

April/May 2015

A Note From Jane

The Foundation has been busy!!!! So busy, that we're combining the April & May newsletters. What have we been working on? Well, in addition to working to transform lives (April's theme was "Service/Therapy Animals" and May's is "Global Action"), I'm pleased to announce that the **2014 Annual Report** will be coming out the week of May 18th.

Though I don't want to steal any of our thunder, I can't help it! 2014 was our best year yet as we continue to grow the Foundation EACH YEAR and grant more money and transform even more lives. The Annual Report details the fantastic year, but let me give you one tidbit...the Foundation granted nearly \$100,000 **more** than in year 2013! By any measure, that's a great year!

The other thing the Foundation has been working on is a NEW and IMPROVED Foundation website. It was time for us to create a new "experience" for you. So you'll see more video, more pictures, and new features, including "Colleague Stories"—ways our own folks are making an impact! We've included Murali Pazhayannur's story here and thank him for his dedication to this cause. I'm really excited to share our new site with you, and we'll do it the week of May 18th too!

As we head into summer, the Foundation wishes you and your families all that good "summer stuff". Know that we will continue to work to transform lives, locally, nationally and globally, and that we're always looking to be the best stewards of the monies you've entrusted to us.

COMING UP: 4 Service Projects for June!



AN FT CARES FOUNDATION COLLEAGUE STORY

My name is Murali Pazhayannur, and I work at the penthouse level in the



Wheaton office. Many of you know my car better than me as you walk past it as you enter the building from the parking garage. I was born in India and came to the U.S. when I was 29 years old. I have hemophilia. Hemophilia is a rare inherited disorder where the blood lacks proteins that help in clotting. An injury, external or internal (in joints, muscle), leads to bleeding. Such uncontrolled bleeds eventually destroy the joint, affecting its range of motion and causing various forms of disability or even death. Hemophilia has no cure today. It can be controlled by injecting the missing clotting factor ("Factor") intravenously. Factor was not available to me in India. I am living with its consequences now. I have received the best care for my condition ever since I came to the U.S.

My wife and I visited India last October. It was the Indian Holiday season and a fun time to be back in my native country. I wondered how, if at all, life had changed for hemophiliacs in India. Prior to this visit I had established contact with the hemophilia chapter leaders in Bangalore. I had wanted to meet with patients and families; and doctors, nurses and physical therapists treating patients. And I did. I recorded several interviews with these groups

and learned a lot. In addition, I had the opportunity to address the community in two major Indian cities. Treatment for hemophilia lags far behind that in the US. Every aspect of hemophilia care—from diagnosis, Factor supply and availability, trained medical staff, hospitals—is still affected. The limited Factor available now is not affordable by the masses. The cost of one dose of Factor is frequently a family's average monthly income. Insurance does not cover Factor costs under the "pre-existing condition" clause. The problems do not end here. There is a social stigma about having "hemophilia." Teenagers are afraid to date; adults remain unmarried. They do not reveal their condition for fear of being sidelined in a job or even socially.

I realized how fortunate and blessed I was to have the best care now. I have always wanted to give back to this community and have spoken at several regional and national events in the U.S. about living with hemophilia. My India trip was a true sensitizer to the global needs in this area. I would like to raise the general awareness of this disorder among my co-workers. I am encouraging social service organizations to raise funds to support education, mass awareness, better diagnosis and treatment for hemophilia in India. I am reaching out to pharmaceutical companies here to increase Factor supply in India. It's my personal goal to share my experiences and improve the day-to-day life of individuals with hemophilia.

LISA'S CORNER**SEARCHING FOR THE SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTIN**

At the beginning of March, I was fortunate to visit Austin and meet with Donna Emery, the Director of Development at Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF). MLF is a social outreach ministry that “empowers community into a lifestyle of service with the homeless” primarily through its food truck program which delivers lunches and dinners to the homeless in Austin. Volunteers not only prepare the meals and supplies that go onto the truck but are also the ones who actually take the trucks out into the community visiting places known to be spots that homeless live and congregate. While the meals are obviously an important part of the food truck mission, volunteers are quick to note that the food is merely a conduit through which they are able to develop relationships with those on the street. Indeed, one volunteer told me that there are several men that visit the food truck regularly just to come have a cup of coffee and some friendly conversation.

MFL is also becoming known for its innovation in finding the solution to homelessness outside the food truck program. Believing that homelessness is caused by a catastrophic loss of family and community, MLF has also come up with what they believe may be one solution to homelessness: the creation of a master planned community. The

Community First! Village is located on 27 acres just north of downtown Austin and seeks to provide affordable, sustainable housing and a supportive community for the disabled, chronically homeless in Central Texas. Currently still under construction but scheduled to begin receiving residents in the summer of 2015, the Village will include a mix of affordable housing options including 5th wheel RV home sites, micro-homes and canvas-sided cottages. It will also include places for worship, study and fellowship, a memorial garden and columbarium, a community garden featuring fruit and nut bearing trees, fresh vegetable and herbs, a chicken operation, bee hives, an aquaponics fish operation, a workshop with tool bank and art gallery for micro-enterprise opportunities, a medical facility for physical and mental health screenings and support services including hospice and respite care.

If you'd like to read more about MFL and its mission and programs, check out their website at www.mlf.org and if you are in Austin and would like to volunteer on a food truck (children are welcome to volunteer at any age!) or visit the Community First! Village, just send me an email and let me know.

It's easy to transform lives!

Check out the easy ways to donate to the Foundation:

Automatic Payroll Deduction is simple. Click [here](#) for the form (Click Allow in the Security Warning box that appears).

Donate through PayPal any time! See the Foundation's home page for the PayPal option.

Shop on Amazon.com through the AmazonSmile program:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com and log in using your regular Amazon.com username and password.
2. Search for and select **FT Cares Foundation** from the list of charities.
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