



FLOURISHING FUNDS, TEAM, AND TOOLS

A Message from HealthWell Foundation President, Krista Zodet



Krista Zodet, President

The second half of 2018 is rapidly approaching and I'm excited to share the amazing progress the Foundation has made in five short months. Our program continues to flourish as we identify and launch new funds to assist patients in need. None of our progress would have been possible without the continued trust and generosity of our donors. Without their continued support, we would not be able to carry out our mission to ensure that no one goes without critical life-saving medical treatments simply because they can't afford them. As a result of their gracious contributions to the HealthWell Foundation, we are currently supporting over 93,000 active patient grants. On behalf of my team, our Board, and those we serve - THANK YOU for allowing us to continue our life-changing work!

The team and I are all thrilled about the launch of our groundbreaking [Cancer-Related Behavioral Health Fund](#). We were honored to partner with recognized leaders in the mental health field for guidance in launching the fund and to help us spread the word.

Early in the spring, we happily welcomed our new Associate Director of Digital Marketing & Development to the HealthWell team. As always, the team continued to identify and implement enhancements to our online tools to provide an even more user-friendly experience for those we serve. This year, we are also excited to expand our conference initiatives to focus on more disease-specific meetings. I'll go into more detail about these topics throughout the issue, so please read on.

MEET THE HEALTHWELL TEAM

Earlier this spring, we were honored to welcome the newest member of the HealthWell team. Anusheh Chughtai (Sheh) joined us in a newly created role as Associate Director of Digital Marketing & Development. Sheh brings expertise in public relations, marketing and development and will provide strategic support to our Chief Development Officer through pipeline and market research and trade show attendance. In addition, Sheh will play a key leadership role in digital strategic marketing and communication efforts through a variety of platforms and initiatives.

We asked Sheh what motivated her to join the team. "HealthWell's noble mission, its willingness to empathize with patients and the wonderful team supporting it all continue to serve as my motivation."

FUND UPDATE

A cancer diagnosis brings a wealth of psychological challenges. Depression and anxiety are common diagnoses associated with these challenges, yet social or emotional support is offered in less than half of cancer patients' care. Behavioral health issues can also contribute to harmful health behaviors. The HealthWell Foundation recognizes the unmet needs of oncology patients and the importance mental health has on one's treatment, recovery and overall well-being.

After many months of thoughtful planning and collaboration with leaders in the field of mental health, we were ecstatic to recently launch our long awaited [Cancer-Related Behavioral Health \(CRBH\) Fund](#). Through this groundbreaking fund, we now provide copayment assistance for behavioral health treatments related to a cancer diagnosis. Grants through the fund will assist patients in covering their out-of-pocket treatment-related costs for prescription drugs, counseling services, psychotherapy, and transportation. Visit our [Cancer-Related Behavioral Health Fund](#) page to learn more about the fund.

From Those We Serve



Helping Others Get the Help They Need

The searing back pain was the first indication to Marilyn that something wasn't right. The 67-year-old retired architect from Baltimore started to feel the pain at age 62 and began visiting a variety of doctors to find out what was wrong.

Blood work indicated high protein levels - a potential marker for multiple myeloma. Imaging did not reveal any tumors. Eventually, her L5 vertebra cracked and she had to have surgery. It was then that a tumor was discovered inside her vertebra. Two surgeries were needed to remove the tumor and replace the vertebra with a titanium cage.

"At that point, there was no question: I had multiple myeloma," said Marilyn.

Relief, Followed by Concern

"Getting the diagnosis was a relief, because I knew I was a candidate for the disease," she said.

Marilyn's hematologist suggested that she consult with a multiple myeloma specialist, who started her on a course of treatment that involves an oral chemotherapy

ATTENTION PATIENTS: WE HAVE A PORTAL JUST FOR YOU!

Are you a patient seeking assistance through a HealthWell fund or a current grant recipient and want to take control of managing your grant? We've made it easy for you to do both through our online [Patient Portal](#). Did you know that you can apply for and access your grant information including grant balance, payment information, and required documentation directly from the portal? This user-friendly, online tool helps you stay in-the-know about all your grant activities. Simply visit our [Patient Portal](#) and get started!

ON THE ROAD

We are always identifying and employing new ways to reach audiences that focus on specific disease areas we cover. In our continued efforts to reach the communities that need us most, we've ramped up our conference participation to cover even more disease areas. So far this year, we've participated in six conferences, including our most recent - The Asembia Specialty Pharmacy Summit in Las Vegas. We were honored to not only exhibit at the conference, but also moderate a panel highlighting how copayment assistance organizations and pharmacies work together to maximize patient grants.

In just a few weeks, the team will divide and conquer and participate in back-to-back conferences to raise awareness of our funds within the oncology community. We are excited to be first-time exhibitors at the [Association of Oncology Social Workers](#) (AOSW) meeting in Atlanta, and returning exhibitors at the [American Society of Clinical Oncology](#) (ASCO) annual meeting in Chicago. If you are planning to attend either of these meetings, please stop by and meet the team!



medication, steroids, an antibiotic and four 30-minute bone infusions a year - a regimen she has followed for the last five years.

The disease and its treatments have had an impact on Marilyn's financial security.

"My Medicare Part D coverage still leaves me with a significant copay for the chemo drug I take for three weeks every month," she said. "It's a \$10,000 copay every year - a difficult amount to afford on a fixed income, or just about any income."

Reaching Out

Marilyn said that financial assistance for treatment copays is a common topic when she speaks with other multiple myeloma patients as part of her volunteer outreach work with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

"Just about everyone I speak with has financial concerns," she said. "I let them know about the existence of copay assistance foundations like HealthWell, as well as other help that is available, like the Maryland-based MobilityLink program, which provides transportation to and from treatments for people who can't drive or don't have access to other transportation."

While Marilyn is quick to point out that she is not a medical professional and can't give medical advice, she does have words of wisdom to share with other multiple myeloma patients.

"Don't be afraid to seek a second opinion, especially if a bone marrow transplant has been suggested," she said. "And because multiple myeloma tends to hit people over 50 more than younger people, I tell everyone of that age to stay current with their blood work."

SHARE YOUR STORY

DONATE NOW

OUR ALLIANCES

Did you know that May is Mental Health Awareness Month? The HealthWell team would like to recognize the following organizations for their guidance and support in helping us develop and promote our Cancer-Related Behavioral Health Fund: [American Psychosocial Oncology Society](#), [Anxiety and Depression Association of America](#), [Association of Community Cancer Centers](#), [Cancer Support Community](#), [Mental Health America](#), and the [National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors](#). You can help support the efforts of these amazing organizations during Mental Health Awareness Month by visiting their websites and spreading the word through your social networks.

CHANGE A LIFE TODAY

Did you know that every dollar makes a difference in the life of a patient in need? Did you also know that 100% of your donated dollar goes directly to patient grants and services? We are always touched by the generosity of our donors. I'm thrilled to share that we have more than 29,000 individual donors to help us carry out our mission. Who are these donors? They're our friends, our families, and those we serve. Thank you to all of you who continue to support our programs and help us say "YES we can help you," to those who need us most.

Know that when you support the HealthWell Foundation, your donation is put to work immediately to assist underinsured patients who have nowhere else to turn.

Here are just a few ways you can support our mission!

1. Change a child's life by donating to the [Pediatric Assistance Fund](#).
2. [Donate](#) in the name of a friend or loved one.
3. Help a cancer patient cover the cost of behavioral health treatments related to their cancer diagnosis through a donation to our new [Cancer-Related Behavioral Health Fund](#).
4. Make a [general donation](#).
5. [Plan](#) a donation in your will.

You can also make a difference in the life of someone in need by spreading the word about the life-changing, often life-saving, work we do! [Tell us](#) your HealthWell story and spread the word!

Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and take a look at our [LinkedIn](#) profile. Helping us reach more underinsured Americans in need is also a critical and valued contribution to the HealthWell Foundation.

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.

