



HEALTHWELL
FOUNDATION®

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

What's New?

Forbes.com Names HealthWell Foundation one of America's 25 Most Efficient Charities

As of We are happy to announce that Forbes.com recognized the HealthWell Foundation as one of America's 25 most efficient charities as well as one of America's 200 largest. Forbes.com profiled the HealthWell Foundation in the 10th edition of its annual list of the country's largest nonprofits by private donations.

[Read more...](#)

2008: Another Strong Year of Improving Patient Access Care

As we wrap up 2008, we look back at another strong year for the HealthWell Foundation, which enrolled over 30,000 new patients who needed help affording their medical treatments. Particularly towards the end of the year as economic conditions worsened, we saw demand for copayment and premium assistance increase across the country. In total, the HealthWell Foundation awarded over \$84 million last year. These grants provide avenues for ongoing healthcare and improve the quality of life for patients who otherwise may fail to receive the therapies needed to fight their illnesses.

HealthWell Launches New Fund to Help Patient with ITP

This fall, the HealthWell Foundation launched a new fund for Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP). Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura is a potentially serious autoimmune bleeding disorder characterized by low levels of platelets, a condition known as thrombocytopenia. According to the Platelet Disorder Support Association, approximately 200,000 Americans have ITP, and the condition affects about three times as many women as men.

Application Changes

In response to suggestions from our customers, the HealthWell Foundation applications now have a new look. The pre-filled applications include an instruction sheet detailing the enrollment process, as well as an income statement checklist to itemize sources of income for patients who do not file taxes. Our goal is to make the application process as easy as possible, and we always welcome your comments.

HealthWell in the News

The HealthWell Foundation continues to be featured in news across the country. In addition to the mention on Forbes.com, here are a few of the latest highlights:



HealthWell Making a Difference

We would like to say THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts. When Sue was diagnosed with breast cancer, we were emotionally crushed. Then, when the medical bills started coming in, we truly didn't know what we were going to do. When we were facing the possibility of Sue not being able to continue her treatments our doctor told us about HealthWell. You gave us hope when there was none left. We are still struggling financially, but Sue is doing great and her doctor says she is now cancer free. Our faith is strong and our spirits are high, mainly, due to you. You truly are angels of mercy.

-Bill and Sue,
McKinney, TX



What's New? continued

HealthWell in the News

Chronicle of Philanthropy - The HealthWell Foundation is featured in the Chronicle's annual Philanthropy 400 list, which ranks the nonprofit organizations that raised the most money from private sources ("The Philanthropy 400," October, 2008)

Yahoo! Health - Patients searching for help with their medical expenses are advised to seek assistance from non-profit organizations including HealthWell (["Health Insurance: Can You Afford It?" October, 2008](#))

Did you know?

HealthWell Foundation has Gone Paperless!!

In an effort to save the environment and improve our program, the HealthWell Foundation has gradually become a virtually paperless environment. We still print applications and letters for patients and providers, but we no longer print the faxes that we receive. When we review cases, we can now spread all of the documents over our virtual desktops. The Foundation also scans mail, allowing agents to view the items you send us without getting up from our desks. This not only cuts down on paper, it also increases efficiency. It is nice to improve service to our customers and save a tree or two in the process.

Tips and Tricks

Did you know that it is better to fax your information to the HealthWell Foundation rather than mail it? Some of the benefits of faxing are:

- Your information reaches us faster, so we can start processing it more quickly
- Faxing saves us a step, so it speeds your application review process
- You will receive an immediate fax confirmation that we received your materials if your fax number is programmed into your fax machine
- You can save a stamp (or two)

Please note that if you fax your information, you do not need to mail it in as well. This can create processing delays.

Fund Update

Due to high demand, we are unable to accept new applications at this time for our 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 Patient Access Network Foundation (866-316-7263), the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (877-557-2672), or the Chronic Disease Fund (877-968-7233) for assistance. If you would like to support either of these disease areas, please email us at support@healthwellfoundation.org or call our Development Office at 240-632-5305.

HealthWell Making a Difference

New Year's day was celebration day as the family joined me in giving thanks for my extended term of life. This extension was a direct result of receiving the cancer medications that were not covered by my insurance, but graciously paid by the HealthWell Foundation of Gaithersburg, MD. We made a resolution to tell the story about "Healthwell" to as many people as possible together with providing the address for sending donations. Please accept my simple expression of "Thank You" for extending my longevity.

-Norbert,
-Scottsdale, AZ

Thank you for helping me with my co-pay for my breast cancer medication. I have been struggling to make ends meet. I have good insurance, but \$100 a month for 5 years is not in my budget. Thank you Health Well for giving me one year of assistance... It has been a blessing.

Alyce,
Makanda, IL



How You Can Support Our Work

Spotlight on Head and Neck Cancer

Head and neck cancer is a cancer that arises in the head or neck region, such as the nasal cavity, lips, mouth, and throat. Head and neck cancers account for approximately 3 to 5 percent of all cancers in the United States. These cancers are more common in men and people over age 50, and about 85 percent of cases are linked to tobacco use. The HealthWell Foundation assists head and neck cancer patients with their insurance premiums or their copayments for chemotherapy treatments. To date, HealthWell has awarded over \$1 million to patients living with this disease. The demand for assistance continues to grow; most patients need between \$200 and \$400 each month just to cover their out of pocket costs during treatment. We invite you to help us support these patients by donating to the HealthWell Foundation today.

[Donate Now](#)

Share Your Story

If HealthWell has made a positive difference in your life, we want to hear from you! We invite you to share your HealthWell story by emailing us at support@healthwellfoundation.org [please indicate if we have your permission to share your story with others anonymously].

Earn Money for HealthWell Every Time you Search the Web

Donate a penny to HealthWell every time you search the Web with GoodSearch.com. GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter HealthWell as the charity you want to support!