2019 was a prodigious year for the HealthWell Foundation, one that allowed us to continue our unwavering commitment to our dedicated donors and to the tens of thousands of underinsured Americans who reach out to us each year for assistance. In fact, 2019 represented the most impactful and productive year since HealthWell’s inception in 2003. In 2019, we awarded more than $610 million in medication copay and premium grants to over 150,000 underinsured Americans—a growth of more than 32,000 patients over 2018.

Our extraordinary impact would not have been possible without the continued trust and support of the Foundation’s dedicated corporate and individual donors who help us carry out our mission to reduce financial barriers to care for patients with chronic or life-altering diseases. On behalf of our Board of Directors, our staff and those we serve, thank you for trusting the HealthWell Foundation to provide a financial lifeline to those who have nowhere else to turn. Due to their generosity, continued commitment and trust, HealthWell received more than $480* million in individual and corporate donations, which allowed us to broaden our funds across a variety of disease areas and increase the number of patients we assist through our programs.

We continued to run our programs in full compliance with federal guidance that governs the copayment assistance industry and continued to follow the highest ethical standards as the cornerstone of our operations. We are proud that our transparency and efficiency continue to receive external recognition.

* UNAUDITED. HEALTHWELL’S 2019 FINANCIALS ARE CURRENTLY BEING FINALIZED AND AUDITED, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE FOUNDATION’S FORM 990 TO BE POSTED MID-YEAR 2020
Additional excitement for 2019

HealthWell was honored to be:

- Ranked 33rd by Forbes on its 2019 list of the 100 Largest U.S. Charities.
- Recognized by Forbes as one of only 10 charities nationwide to achieve a 100 percent fundraising efficiency rating.
- Recognized by the Chronicle of Philanthropy as one of America’s Favorite Charities in 2019 ranking 38th out of 100 charities.
- Ranked 42nd by NonProfit Times on its Top 100 List of America’s Largest Nonprofits for 2019.

In 2019, the HealthWell Foundation:

- Launched or re-opened 27 funds, including funds to assist patients living with: Amyloidosis, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Mantle Cell Lymphoma, Migraine, Nontuberculous Mycobacterium, Chronic Heart Failure, Hypercholesterolemia, and Lambert-Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome (LEMS).
- Provided financial assistance to the families of over 640 children living with chronic or life-altering conditions through our Pediatric Assistance Fund.
- Continued to operate over 60 funds in a variety of disease areas, including multiple funds in oncology.
- Converted our Cancer-Related Behavioral Health Fund to a pharmacy card fund. Through this feature, pharmacy claims can be run at the point of grant approval. Patients now have immediate access to medications upon approval of their grant, with no lag time. Additionally, pharmacy card information can be verified in real-time through our Pharmacy Card Lookup Tool.
- Unveiled our Real-Time Fund Alerts, which provide instant notifications that allow patient, provider, and pharmacy portal users to track the status of HealthWell’s diverse portfolio of disease funds in real-time.
- Handled over 424,000 calls, an average of more than 35,000 calls per month, through our dedicated contact center, HWF Direct, LLC.
- Enhanced our social media presence through the addition of our patient-focused Instagram account and increased our followers on all platforms by 100 percent. We grew our online audience to over 7,200 followers resulting in over 720,000 impressions, 22,300 engagements and over 5,400 clicks.
- Increased our presence at more than 25 industry and disease-specific conferences, where we shared information about our programs and services and contributed to timely discussions on industry-related issues.
- Spread our message nationally with dozens of alliance partners, resulting in more than 565 million media impressions from placements in major news outlets, including Reuters, Yahoo! Finance, MarketWatch and Washington Business Journal.
- Welcomed six new members to our dedicated corporate team.

In May 2015, I underwent a double mastectomy after precancerous cells were found in my breast tissue.

Studies show that the majority of women diagnosed with breast cancer are not informed of their options for reconstruction at the time of a mastectomy. I was ushered right into breast implants. After four additional failed surgeries, I was left disfigured and in pain.

I began to second-guess all my decisions. My self-esteem went down. My productivity at work went down. My long-term relationship ended.

Working in a public library system, I do not make much money and the cost of my insurance is high. I began doing research to see if I could find any organization that provided financial help.

My various applications were all turned down, and I found myself in a very hopeless, precarious place. After all the surgeries and almost claiming bankruptcy, I knew I needed talk therapy to deal with the trauma and the stress. My pain was no longer just physical. I was at the end of my rope.

I searched for resources for financial assistance for cancer-related mental health issues and found HealthWell. I immediately called and I was approved. Finally, I felt like someone understood what I was going through – things really turned around for me that day.

To some people, a $2,000 grant may not seem like much, but it sure does to me. It has covered my out-of-pocket treatment-related costs for my new prescription drug, psychotherapy sessions, and even transportation. That little bit has made such a difference in my life!

I am so grateful to all the generous people who support HealthWell and for all you’ve done for me.

Thank you!

—Joy O.
Athens, Georgia

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FACEBOOK: Facebook.com/HealthWellFoundation
INSTAGRAM: @HealthWellFoundation
E-MAIL: Grants@HealthWellFoundation.org
TWITTER: @HealthWellOrg
PHONE: (240) 632-5300
HEALTHWELL FOUNDATION
20440 Century Blvd., Suite 250
Germantown, MD 20874
www.HealthWellFoundation.org

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