

The Pulse

Fall 2017 Quarterly e-News Update



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GIVING THANKS

A Message from HealthWell Foundation President, Krista Zodet



Krista Zodet, President

2017 has flown by and, in just a few short weeks, we'll ring in a new year! The HealthWell team and I have so much to be thankful for. As 2017 comes to a close, we can't help but reflect on the amazing contributions of our gracious donors. Through their generous support, we have been able to assist more than 80,000 underinsured Americans so far this year, making 2017 the busiest year in HealthWell's history. As we enter this joyous season of thanks and of giving, our hearts are filled with gratitude and appreciation for those who have helped us continue to provide a financial lifeline to those in need. On behalf of myself, my dedicated team, and our board, I would like to express a heartfelt thank you for helping us help those in need and for your generous support, which made all of this possible. Our hope for 2018 is to

serve even more patients in need so no one goes without critical, often life-saving, medical treatments because they can't afford them.

Over the past 11 months, we have experienced tremendous growth on many levels. This year, we were honored to launch or reopen 20 funds, enhance our team with new members, and further streamline our programs and patient services. I'm also excited to let you know that we've completed two major communications initiatives: the redesign and launch of our new website and a local patient outreach project.

As I mention in every issue, we are humbled each time we receive a letter from one of our grant recipients. Just a few weeks ago, we received a heartwarming letter from a Hepatitis C grant recipient, Dennis. Dennis thanked the HealthWell Foundation and its donors for providing a grant that allowed him to receive life-changing treatment that cured his Hep C. I'll go into more detail on our activities and share Dennis' story later in this issue, so I hope you'll keep reading.

MEET THE HEALTHWELL TEAM

It's always exciting to add new members to our team who share our vision. This summer we were honored to welcome the newest member of the HealthWell family, Ms. Lorrin Rosen. Lorrin joined the team, filling the newly created and critical role of HR/Office Administrator. In this position, Lorrin

assists in day-to-day human resources, office administration, and accounting activities. Lorrin brings more than 20 years of experience in employee benefit programs, personnel records, personnel compliance documents and staff onboarding as well as a "whatever it takes" attitude and a passion to assist those in need.



Lorrin tells us what inspired her to join the HealthWell team. "Having worked in other non-profits, my inspiration is definitely derived from the passion and drive to fulfill the organization's mission that my co-workers bring to the

table. HealthWell is no different. Working with such a spirited team brings out a positive energy and motivation to help others. While my role at HealthWell does not directly involve interaction with patients, it is comforting to know that I play a part in making people's lives a bit easier. Being able to give back is very important to me and, being a member of the HealthWell team helps me give something back every day."

FUND UPDATE

The team and I enter each year with the goal of serving even more patients than in the prior year. I'm thrilled share that so far in 2017, we have exceeded our expectations and have been able to provide a financial lifeline to over 80,000 patients, making this HealthWell's most impactful year ever. I look forward to sharing the final numbers with you in my first quarterly update in 2018.

This year, we have focused on enhancing our program to offer more oncology funds to assist cancer patients in affording their out-of-pocket costs for treatment. I'm proud to share that we now offer more than 20 oncology funds in addition to over 40 other funds assisting patients with cystic fibrosis, gout, hepatitis C, and a variety of other diseases and conditions. The team is preparing to open two new funds in December, so please remember to check our [Disease Fund](#) listing regularly.

HEALTHWELL HAS A NEW LOOK

It is with great excitement that I announce the launch of our new [website](#)! Thanks to the tireless

From Those We Serve



In the late '90s, during a routine physical exam, I was informed that I had Hepatitis C. I was very surprised even though I had become aware that several of my teenaged "running" buddies had contracted it.

I began having regular check-ups on my liver from that point on. Sonograms showed some mild liver deterioration and the viral load count went into the millions. In 2003, I did the treatment that was available to try to cure the Hep C. I was on it for nearly six months and it almost killed me. It did not kill the Hep C, but killed the red blood cells, took my energy, and did a number on me mentally. At the end of this time, I was transferred to a specialist who indicated that the treatment should have been halted long before it was.

I continued having check-ups, bloodwork, and sonograms; and the specialist said that eventually a better treatment would come along. A new treatment became available three or four years ago, but I was hesitant to take it.

In June 2015 during a routine sonogram, a small spot was detected on my liver. I went for a second opinion and it was their conclusion that it was a primary liver cancer. I was told that Hep C can be a risk

efforts of our team and the amazing talent of our design partner, [Design Positive](#), we have developed a state-of-the-art website that's not only more user-friendly, but also looks great! Our new site offers patients, providers, pharmacies, and visitors real-time information regarding our funds, easy to use portals, online application, downloadable forms, and much more.

Here are just a few of the features you'll enjoy:

- ✔ more user-friendly browsing experience
- ✔ streamlined content and navigation
- ✔ responsive layout for all platforms
- ✔ accessible for the visually impaired



As a result of our recent patient outreach project, we were welcomed into the homes of several local patients who graciously allowed us to interview and photograph them to bring you even more real-life stories from HealthWell grant recipients. We also have a few new features including multiple ways to contact us, a form to suggest new funds, and an easy way to identify open, closed, and re-enrolling funds. The team and I hope you'll take a few moments to check out our new site at www.HealthWellFoundation.org!

YEAR END GIVING

As we rapidly approach the end of 2017 and enter this season of giving, we give thanks to the amazing corporate and individual donors who continue to support our mission. Without the generosity of our

factor for this. In November 2015, I underwent five radiation treatments. Subsequent MRIs have shown that the cancer was completely gone; and the most recent MRI in May was clear.

My liver specialist continued to encourage me to take the new treatment after the spot was cleared, and I decided late in 2016 to take the treatment. Meanwhile, another medication came on the market, and my specialist was able to get clearance through Medicare and my supplemental insurance for it. Insurances would not have paid the total (very high) price, but I was told that grants were available.

My wife and I are retired and our main income is Social Security so we were very thankful to hear of the grant. I asked my doctor and the pharmacist who I could thank for it; and I was referred to your organization. I am so very grateful for the assistance.

In March, I began the treatment regimen. At the first check point, the 10 million+ viral load had diminished to under 15, but as of the second check point and the two succeeding ones, viral load was non-detected. For the first time in over 40 years, I am clear of Hepatitis C.

I am thankful to my doctor and his staff of Methodist Liver Institute for their expertise and help and to the HealthWell Foundation for your assistance in providing the medication. Thank you so very, very much.

Also my beautiful wife, daughter, son-in-law and grandkids are thankful because they need me around to fix things, babysit and go get ice cream!

Dennis - 67 years young and going strong!

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

donors, we would not have been able to offer a financial lifeline to thousands of underinsured Americans in need of critical, often life-saving, medical treatments. We know that there are many choices when it comes to charitable giving and we are honored that you continue to demonstrate your trust in and support of the HealthWell Foundation through your generous gifts.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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During this season of giving, we hope that you will once again consider the HealthWell Foundation worthy of a [year-end donation](#). Did you know that 100% of your donated dollar goes directly to patient grants and services? Your donation is put to work immediately to assist underinsured patients who have nowhere else to turn.

There are many ways you can support our mission!

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

Can't make a financial contribution? You can help spread the word about the life-changing work we do. Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and take a look at our [LinkedIn](#) profile. Helping us spread the word is also a critical and valued contribution to the HealthWell Foundation.

Thank you for helping us help others in any way you can! The HealthWell team wishes you and your families a happy, safe and healthy holiday season and a peaceful, prosperous and healthy 2018.

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.