



HEALTHWELL  
FOUNDATION®

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## News Release

### **February is National AMD Low Vision Awareness Month**

*HealthWell Foundation assists AMD patients, encourages public to learn more about leading cause of blindness in older Americans*

**Gaithersburg, MD (February 6, 2007)** – February is National AMD Low Vision Awareness Month, and the HealthWell Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to patients with serious and chronic conditions to meet their cost sharing obligations, encourages the public to learn more about this illness, which is the leading cause of blindness in older Americans.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a disease that gradually destroys the vision and occurs most frequently in people over age 50. The exact causes of the disease are unknown, and there is currently no cure.

AMD patients are often unable to distinguish colors or objects, and may experience dark spots blocking their central vision, leaving them unable to identify the faces of those close to them. The HealthWell Foundation was established to assist patients with conditions such as AMD to cover the out-of-pocket costs that are associated with management of their diseases and accompanying symptoms.

"Since its inception, the HealthWell Foundation has provided financial assistance to more than 20,000 patients with serious medical conditions," said Stephen M. Weiner, President of the HealthWell Foundation. "We are doing all we can to help patients with conditions like AMD obtain access to treatments that can help them."

The Foundation also currently offers assistance for the treatment of many other serious and chronic diseases, including breast and colorectal cancers; asthma; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; rheumatoid arthritis; and many others.

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*Established in 2003 to help patients with serious conditions meet their cost-sharing obligations for treatment, the HealthWell Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit association that provides financial assistance to cover the cost of prescription drug coinsurance, copayments and deductibles, health insurance premiums, and other selected out-of-pocket healthcare costs. The Foundation considers individual financial, medical and insurance situations when determining assistance eligibility. For more information, please visit [www.healthwellfoundation.org](http://www.healthwellfoundation.org).*