



HEALTHWELL
FOUNDATION®

Media Contact: Angelene Taccini
Avalanche Strategic Communications
One University Plaza, Suite 407
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
angelene@avalanchepr.com
tel: 201.488.0049
fax: 201.488.1550

News Release

March Is National Kidney Month

HealthWell Foundation assists patients living with chronic kidney disease

Gaithersburg, MD (March 19, 2007) – March is National Kidney Month, sponsored by the National Kidney Foundation. The national non-profit HealthWell Foundation provides financial assistance to patients with chronic kidney disease and related disorders, including anemia associated with chronic renal insufficiency or failure, secondary hyperparathyroidism, and immunosuppressive treatments for kidney transplant recipients.

"With health care costs spiraling, even patients who have health care coverage cannot always afford the out-of-pocket costs for the treatment they need," says Stephen M. Weiner, President of the HealthWell Foundation. "Since 2003, the HealthWell Foundation has helped more than 25,000 patients with various diseases, including chronic renal failure. HealthWell can help these patients begin and continue critical medical treatment."

According to the National Kidney Foundation, about 20 million Americans suffer from chronic kidney diseases, and an additional 20 million are susceptible due to risk factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, family history of kidney disease and racial or ethnic heritage.

The HealthWell Foundation was established to assist patients with the often burdensome out-of-pocket costs associated with the treatment of many diseases. In addition to kidney patients, the Foundation also currently offers assistance to people living with many other life-threatening or chronic conditions, including breast cancer, colon cancer, asthma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, rheumatoid arthritis, and 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.