LIFE FOR A CHILD WITH DIABETES
the International Diabetes Federation’s child supporting programme

Update nº 30 | July 2016 | VIETNAM AND JAMAICA

The IDF Life for a Child Programme would like to thank its major donors:

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Father and son with type 1 diabetes in Vietnam

No child should die of diabetes

in partnership with

International Diabetes Federation

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Vietnam

Vietnam is in Southeast Asia on the South China Sea, and has a population of 94 million. Life for a Child supports two youth diabetes centres – Children’s Hospital 2 in Ho Chi Minh City, and Huế Central Hospital in central Vietnam.

Huế has a population of 345,000. LFAC’s Education Manager Angie Middlehurst visited in April. Fifteen children with diabetes, all <15 years, are supported with blood glucose meters and test strips and educational materials, including a Vietnamese version of the “Professor Bumblebee’s Guide to Type 1 Diabetes” DVD (see below). Insulin is covered by medical insurance, however, most families have to attend the hospital every two weeks to collect supplies.

During the visit Angie gave two presentations, one to doctors and nurses on type 1 management, and another to parents and carers on “ages and stages”, and coping with diabetes at school.

Jamaica

Jamaica, a Caribbean island nation, has a population of 2.75 million. LFAC, in collaboration with the Diabetes Association of Jamaica (DAJ), commenced support for 120 children and youth with diabetes in 2009. Currently around 250 young people from 10 centres, island-wide, are enrolled. Insulin, blood glucose strips, syringes, HbA1c testing, and educational materials are supplied. A retinal camera has also just been purchased and is being set up at the DAJ headquarters in Kingston.

There is limited information on diabetes incidence and prevalence in young people in Jamaica. Working with local experts, LFAC aims to rectify this situation by the ongoing implementation of a nationwide register.

Dr Debra Cohen, a Californian Paediatric Endocrinologist, along with LFAC’s Angie Middlehurst spent two weeks in Jamaica in April, travelling to all centres on the island, delivering education and sharing information on the program.

Professor Bumblebee’s Guide to Type 1 Diabetes DVD

Diabetes is a very complicated condition, and parents and children often have difficulty in understanding it. In 2004, Diabetes Australia-NSW collaborated with two graphic designers, parents of Cara who has diabetes, to make a child-friendly video. This 12 minute animation shows Cara interacting with her doctor (alias Program Chairman Prof. Martin Silink), and nurse (Angie Middlehurst), whilst she learns what is happening in her body.

The original English version was redone in French, Spanish, Vietnamese and Tagalog (Filipino) for Australian migrant families. This DVD has proved extremely popular with the children and parents in LFAC countries, and on request has been translated into Urdu, Tajik and Portuguese. All can be viewed on www.youtube.com/lifeforachild. To date the videos have been viewed 119,000 times.

Highlights

• Paper on financial costs of type 1 care, covering 15 countries, published in “Diabetic Medicine”.
• Strategy/Update session at New Orleans ADA meeting, plus participation in presentations on work in Haiti, and HLA studies.
• Tax-exempt status obtained for US entity “IDF Life for a Child (USA) Inc”.
• Classical music concert in Vienna organised by Veerle Vanhuyse raised 14,846 Euros for Mali.
• Participation in the Children with Diabetes Friends for Lifeconference in Orlando, Florida, with Dr. Graham Ogle being awarded the Jeff Hitchcock Distinguished Service Award.