

IDF Child Sponsorship Program



International Diabetes Federation

life for a child with diabetes

Update 2 - October 2001

Thank you for your support of the Program, which is assisting children with diabetes in developing countries. The program is gathering momentum - we now have 145 regular sponsors.

THE PHILIPPINES

The five most needy children at each of the three centres benefiting from the program have been selected. The three centres are the Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Center for Diabetes Education, and the Institute for the Study of Diabetes, all in the Manila area. These fifteen children are being provided with insulin, syringes, glucometers, and other needs.

FIJI

Dr. Shabnam Prakash in Lautoka is very effectively coordinating the program. Children are being assisted with glucometers and strips, needles and syringes, and travelling expenses when necessary to ensure that they can attend hospital reviews. A workshop, funded by the Ministry of Health, was held in Suva to introduce the program to the eastern side of the main island. There is now a regular clinic for diabetes patients in Lautoka.

Lectures are also being held for general practitioners. In November, a diabetes nurse educator from Sydney will visit Fiji for two weeks to educate the children and their families, and train the nurses looking after the children.



Kolinio is now six years old, and lives in Fiji. He has had diabetes since he was two months old, and has been on insulin since that time. He has been in hospital six times for stabilisation of high and low blood sugar levels. On his last admission, he was found to have recurrent infections of his hands and feet, suggesting that he is already developing complications.

His most recent HbA1c was 10.4%, which is high, indicating longstanding poor control. We have provided him with a glucometer and testing strips, so that the family can monitor his blood sugar levels. The more regular visits to outpatients will also ensure that he can be checked for complications, and receive education.



Priya is a 16 year old Fijian Indian girl who was recently diagnosed to have diabetes. Nurses from Lautoka Base Hospital are showing her how to use a glucometer, which has been supplied by the Program.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Jacklyne, who was featured in the first update, continues to do well. Another child in the highlands is receiving assistance with glucometer strips, allowing her father to monitor her blood sugar level as necessary.

The key measurement used to monitor control in diabetes - a measure of glycosylated haemoglobin known as HbA1c, has until now been completely unavailable in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. The BioRad company have on our request generously donated some samples of a new HbA1c technique, allowing the samples to be sent by post to Sydney. We now can provide regular measurements for these children, assisting the physicians looking after them to optimise their management.

We also have begun exploring the possibility of expanding the reach of the program to assist children with diabetes in **Bolivia** in South America.

Once again, we thank you for your support of the program!

Graham Ogle, Martin Silink, and Anne Rogers

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