



Welcome to *The Pulse*, a quarterly update from the HealthWell Foundation®

## What's New?

### Impact of the Economy

At a time when millions are feeling financial strain, ensuring access to medical treatments is more crucial than ever. The HealthWell Foundation has felt the impact of the recession as we receive more calls, applications and payment requests than ever before. Overall, we have approved about 40% more applications than we did by this time last year. In February, we broke a record of sorts, awarding more money in a single month than ever in our history. And in March, we broke the record again. In particular, a larger number of patients are seeking help with their insurance premiums, some as a result of job losses and changes in insurance coverage and others simply because belts are tightening. We are happy to be able to help so many, and thank our generous donors for making it possible to provide happy endings to so many stories.

### Applying to More Than One Disease Fund

The HealthWell Foundation is able to assist patients who have multiple medical conditions and need assistance with each of them. When you call, please speak with our customer service representative about which treatments you are taking for which conditions, and whether you may be eligible for additional assistance by applying to more than one fund. For example, if you are a patient with breast cancer and also are under treatment for chemotherapy induced anemia, you may be able to receive assistance through both the Breast Cancer Fund and the Chemotherapy Induced Anemia Fund. In addition, applying to more than one fund may give you the flexibility to receive premium assistance from one fund and copayment assistance from another. Please contact our representatives at 800-675-8416 to learn more.

### More Disease Support Coming Soon

The HealthWell Foundation is pleased to announce that we are working to open several new disease funds over the next six months. While we cannot provide more details yet, we encourage you to check our [funds list](#) regularly, and keep an eye out for announcements in the next edition of *The Pulse*.

### HealthWell in the News

The HealthWell Foundation continues to be featured in news across the country. Here are a few of the latest highlights:

- **Managed Healthcare Executive** - *HealthWell board member David Knowlton provides commentary on the need for healthcare reform that provides long-term affordability and coverage for all in this article about prescription medication costs ("Adherence, Compliance Key with Underinsured" April, 2009).*



## HealthWell Making a Difference

*You have lifted this boulder from my back. There are no words in my vocabulary that can say "Thank You" for what you are doing for me. When I found out my out of pocket cost for my chemotherapy was \$5,400, I told the doctor there was no way I could afford it. However on the other hand, I want to live, especially to see what my 6 grandchildren do with their lives. That's when I started looking for some financial help: that's when I found you. When people die because they can't afford the medication to live, it is a national disgrace. I pray the medical community can be healed. Thank you.*

- Daria,  
San Jose, CA



## What's New? continued

### HealthWell in the News

- **Arthritis Today** - This article, which focuses on ways to cope with high costs or no health insurance, features the HealthWell Foundation as one of the resources available to help reduce the cost of prescription drugs (["Getting Care on the Fly" April, 2009](#)).
- **Specialty Pharmacy News** - HealthWell board member David Knowlton speaks about the importance of regulating chronic disease costs in order to improve the current health care crisis in this article on preventive care (["Prevention, Wellness Efforts Hailed" March, 2009](#)).
- **Los Angeles Times** - In a piece for the L.A. Times' "Your Money/Your Health" feature, columnist Fran Kritz speaks with patients and experts about managing the costs of living with cancer (["Cancer's Price Tag" February, 2009](#)).

## Did you know?

### Tips and Tricks

Did you know that HealthWell Foundation has an automated telephone system that is available 24 hours a day? The system allows you to:

- Hear your application status
- Find out the Foundation's eligibility criteria
- Learn which documents are accepted
- Get our mailing address and fax number

If you cannot find what you need using our automated system, simply press option 6 to speak with a customer service representative, who are available in person by telephone Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET. For faster service, we recommend that you call on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.

### Fund Update

Due to high demand, we are unable to accept new applications at this time for our Hodgkin's Disease, Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) and Multiple Myeloma (MM) funds. Please follow up periodically to check on the status of these funds. In the meantime, please contact the following organizations for assistance:

- **Hodgkin's Disease:** National Organization for Rare Diseases (NORD) (866-924- 0100)
- **MDS:** Patient Access Network Foundation (866-316-7263), the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (877-557-2672), or the Chronic Disease Fund (877-968-7233)
- **MM:** Patient Advocate Foundation (800-532-5274), the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (877-557-2672), or the Chronic Disease Fund (877-968-7233)

If you would like to support our funding for any of these disease areas, please email us at [support@healthwellfoundation.org](mailto:support@healthwellfoundation.org) or call our Development Office at 888-508-7466.

## HealthWell Making a Difference

*WOW! Your organization is awesome! I received a heart transplant in 2001. Through 2008, my job has always been able to provide affordable insurance. That changed in January 2009. The new plan we were given had a HUGE deductible attached to it. I was at a loss as to how I was going to be able to pay for my meds and keep a roof over my head and food on the table for my daughter and I. I tried to get assistance from a few places to no avail, and then was referred to HealthWell by my doctor's office. You all were so helpful and kind! The application process was simple and painless. The response was quick. I was approved for the help I so desperately needed. A huge burden and mountain of stress was lifted from my shoulders when I received the news HealthWell was going to help me. I can't express in words the depth of my gratitude. But for what it's worth.... Thank you, thank you, thank you!*

-Philip,  
Missouri City, TX

*There are no words to express how grateful I am for the help you have given me toward breast cancer treatment. After finding out there was no generic form of my medication, I felt my only alternative was to take it every other day. Thank you so much - I can only promise to pass this kindness on as I can.*

- Mary,  
Green Bay, WI



## How You Can Support Our Work

### Spotlight on Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form in the tissues of the lung. Because of the lungs exposure to the environment, this type of cancer accounts for 85 percent of all lung cancer cases in the United States. The HealthWell Foundation assists Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer patients with their copayments for their chemotherapy treatments. Most patients have monthly treatment cost of \$1,000 to \$3,000 or more. To date, HealthWell has awarded over \$14 million to patients with this type of cancer.

We invite you to help us support these patients by donating to the HealthWell Foundation today.

**Donate Now**

### Turn your Event into a Benefit for HealthWell

Judy was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 27. Now 40, her medical expenses total over \$5,000 each month. Thankfully, Judy has the benefit of being covered by more than one insurance policy. When she recently found out that her policy may not cover her monthly treatment costs, it made her think about others in similar situations who cannot afford to pay for their medical treatments. That's when she contacted HealthWell. She wanted to do something to help other breast cancer patients in need and decided to turn her 40th birthday celebration into a benefit for HealthWell. Thanks to Judy's efforts, she raised over \$650 for HealthWell's breast cancer fund! Our heartfelt thanks go to Judy and all of her friends for this generous donation that will help change lives.

We would be happy to help you organize an event for HealthWell. If you are interested in learning more, please contact our Development Office at 888-508-7466 or [support@healthwellfoundation.org](mailto:support@healthwellfoundation.org) for more information.

### Buy or Sell Items on eBay

You can generate support for HealthWell with the eBay Giving Works program. If you are a seller, simply list your item on eBay, select HealthWell Foundation as your charity, and choose the percentage you would like to donate to us. If you are a buyer, every time you buy an item, the seller will donate between 10% and 100% of the sale to HealthWell. To get started, visit [eBay Giving Works](#).

### Share Your Story

Has HealthWell made a positive difference in your life or in the lives of the patients you help? If so, we want to hear from you! We invite you to share your HealthWell story by emailing us at [support@healthwellfoundation.org](mailto:support@healthwellfoundation.org) [please indicate if we have your permission to share your story with others anonymously].