Forging Ahead
Over 1 Million Grants Awarded
Health Care Access and Cost Issues Emerged as COVID Waned: HealthWell Foundation Continued to Forge Ahead

As we imagine a world without COVID...without cancer, hepatitis, multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis and other chronic and life-altering illnesses...we know that tens of thousands of underinsured Americans still need our help every day. These individuals are your family, friends, and co-workers. They teach your children, staff your favorite stores and restaurants, protect your communities, and care for you when you’re sick or need help.

They are the reason why HealthWell will continue to forge ahead in our mission to help the underinsured access critical medical treatments – because no one should go without essential care because they cannot afford it.

Toward the close of 2021, Americans reported a growing struggle to pay for health care. In fact, 30 percent polled in a 2021 survey did not seek treatment for a health problem due to its cost.

As the acuteness of the COVID-19 pandemic began to wane, thousands in the country still felt its impact every day, in new infections, hospitalizations, and the relentless toll of losing friends and loved ones. And while our economy started to get back on track, some businesses couldn’t recover, leaving laid-off employees scrambling to afford basic necessities, including health care.

Despite over 90 percent of the U.S. population having health insurance, the steadily increasing cost-sharing burdens people must bear are driving them into financial distress. In 2021, nearly half (47%) of insured adults reported difficulty affording their out-of-pocket costs, and one in four (27%) reported difficulty affording their deductible. Among Medicare beneficiaries, more than five million struggled to afford prescription medications.

For people with a chronic illness, even small copays and other cost-sharing expenses can accumulate to unaffordable amounts, especially since most households’ savings are less than the maximum out-of-pocket limit allowed for most private insurance plans.

We understand far too well what happens when people are forced to make hard decisions between affording medical treatments and paying daily living expenses. We understand what happens to their families and their futures when they are forced to declare bankruptcy. That is why we feel so fortunate to make a difference in their lives – to forge ahead with our mission in even the bleakest of times.
In 2021, health care challenges remained firmly fixed in America’s consciousness as the COVID-19 pandemic waxed and waned. More people than ever learned what it was like to live with a life-altering disease – how quickly it can upend their daily lives, relationships, finances, and futures. As access to care continued to present challenges for America’s underinsured, the need for our services continued to grow.

We understand all too well the devastating impact a health care crisis can have on families, forcing them to make difficult decisions whether to pay rent, buy food, pay for basic daily necessities or fill their prescriptions. That is why we are honored to provide a financial lifeline to those who have nowhere else to turn, and why we are beyond grateful for the support of our dedicated individual and corporate donors who allow us to carry out our mission.

The continued trust and support our donors place in us is a testimony to the high ethical standards with which we have, and will continue to, run our programs. Operating in full compliance with federal guidance that governs the copayment assistance industry is the cornerstone of our operations. The way we are structured, governed, and operated is the ethical and right thing to do, and we wouldn’t have it any other way.

In 2021, we were honored to achieve a significant milestone of awarding our one millionth grant. We were proud to have launched or re-opened 18 funds, including a HealthWell-sponsored COVID-19 Frontline Health Care Workers Behavioral Health Fund. We also continued to operate more than 60 funds, including multiple funds in oncology and special initiative funds in behavioral health and pediatrics. None of this would have been possible without the continued generosity of our individual and corporate donors.

On behalf of our board of directors and dedicated corporate and contact center teams, we would like to close by thanking our donors, our provider and pharmacy networks, our patient advocacy organization partners, our devoted employees, and especially our patients. We would also like to send a special thank you to our nation’s frontline health care workers for their compassion, commitment and tireless efforts to keep us safe and healthy. We are profoundly grateful for your unwavering commitment to assisting those in need.

Warmest regards,

Krista Zodet
President

Warm wishes,

Stephen M. Weiner
Board Chair
“We want to express our profound gratitude for honoring my husband, Tom, by awarding him a $15,000 grant to support him through his journey with ALS. Tom was formally diagnosed with ALS on August 3, 2017.

ALS has robbed us of life as we knew it, including Tom losing his speech, his mobility, and his livelihood. However, it has not robbed him of his mind, heart, sense of humor, or the example he sets for others.

The words in this note speak from both of our hearts. In the face of overwhelming adversity, we have strived to live through Tom’s ALS diagnosis with grace and dignity. While he has also been hospitalized dozens of times, Tom wishes to live life to its fullest and in our home. Consequently, the progression of his disease required me to quit work to become his full-time caregiver. Without any paychecks coming in, our savings have been depleted by relentless medical bills and ongoing household expenses. Your grant to pay for Tom’s insurance has been a lifeline and a blessing to our family during this difficult time. With sincere gratitude, we thank you.”

Nelly L., wife of Tom
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Grant Recipient
Sanford, Florida

“I want to thank you for the grant you’ve awarded me for treatment of my Dupuytren’s Contracture. I’m a musician and this issue has had an impact on the quality of my playing and, as a result, the quality of my life, for many years. Your gift will help significantly. Thank you very much.”

Bill H.
Dupuytren’s Disease Fund Grant Recipient
Yellow Springs, Ohio

“Thank you so much for helping fund my medication. Due to Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), my lymph nodes grew and started to cut off my trachea and esophagus, making it difficult to breathe and eat. I had to sleep sitting up.

After prayer and an infusion, my lymph nodes quickly went back to normal. Then they started growing again. I was prescribed medication, but it was not affordable at $13,000 a month. Because of the medication your grant helped provide, I won’t have to worry about CLL shutting my throat and leaving me feeling claustrophobic. If you can imagine feeling the fear of your throat closing in, and then not feeling like that, you get an idea of my level of thankfulness for what you are doing for me.”

John H.
Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) Grant Recipient
Haw River, North Carolina

“Our son, Jadon, was in an advanced food allergy program to desensitize him from foods that caused dangerous anaphylactic reactions. However, our insurance refused to cover his ongoing remission appointment and testing, which coincided with the Covid pandemic. Covid flattened our small business, and we scrambled to save our business and our household while trying to get Jadon the care he needed.

HealthWell to the rescue! Jadon got all of the testing and the appointment he needed. He’s progressing in his remission and found medical information that will improve the effectiveness of his maintenance. There has been a weight lifted and we are so glad to be done with this part of things! Our gratitude is large. Many, many thank-yous.”

Abby S., mother of Jadon
Pediatric Fund Grant Recipient
Santa Clarita, California

Words of Thanks and Gratitude

Nelly & Tom
Jadon
John
Bill
HealthWell Foundation 2021 Achievements

Thanks to individual and corporate contributions of $538,184,808 in 2021, the HealthWell Foundation provided financial assistance to 175,695 patients and reached the milestone of awarding 1,117,805 grants since 2004. We were proud to:

- **Award $818,446,309** in medication copayment and insurance premium assistance through 185,493 grants¹ to underinsured Americans.
- **Launch a HealthWell-sponsored COVID-19 Frontline Health Care Workers Behavioral Health Fund**, providing grants of up to $2,000 to assist frontline health care workers in covering their out-of-pocket treatment-related copayments for prescription drugs, counseling services, psychotherapy, and transportation needed to manage COVID-19 related behavioral health issues.
- **Provide financial assistance to 1,174 children** living with chronic or life-altering conditions through the HealthWell Pediatric Assistance Fund®.
- **Assist 134 oncology patients** seeking behavioral health services through our Cancer-Related Behavioral Health Fund.
- **Strengthen the diversity and number of our individual donor base to over 63,500 donors** with more than 17,000 giving in 2021.
- **Maintain operational efficiency** by programming our grants with an overhead rate of <2.61% foundation-wide, while never using any donor dollars to pay administrative fees.
- **Launch a Spanish-language application**, expand content on our Español page, and create a new version of our Disease Funds list in Spanish.
- **Increase our social media presence**, growing our online audience to over 9,800 followers, resulting in over 3.2 million impressions, almost 33,000 engagements, and over 16,100 clicks.
- **Increase our Real World Health Care blog following to 18,879 users** and 25,691 page views.
- **Spread our message nationally with dozens of alliance partners**, resulting in close to 684 million media impressions from placements in major news outlets.
- **Welcome David F. Ertel** to the Foundation’s Board of Directors.
- **Enhance our staff with the addition of two new corporate team members.**

¹ Some eligible patients receive grants through more than one fund during the year.
Who We Assist - The Lives We Touched in 2021

Age Breakdown
- 8% under 35
- 3% 35-49
- 11% 50-64
- 78% 65+

Marital Status
- 47% Single
- 53% Married

Gender
- 54% Female
- 46% Male

Top 10 States Assisted
- Florida
- Texas
- California
- Ohio
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- North Carolina
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Tennessee

Top Five Disease States
By Grant Approval Volume
- 16% Hypercholesterolemia
- 14% Post Menopausal Osteoporosis
- 13% Multiple Myeloma
- 8% Prostate Cancer
- 5% Pulmonary Hypertension

Household Size Breakdown
- 32% One person (58,466)
- 56% Two people (104,250)
- 5% Three people (9,564)
- 7% Four or more people (12,402)

Household Income Breakdown
$33,000 Median Household Income
- 43% of patients' household income is under $30,000
  $30,000 was 172% of the FPL for a household of 2
- 62% of patients' household income is under $40,000
  $40,000 was 230% of the FPL for a household of 2
- 84% of patients' household income is under $60,000
  $60,000 was 344% of the FPL for a household of 2

Greatest Need
- 85% of patients need up to $7,700
- 10% of patients need $8,900+

$3,218 Average grant amount in 2021
- 2% Proportion of assistance requests for premium

37,691 Monthly average number of calls handled

Referral Sources
- 35% Pharmacy
- 28% Provider/Physician/Nurse/Advocate
- 10% Reimbursement Support Line/Manufacturer
- 10% Another Copay Foundation (Patient Assistance Program)
- 5% Case Manager/Social Worker
- 3% Disease-Specific Non-Profit/Patient Support Organization
- 3% Patient/Family Member/Caregiver
- 3% Other
- 2% Website/Web Search
- 1% Private Insurer (i.e., BCBS, United)
HWF Direct, LLC – Forging Ahead: Compassionate, Responsive and Quality Care

Since 2018, our dedicated contact center, HWF Direct, LLC, has had a mission to provide unparalleled, compassionate customer service through innovative cloud-based solutions and an empowered, dedicated staff. Our strength as a team sets us apart from other contact centers. Providing the highest quality customer service and ensuring that our specialists take the time needed to resolve caller issues within the first contact is our number one priority.

As the need for HealthWell’s services continued to grow, we expanded our team with close to 50 new members in 2021. As a result of this growth, HWF Direct now consists of nearly 150 highly-trained, mission-driven professionals who serve as the first line of communication for those who reach out to us for assistance.

Our key performance metrics focus on providing compassionate, responsive, and quality care to each and every caller, and our high performance has been applauded by patients, providers and pharmacies.

During 2021, our dedicated contact center team:

- Received 491,911 calls through our hotline while maintaining a call capture rate of 93.5%.
- Maintained a 98% staff retention rate, with 95% of staff working remotely for the majority of 2021.
- Completed an organizational restructuring to reflect our patients’ journey and to ensure frontline staff have a support system of subject matter experts.
- Promoted a Program Director and expanded our Leadership Team to support frontline staff.
- Streamlined multiple processes to improve our ability to provide a compassionate, compliant, and completely satisfactory experience for those we serve.
- Enhanced our Quality Assurance evaluation and auditing process.
- Created 186,438 grants (including withdrawn and cancelled grants) via the hotline, online applications, and portal.
- Responded to:
  - 134,264 copay reimbursement/payment requests with an average processing time of less than seven business days.
  - 15,850 premium reimbursement/payment requests with an average processing time of less than three business days.
  - 39,357 email questions/requests with same day response time.
- Completed over 3,918 internal audits/reviews of our handling of calls, payments, and other tasks, demonstrating that we are successfully meeting our internal standards for providing a compassionate, compliant, and completely satisfactory experience 93% of the time.

1. Creating a grant results in operational activity whether it is used, unused, cancelled, or withdrawn.
Our Commitment to Compliance and Transparency

Like other independent charitable patient assistance programs (CPAPs), the HealthWell Foundation receives the majority of its donations from the pharmaceutical industry. As a result, HealthWell is structured, governed and operated in compliance with federal legal and regulatory requirements and is required to operate independently from our corporate donors.

HealthWell, as with other CPAPs, is subject to oversight by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG), whose mission is to protect the integrity of federal health care programs. The OIG provides strict guidance for how CPAPs should be structured to maintain compliance with these requirements.

HealthWell has and will continue to operate under strict compliance best practices and follow OIG guidance to the letter, as illustrated above. Maintaining compliance, independence, and transparency has been our standard operating policy since our inception and is essential to our ability to serve our mission.
In 2021, the HealthWell Foundation continued to operate more than 60 funds in a variety of disease areas, including multiple funds in oncology and our special initiative funds in behavioral health and pediatrics. We launched or re-opened 18 funds, including new funds to assist Medicare patients living with Myelodysplastic Syndromes, Neurocognitive Disease with Psychosis, Pancreatic Cancer and Pulmonary Hypertension.

HealthWell was proud to provide financial assistance to the families of over 1,170 children living with chronic or life-altering conditions through our HealthWell Pediatric Assistance Fund® in 2021. We also assisted more than 130 oncology patients seeking behavioral health services through our Cancer-Related Behavioral Health Fund.

Helping Frontline Health Care Workers Cope

Traumatic events can have serious, long-term effects on mental wellbeing, and accessing mental health care was a challenge in 2021, especially for those in the health care industry. In fact, 18 percent of frontline health care workers thought they needed mental health care services or medications last year but did not get them. For 16 percent of those who did not seek such care, it was because of cost.

“**We applaud the HealthWell Foundation for recognizing the paramount need for frontline health care workers who are going to heroic measures to save the lives of those impacted by COVID-19 by providing a vital financial resource that will enable them to obtain critical behavioral health services.”**

Susan Gurley
Executive Director, Anxiety and Depression Association of America

HealthWell recognized the unmet needs of frontline health care workers and launched the COVID-19 Frontline Health Care Workers Behavioral Health Fund to provide assistance for behavioral health treatments for those who have been impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis.

53% of public health workers reported symptoms of at least one mental health condition in 2021.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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**60+ Funds Covered a Variety of Disease Areas**

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**Funds Open During 2021**

- Acromegaly
- Acute Myeloid Leukemia
- Adrenal Insufficiency
- Amyloidosis
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- ANCA-Associated Vasculitis, and Granulomatosis with Polyangitis (formerly Wegener’s)
- Asthma
- Bladder and Urothelial Cancer - Medicare Access
- Bone Metastases - Medicare Access
- Breast Cancer - Medicare Access
- Cancer-Related Behavioral Health
- Chemotherapy Induced Neutropenia - Medicare Access
- Chronic Heart Failure - Medicare Access
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Chronic Myeloid Leukemia - Medicare Access
- Colorectal Carcinoma - Medicare Access
- Congenital Sucrase-Isomaltase Deficiency
- COVID-19 Frontline Health Care Workers Behavioral Health
- COVID-19 Insurance Premium Payment Assistance
- Cushing’s Disease
- Cystic Fibrosis Treatments
- Cystic Fibrosis Vitamins and Supplements
- Cytomegalovirus Disease - Prevention and Treatment
- Dupuytren’s Disease
- Giant Cell Arteritis or Temporal Arteritis - Medicare Access
- Gout - Medicare Access
- Gout Travel Fund
- Head and Neck Cancer - Medicare Access
- Hepatitis C
- Homocystinuria
- Hypercholesterolemia - Medicare Access
- Hyperoxaluria
- Immunosuppressive Treatment for Solid Organ Transplant Recipients-Medicare Access
- Lambert-Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome
- Macular Degeneration (Wet and Dry)
- Mantle Cell Lymphoma
- Melanoma - Medicare Access
- Movement Disorders - Medicare Access
- Multiple Myeloma - Medicare Access
- Multiple Sclerosis - Medicare Access
- Myelodysplastic Syndromes - Medicare Access
- Neurocognitive Disease with Psychosis - Medicare Access
- Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer - Medicare Access
- Nontuberculous Mycobacterium - Medicare Access
- Ovarian Cancer - Medicare Access
- Pancreatic Cancer - Medicare Access
- Pediatric Assistance
- Peyronie’s Disease
- Porphyrias
- Post Menopausal Osteoporosis - Medicare Access
- Prostate Cancer - Medicare Access
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Pulmonary Hypertension - Medicare Access
- Renal Cell Carcinoma - Medicare Access
- Secondary Hyperparathyroidism
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Small Cell Lung Cancer - Medicare Access
- Systemic Lupus Erythematous
- Tardive Dyskinesia - Medicare Access
- Urea Cycle Disorders
- Urticaria
- Wilms’ Tumor
Statement of Financial Position

### Assets
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $105,746,465
- Investments: $392,476,920
- Interest Receivable and Other Assets: $702,521
- Pledges Receivable: $29,995,974
- Property and Equipment, net: $632,237

**Total Assets**: $529,554,117

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Liabilities
- Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses: $17,901,541
- Copayments and Premium Assistance Payable: $7,178,295
- Deferred Rent: $158,574

**Total Liabilities**: $25,238,410

#### Net Assets
- Unrestricted: $59,689,288
- Temporarily Restricted: $444,626,419

**Total Net Assets**: $504,315,707

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**: $529,554,117

### Revenue and Expense Summary

#### Expense Ratios
- Patient Grants and Services: 99.39%
- Management: 0.33%
- Fundraising: 0.14%
- Education and Outreach: 0.13%

#### Revenue
- Donations and Other Income: $538,184,808
- Investment Income: $13,714,191

**Total Revenue**: $551,898,999

#### Expenses
- Patient Grants and Services: $625,887,689
- Management: $2,096,177
- Fundraising: $871,663
- Education and Outreach: $846,959

**Total Expenses**: $629,702,488

#### 2021 Expenses
- Education & Outreach: 0.13%
- Fundraising: 0.14%
- Management: 0.33%

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**Patient Grants and Services**: 99.39%
Board of Directors

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Massachusetts General Hospital Supportive Care and Survivorship Program
Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

2021 Staff Listing

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Collin Alexander
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Fred Larbi
Director of Operations

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Crystal Lynch
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Brian Katz
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Cesar Martinez
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Sarina Robbins
Development Support Manager

Lorrin Rosen
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Albert Mejia
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Franck Dewonou
Operations Support Coordinator

Sabrina Howard
Office Assistant

Maya Larbi
Marketing Assistant
HealthWell Foundation
20440 Century Boulevard
Suite 250
Germantown, MD 20874

www.HealthWellFoundation.org

Addressing a critical need, the HealthWell Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to reducing financial barriers to care for underinsured Americans with chronic and life-altering medical conditions. HealthWell is a financial lifeline for adults and children who desperately need critical medical treatments but can’t afford them. We help patients pay their share of prescription copayments, deductibles, health insurance premiums, and other ancillary costs. By reducing their financial stress, the people we serve can focus on what’s most important: their health.

PHONE: (240) 632-5300

FACEBOOK: Facebook.com/healthwelfoundation

INSTAGRAM: @HealthWellFoundation

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LINKEDIN: healthwell-foundation

HealthWell Foundation
Financial Reports