



Update 5 – May 2003

We are now mid-way through the third year of the Program, and are supporting children in six countries, and are about to start in the seventh. We are very grateful for the support of all our sponsors in Australia, the Netherlands, Norway, and other countries.

INDIA

In our last Update we told you about how we had started supporting children cared for by the DREAM Trust (Diabetes Research Education And Management Trust) in the city of Nagpur in Central India. Most of the children live in villages in the surrounding countryside. Dr Sharad Pendsey and his team are able to do home visits to some of these children. These photos show one of the children - 15 year old Ashish, photographed with his father and Dr Pendsey (in the black shirt). For Ashish to visit the DREAM Trust involves a 320 km round trip, catching four buses, walking 4km, taking 11-12 hours.



PHOTOGRAPH LEFT: Ashish and his mother

PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE: Ashish's sisters preparing food

BOLIVIA

We have established a partnership with Rotary in the USA to provide insulin and glucose testing supplies to children with diabetes in Bolivia. Funds from our Program have been matched by Rotary in Florida with this being matched again by Rotary International. The Program will be administered by Rotary in Bolivia.

AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan is a Republic in Central Asia on the Western edge of the Caspian Sea, which regained its independence from Russia in 1991. The capital city is Baku, with a population of 1.1 million. The Diabetes Centre in Baku looks after 54 children with diabetes - about half the children with diabetes in the city. The co-ordinating physician is Dr Ahmedov Gunduz. Insulin and syringes are provided by the Government, but the cost of blood glucose monitoring is prohibitive for most families. Therefore, the average HbA1c (a measure of long-term control of blood sugar levels) is very high - 12.2%. Complications of diabetes occur more frequently and earlier with such high HbA1c levels, and indeed the Centre is seeing these frequently. The funds sent by our Program will support monitoring with visual testing strips for all 54 children.



Courtesy of Baku Pages

FIJI

The Program is providing assistance to all the children with diabetes in Fiji. Support from the Program has stimulated a truly multidisciplinary clinic in Lautoka, co-ordinated by Dr Taito. Social workers have recently joined the team, provided by the Family Support and Education Group and HOPE worldwide.

OTHER COUNTRIES: THE PHILIPPINES, PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND ROMANIA

In Papua New Guinea, Jacklyne (the girl in the highlands featured in our first update) has returned to the town of Kundia after hospitalisation for an abdominal complaint. She and her family are managing well with self-monitoring using a glucometer.

We are continuing to assist children in Manila in the Philippines and Timisoara in Romania. More news on these sites in the next Update!

Thank you for your support of the Program!

Graham Ogle, Martin Silink, and Anne Rogers

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