

The Pulse

Summer 2017 Quarterly e-News Update



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NEW FUNDS, FRIENDS & FAMILY

A Message from HealthWell Foundation President, Krista Zodet



Krista Zodet, President

Each newsletter I write reflects on the generosity of our donors and the dedicated team that surrounds me every day. This issue is no different. Since our last issue, we have been privileged to add 14 new funds to assist more patients in numerous disease areas. None of these funds would have been possible without the continued trust and support of our donors and the HealthWell team's commitment to serving those in need! Thank you all.

A primary objective at HealthWell is to serve as many patients as possible over a variety of disease areas. As of this writing, we now offer life-changing financial assistance through more than 30 funds. Half of those funds help people with cancer, a disease that more than 1.6 million Americans are diagnosed with every year. I

hope you'll keep reading to learn more about our growing program.

Spring and summer have been busy for the team. We've traveled the U.S. to attend conferences focusing on a variety of disease areas to increase awareness of our programs, such as the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago. Our fall conference schedule is shaping up nicely and we are on track to attend and exhibit at events including, The Liver Meeting, the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, and the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting.

Not only are we expanding our fund portfolio, we recently expanded our team with the addition of Rafa Raofi, Senior Associate Director of Operations, who we'll introduce in this newsletter. We have a number of exciting projects underway including an effort to spread the word about the life-changing work we do through patient stories and photographs. One such patient is Gareth, a Mt. Airy, Maryland grant recipient who graciously accepted our request for a story and photo later in this issue.

Making life a little less stressful for those we serve is a top priority at HealthWell. As we grow, we continue to evaluate our programs and tools to ensure that our grant recipients, providers, and pharmacies have state-of-the-art online capabilities when applying for or managing their HealthWell grants. I'm also excited to let you know that we are developing a new website that's even more user-friendly, which we'll debut mid-fall.

MEET THE HEALTHWELL TEAM

It's always an honor to expand our HealthWell family with people who share our passion and support our mission to reduce financial barriers to care for underinsured patients with chronic or life-altering conditions. This summer we were excited to welcome the newest member of our family, Rafa Raofi, as Senior Associate Director of Operations.



Rafa brings more than 15 years of experience in developing and leading patient access programs in a variety of therapeutic areas including multiple sclerosis, ophthalmology, neurology, nephrology, and other chronic diseases. She possesses a strong background in payer,

reimbursement and market access trends, including Medicare. Her experience includes innovation of streamlined processes, integrated use and deployment of technology and reporting and analytics. These skills, coupled with her expertise in HUB and pharmacy operations make Rafa a natural fit in our Operations team.

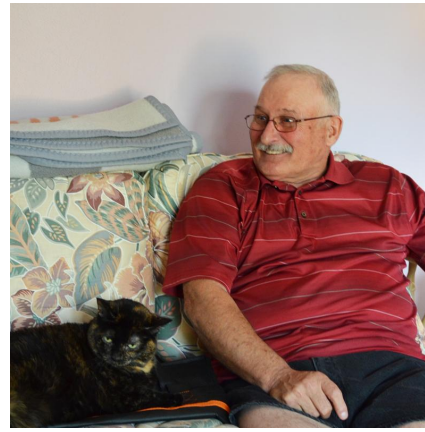
Rafa shared what motivates her and inspired her to join the HealthWell family. "I have always had a 'No patient left behind' mantra and philosophy that has allowed me to stop at nothing when it comes to helping patients gain access to the treatment they need and deserve. Every patient success story is my motivation to keep looking for options and solutions to help patients access their medications. I am honored to be part of an organization that not only shares this philosophy but displays it in every patient whose lives they touch."

14 NEW FUNDS LAUNCHED

Through the continued generosity of our donors, we were able to open 14 new funds in a variety of disease states since our last issue of The Pulse. We are excited to be able to offer patients a financial lifeline to help them start or continue critical medical treatments through the following funds:

- [Acute Myeloid Leukemia - Medicare Access](#)

Meet Gareth



In this issue, we're honored to introduce you to Gareth, a two time pulmonary fibrosis grant recipient.

"Three years ago, I was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. My family and I have owned, and worked, a farm in Mt. Airy, Maryland most of my life. During renovation of my mother and father's farm house, I unblocked a bricked chimney to find wheelbarrows full of soot and ash. I had not prepared myself with a mask or protective clothing. Shortly after the project, I was attending a weekend function and began to cough. This wasn't just any cough. I couldn't stop.

I was referred to a pulmonologist at Johns Hopkins who delivered the news that I had pulmonary fibrosis in both lungs. She was not able to confirm the cause of the disease, but I suspect it had something to do with the soot and ash I inhaled during the renovation and exposure to spores over many years working the farm. The doctor told me that I would be a good candidate for a single or double (depending on the donor) lung transplant.

Pulmonary fibrosis prevents me from doing a lot of things, like going outside in the heat or when the pollen count is high. My wife, Anna, and I even had to relocate our pet birds because they could no longer live in the house with my condition.

- [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - Medicare Access](#)
- [Bladder and Urothelial Cancers - Medicare Access](#)
- [Breakthrough Cancer Pain - Medicare Access](#)
- [Chemotherapy Induced Nausea or Vomiting - Medicare Access](#)
- [Colorectal Carcinoma - Medicare Access](#)
- [Cystic Fibrosis Vitamins and Supplements](#)
- [Giant Cell Arteritis or Temporal Arteritis - Medicare Access](#)
- [HIV and AIDS Wasting Syndrome and Anorexia due to HIV or AIDS - Medicare Access](#)
- [Homocystinuria](#)
- [Huntington's Disease - Medicare Access](#)
- [Movement Disorders - Medicare Access](#)
- [Multiple Myeloma - Medicare Access](#)
- [Ovarian Cancer - Medicare Access](#)

Through the launch of new funds, we have strengthened our presence in the oncology copayment assistance space. We honored to say that we now have more than 20 oncology funds with active patient grants.

While it is always disheartening and emotionally trying to receive a diagnosis of a life-changing disease, a cancer diagnosis is particularly devastating. Not only does the disease itself take a physical toll, nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy or breakthrough cancer pain that happens even though a person is taking pain medicine regularly can be debilitating as well. That's why we are particularly honored to be able to provide assistance through our Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea or Vomiting Fund and our Breakthrough Cancer Pain Fund. We will continue to look for ways to support the cancer patient community through new funds for the treatment and management of the disease. To learn more about our funds, visit our [Diseases and Medications](#) page.

ALLIANCES AND FRIENDS

In our continued efforts to reach the patients who need us the most, we partner with national patient support and advocacy organizations to help us spread the word. With the help of these organizations, we are able to reach disease-specific communities and support groups to raise awareness about our funds, cross refer patients, and help more

Since my diagnosis, I take three pills three times a day to slow the progression of my disease. The medications are very expensive costing about \$6,000 a month. I've been on Medicare for two years and that helps with some of the expense, but still doesn't cover everything. I now pay \$40 a month for my prescriptions, but that puts a drain on finances for me and Anna.

My pulmonologist is the one who told me about the HealthWell Foundation. I didn't waste any time contacting them and within about a 10 minute phone discussion, I was approved for a \$9,000 grant to help with copays for my medication. This is my second grant from the HealthWell Foundation and I was able to re-apply over the phone. They made it very easy for me to continue with their program.

Anna and I have been married for almost 50 years. We have four wonderful children and beautiful grandchildren. Since my diagnosis, we have been faced with some difficult choices regarding my health care, treatment options, and our financial future. Having a lung transplant is life-changing and the financial burden it will place on me and my family is a huge concern. I don't want to give up my children's inheritance to stay alive. I'll see the surgeon in August and will have to make some life-altering decisions. In the meantime, I don't need to worry about getting my pulmonary fibrosis medications because of a HealthWell grant. Thank you HealthWell Foundation and all its donors who provide people like the ability to afford medications we can't live without."

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

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patients in need. Over the past few months, we have had the honor of working with multiple organizations that share our mission. We'd like to say a special Thank You to: the [ALS Association](#), [Northeast ALS Consortium](#) (NEALS), [Huntington's Disease Society of America](#) (HDSA), [Colon Cancer Alliance](#) (CCA), [Macular Degeneration Association](#) (MDA), [Cancer Support Community](#) (CSC), [Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network](#) (BCAN); [Tourette Association of America](#) (TAA), [Parkinson's Foundation](#), [HCU Network America](#), [AIDS Institute](#), the [Vasculitis Foundation](#), and the [Association of Community Cancer Centers](#) (ACCC) for the life-saving work you do and for your help in spreading the word about HealthWell.



YOU CAN CHANGE THE LIFE OF SOMEONE IN NEED TODAY

Your donation plays a pivotal role in the services we provide. Because of you, adults and children have access to the critical medications they need to manage chronic and life-altering conditions. Our mission is to provide a financial lifeline for patients in need, and we can't do it alone. You can change someone's life today by donating to the HealthWell Foundation. There are several ways you can help:

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

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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