' mission, legitimacy, impact, reputation, finances, programs, transparency, governance and more.

Donors, patients, providers and patient support communities place their trust in HealthWell because we take our responsibilities seriously and strive to be the industry leader in practices that

meet the highest ethical and compliance standards. We are proud of our financial transparency and our commitment to dedicating 100 percent of donor dollars to patient grants and services. And we are proud that our efforts have been recognized by GuideStar.

To learn more about HealthWell's GuideStar Platinum rating, visit:

<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/20-0413676>



YOUR DONATION CAN HELP SAVE LIVES

HealthWell remains steadfast in its mission to provide a financial lifeline to patients in need. But we can't do it alone. Your donation plays a pivotal role in the services we provide and it's because of you that adults and children have access to the critical medications they need to manage chronic and life-altering conditions.

1. Make a [general donation](#).
2. [Donate](#) in the name of a friend or loved one.
3. [Plan](#) a donation in your will.
4. Change a child's life by donating to the [Pediatric Assistance Fund](#).
5. Spread the word about the important work we do by [telling us](#) your HealthWell story.

SHARE YOUR STORY

DONATE NOW

LEARN MORE



The HealthWell Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that reduces financial barriers to care for underinsured patients with chronic and life-altering illnesses. For more information, please contact us at support@healthwellfoundation.org or call 240-632-5300.

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