



IMPACT

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YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Making Arthritis Care More Accessible and Affordable

Richard and Leticia Hughes of Brownsville, Kentucky, had no idea the challenges they would encounter getting their son, Ashton, medical care and treatment. Diagnosed at 10-years-old, Ashton has juvenile arthritis.

Finding a qualified physician proved very difficult. There's a severe nationwide shortage of board certified pediatric rheumatologists to serve the 300,000 kids who have arthritis. Eleven states have none while 17 only have three or fewer.

Then the medical bills came.

In addition to 11 medications he takes daily, Ashton, now 11-years-old, also gets injections of a biologic medication twice per month. Both Richard and Leticia are employed and have medical insurance, however, their out-of-pocket expense for one dose of the biologic drug is still an astonishing \$2,000. Unable to afford this expense, Ashton is getting this medication from a pharmaceutical company's patient assistance program.

"I can't imagine paying \$4,000 every month," said Leticia. "I don't know what we'd do if we ever lose the patient assistance program. It's scary."

Access to quality, affordable medical care is a serious issue for many people who have arthritis. With support from generous donors, like you, the Arthritis Foundation is taking a leadership role in effective and powerful patient advocacy.

In 2013, the Arthritis Foundation's advocacy program helped introduce the federal Pediatric Subspecialty and Mental Health Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1827). If enacted, this bill will address the shortage of pediatric rheumatologists by incentivizing training and practice in pediatric medical subspecialties, like pediatric rheumatology, in underserved areas across the country.

The Foundation also is working with lawmakers at the state and federal level to cap the out-of-pocket expense for specialty tier medications. The federal Patients' Access to Treatment Act (H.R. 460) was introduced in 2013 and is gaining legislative cosponsors. In addition, similar state-level bills are being drafted throughout the country with three scheduled for introduction in Great Lakes states in 2015.

The heart and soul of the Foundation's advocacy program is

volunteers. With training and guidance from the Foundation, these Arthritis Ambassadors and advocates share their arthritis stories with elected officials and decision makers with the goal of helping people impacted by the disease, like Ashton and his family.

Learn more by contacting the Arthritis Foundation at (855) 529-2728 or www.arthritis.org/advocacy.



Ashton Hughes was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis when he was 10-years-old. His monthly out-of-pocket cost for arthritis medications exceeds \$4,000.

IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES

855.529.2728

Arthritis.org/Michigan

Lansing Walk to Cure Arthritis

 October 11
 Michigan State University
 East Lansing

Tribute to Excellence Honoring Roger Penske

 October 22
 The Henry Ford Museum
 Dearborn

Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis

 November 16
 Portage Creek Bicentennial
 Park
 Portage

Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis

 December 6
 Campus Martius
 Detroit

DONOR PROFILE

Kim and Dan Holland—donating for their children's future.



“...we really hope that, by the time our kids are in their 30's, more progress has been made in preventing and treating osteoarthritis, so they don't have to deal with it like we have.”

— Kim Holland, Beverly Hills, MI

“I always remember she was an avid knitter. When we were kids, she worked full-time and at night, she would watch TV and knit like crazy,” said Kim Holland about her grandmother, Alice Gosselin.

“When I was 12 years old, grandma made me a pink afghan. I named it Pinky and slept with it every night. It was on my bed all through middle school, high school and college. Today I keep it in a safe place. Only certain people are allowed to touch it.”

Kim had a very close relationship with her grandma making it especially difficult to witness her battle with osteoarthritis.

“It set into her hands. It got harder for her to knit,” said Kim. “It robbed her of her passions. It was hard to watch.”

Osteoarthritis is no stranger to Kim and her family. Both grandmothers and her father have significantly been affected. So much that, when Kim injured her knee at 38-years-old, they said, “That's not good.”

Reflecting back, Kim said, “They knew

what it meant. They knew what I was in for.”

Kim attempted to remedy her knee injury with physical therapy and medication, but it wasn't successful. At 39 years old, she had corrective knee surgery. Afterward, the physician told Kim she had knees of a 55-year-old. Soon thereafter came the official diagnosis of osteoarthritis. It has since spread to her hips and hands.

“I have moments, when cooking, when I can't open a jar. I just stand there recalling my grandma having a special tool to open jars and I think, ‘Am I really to that point?’”

Kim and her husband Dan have enjoyed successful careers, Kim as a strategic marketer and Dan as a management consultant. 2 years ago they decided it was time to start giving back. Since January of 2013 Kim and Dan have donated more than \$2,500 to the Arthritis Foundation.

“We had to have a connection to the

organization and feel like our support was going to do something to directly benefit their population. It made total sense for us to support the Arthritis Foundation.”

“The funds are used so well. That's very important to us – that the money is being used to benefit people directly through therapy, services, research and education,” said Kim.

“By donating to the Arthritis Foundation, we really hope that, by the time our kids are in their 30's, more progress has been made in preventing and treating osteoarthritis, so they don't have to deal with it like we have.”

Chris Cahill is the Community Development and Marketing Manager for the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan.

FACTS & FIGURES

65% *Percent increase between 2012 and 2013 in number of private insurance programs using medication specialty tiers.*

100% *Percent of Michigan Health Exchange plans that have medication specialty tiers.*

4% *The average increase in medication non-adherence for every \$10 increase in co-pay expense.*

\$290 Billion *Estimated annual cost to the US economy for medication non-adherence.*

OUR MISSION

The Arthritis Foundation improves lives through leadership in the prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases.



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