

The Pulse

Summer 2015 Quarterly e-News Update



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, KRISTA ZODET

In the blink of an eye, we're already half way through 2015. It's been a busy and exciting second quarter for the HealthWell Foundation. Since my last message in April, the HealthWell team has made great strides by increasing awareness of our program, launching our newest fund to provide copayment assistance for patients living with Hepatitis C, and rolling out our enhanced online application! We're proud of our achievements, and I'm excited to share more details with you in this issue.

Throughout the year, we have worked with multiple organizations to not only aid us in increasing awareness of specific funds, but also to assist their efforts in providing reliable resources to their respective communities. In May, we implemented a social media campaign to help spread the word about our Lupus fund and to support national organizations in their mission to increase awareness of this devastating disease during Lupus Awareness Month. Our team was among the many organizations that showed support by participating in **Put on Purple** for Lupus day. We gathered for a photo (see below) and shared it with our social media communities.



Our team from left to right: Ginny, Collin, Rita, Shela, Baskaran, Anaam, Krista, Tim and Diane

Also in this issue, it's an honor to highlight Dee, HealthWell Multiple Sclerosis Fund grant recipient and featured Patient of the Month for our sponsored blog, [Real World Health Care](#). Dee and her family were kind enough to talk with us to tell us how a HealthWell grant touched

their lives. Read Dee's courageous story [here](#).

There's a lot more to share, so I hope you'll continue to read.

FUND UPDATE

In May, we were excited to kick off Hepatitis Awareness Month with the launch of our new Hepatitis C Fund! Through the fund, we are now able to provide copayment assistance to patients living with Hepatitis C. We were honored to work closely with the American Liver Foundation and BOOM!Health, key influencers in the Hepatitis C community, to spread the news about our new fund and to help increase awareness about Hepatitis C. Thank you to our generous donors for making this fund a reality. [read more](#)

Strengthening Our Programs to Make Life Easier for Those We Serve

It's rewarding to know that through the continued generosity of our corporate and individual donors, the work we do has touched the lives of more than 200,000 underinsured Americans. Not only do we continuously seek to open new funds to assist more patients in need, we strive to develop new ways to enhance our program making our process even more efficient and providing those we serve with state-of-the-art services for the best possible HealthWell experience. Here are a few of our new and exciting features.

New Online Application

We are excited to announce our new and improved online application that not only streamlined the application process, but now allows re-enrolling HealthWell grant recipients to reapply online! The application is available 24/7 and offers new and re-enrolling grant applicants the opportunity to apply anytime. Check out the new, even more user-friendly [application](#) the next time you apply for a grant.

DEE'S STORY



Life has not been the same for Dee Champlin, her husband Mark and their two sons since Dee was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 2008. The disease has imperiled Dee's vision, severely limited her walking and weakened her memory and speech. But she and her family have always found ways to bounce back.

Symptoms such as sensitivity to hot weather, temporary numbness and joint pain had been growing more and more common for Dee beginning in 1988. But, as with many MS patients, it was eye problems that ultimately led doctors to the MS diagnosis 20 years after her symptoms first appeared.

In one crisis, Dee suddenly began slurring her speech and drooling. Hours later, vision in her left eye started disappearing under what she described as a dark veil. A series of three ophthalmologists assessed the problem before determining she had bleeding inside the eye. This led to MS testing. Four tests, including an MRI and a spinal tap, all came back positive for MS, revealing 14 lesions on her brain at the time.

Disease Specific Fund Pages

We've taken the guess work out of knowing your fund. We have added specific fund pages to our Diseases and Medications page. Now, you can select from our real-time list of open funds to learn more about the specific fund for which you are applying. The pages contain a description of the disease state, grant cap amounts, type of grant (premium or copayment), as well as resources outside of HealthWell. Visit our [Diseases and Medications](#) page and select a disease area to learn about our fund. After you've had a chance to take a look, let us know what you think by dropping a quick note to us at Support@HealthWellFoundation.org. We'd love to hear from you.

Copayment or Premium - Choose the One that Works for YOU

Did you know that some of our funds support both copayment and premium assistance? If you are eligible for a health insurance plan that would pay for your treatments, but cannot afford the insurance premium, we may be able to help. To find out if premium assistance is available, visit our [Diseases and Medications](#) page and click on an individual disease area.

Ways You Can Help

Did you know that helping us spread the word about the life-changing work we do can be as meaningful as a monetary donation?

If you are a HealthWell grant recipient, we'd love to [hear your story](#). Sharing your experience helps other patients, donors, health care providers and caregivers understand just how impactful HealthWell can be in the lives of ordinary Americans struggling with chronic and life-altering illnesses.

Are you on Facebook? You can "friend" the HealthWell Foundation by visiting our [page](#). Feel free to share stories from our page with your

Mark describes a moment during one of Dee's hospitalizations when he shifted from a negative attitude to a positive one that still guides the family.

Their challenges had hit him "like a punch to the gut," he said. "Why us?" he thought. "Everything changed so fast. But then I thought, eventually we are going to get out of this hospital and go home. Things could be so much worse. With all the bad things that are happening to Dee, I don't want to deal with my own negative attitude."

That outlook has allowed the Champlins to absorb many changes in their lives as they cope with Dee's health. Mark had been a self-employed truck driver but sold his semi and changed jobs to be near home after Dee had two health emergencies while he was on the road.

The couple moved from Nebraska to Lockport, N.Y., outside Buffalo, to live closer to their family for more support. Mark began working an overnight shift so he would be available to accompany Dee to medical appointments during the day. [read more](#)

SHARE YOUR STORY

If HealthWell has made a positive difference in your life, or the life of someone you know, we want to hear from you!

SHARE YOUR STORY

other Facebook friends.

DONATE NOW

Do you have a Twitter account? You can follow [@HealthWellOrg](#) for the latest news in health care and patient assistance. Help us spread our name by following us, and favoriting and re-tweeting our posts on your Twitter page.

LEARN MORE



Of course, there are many ways you can financially support our important work and make a real difference as well.

1. Make a general donation.
2. Give a monthly gift. Even \$10 a month can make a positive difference in patients' lives.
3. Donate in the name of a friend or loved one.
4. Plan a donation in your will.
5. Support our Emergency Cancer Relief or Pediatric Assistance Funds.
6. Ask your employer to become a Corporate Partner.
7. Consider these other ways to support HealthWell.

The HealthWell Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that reduces financial barriers to care for underinsured patients with chronic and life-altering illnesses. For more information, please contact us at support@healthwellfoundation.org or call 240-632-5300.

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