

# IDF Child Sponsorship Program



International Diabetes Federation

In partnership with Diabetes Australia and HOPE worldwide

## life for a child with diabetes

### Update 6 – February 2004

The program has now been operating for three years, and is assisting children in eight countries. We appreciate the ongoing support of sponsors in Australia, the Netherlands, Finland, New Zealand, the USA and other countries, and also various corporations.

#### THE PHILIPPINES

The children supported in Manila are flourishing. Some of them expressed their appreciation through cards and letters. Here are two, from Honard and Apple.

*My name is Honard, I am 14 years old and I live at Malabon City. My brother and I are still living with my father who has epilepsy. We sell snack food like banana cue to survive. I started having diabetes when I was seven years old and it almost cost my life because I had high blood sugar. I have been hospitalised for four times because of this sickness. My social life was affected as I am trying to avoid my friends because I am afraid to hear something that will offend me. The only person I spend most of my time are those who are like me, I don't feel embarrassed when I'm with them because we are in the same situation. I am so thankful for your help and concern by giving me the medication. You gave me hope to live and I can start to study again, for having a healthy body I can now live as a normal child. I can now play my favourite sport and that is basketball. I owe my life to your organisation. Again I would like to thank you for your goodness and concern and I will never forget all these things for the rest of my life. With all my life I will say thank you for your untiring support to me. May the good Lord bless you always for what you have done. (Translated from Tagalog).*



*I would like to personally thank you because you have helped me a lot through sponsoring my medication for almost two years. Also, my parents would like to extend their gratitude for all the good things you've done for us.  
Apple*

## MONTENEGRO

We have commenced supporting 15-18 year old children in Montenegro, south-eastern Europe. The Government provides supplies for children to 15 years, after this families must pay for blood glucose monitoring. With strips costing around 1 Euro, this is beyond most families, including some who are refugees from Bosnia. We are therefore supporting the provision of adequate testing strips. The children are cared for by Dr. Mira Samardzic and her co-workers at the Institute for Sick Children in the capital, Podgorica.

## FIJI

The new multidisciplinary children's diabetes clinic in Lautoka is thriving. With guidance from the Program, a National Childhood Diabetes Register has been commenced, which is providing important information on incidence and prevalence. Health outcome review showed that not all cases were type 1 diabetes - some older children clearly have type 2 (the "adult" type). Childhood type 2 is now seen in first-world countries, as lifestyle changes result in overweight and less exercise. It is not as immediately life-threatening as type 1, but just as harmful in the long-term as complications to major organs proceed at the same rate. The appearance of type 2 diabetes in the Fijian clinics is of concern as it suggests many undiagnosed children and adolescents in Fiji and other South Pacific nations.



Ashneel and Muni from the Lautoka clinic

## SUPPORT FROM ELI LILLY AND LIFESCAN

Employees of Eli Lilly have recently contributed to the Program, which will allow extra support for India and extension of support to three African countries. Furthermore, a new partnership was established at the 18<sup>th</sup> IDF Congress in Paris in July 2003, between the Program, Rotary International and Eli Lilly. Eli Lilly will match monies raised by Rotary clubs to a total of US\$180,000 over three years. These funds would then be eligible for matching grants from Rotary Foundation. Also at the Paris Congress, LifeScan raised US\$10,000, being a donation of 5 Euros for every visitor to its trade display.

## OTHER COUNTRIES:

### AZERBAIJAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, ROMANIA, BOLIVIA, INDIA

Support continues for children in these countries.

## TASK FORCE PARTICIPATION

Dr. Graham Ogle, the Program Manager, has been invited to membership of the IDF Task Force on Insulin and Diabetes Supplies. This Task Force, headed by Prof. Jean-Claude Mbanya of Cameroon, now encompasses representatives of various groups working to improve access to treatment in developing countries (such as "Insulin for Life" and Rotary). The resulting partnership will improve knowledge of the challenges facing developing countries, coordinate initiatives, and enhance advocacy efforts.

Thank you for your support of the Program!

*Graham Ogle, Martin Silink, and Anne Rogers*

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