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Sharing Stories, Inspiring Lives: Get Involved in World Hemophilia Day 2011!

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Every April 17 since 1989 the WFH has promoted World Hemophilia Day to increase awareness of hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. In 2011 the WFH is encouraging people to “Be Inspired, Get Involved in Treatment for All” by celebrating and supporting positive change for people with bleeding disorders and encouraging others to do the same. By working together towards a brighter future, we can achieve Treatment for All.

“When I was born with hemophilia, treatment didn’t exist. My parents were told that it was doubtful that I would live into adulthood,” said Mark Skinner, WFH president. “Today, someone born with hemophilia can lead a relatively normal life if they have access to proper treatment. Access to treatment is perhaps the biggest challenge facing the majority of people with hemophilia throughout the world. Only 25 percent of those living with hemophilia are receiving adequate care. The WFH’s vision is that one day treatment for all people with bleeding disorders will be available.”

In honor of all of the inspirational people who are part of the bleeding disorders community, from patients to healthcare professionals, the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) is posting profiles on its website in the weeks leading up to World Hemophilia Day. Read about people involved in different aspects of the bleeding disorders community including a documentary filmmaker, the president of the Russian Hemophilia Society and even a former Olympic athlete from Mongolia!

We also want to hear your story, so throughout the month of April we invite everyone in the bleeding disorders community to post their own experiences, or a story of someone that inspires them, on the World Hemophilia Day website. Everyone who posts a story will have the chance to win a digital camera.

On World Hemophilia Day 2011 the WFH wants to engage people beyond the bleeding disorders community and raise awareness among them. Here are some ways that you can get involved:

-Send an e-mail, text message or Facebook post to friends who may not be familiar with bleeding disorders.

-Update your Facebook status with your plans for World Hemophilia Day and encourage your friends to become a fan of the WFH Facebook page.

-Wear the color red on World Hemophilia Day. Encourage your colleagues, classmates or sports association to wear red too!

-Visit the WFH Facebook page to see what others are planning!

Through our stories and successes, we have the power to bring about change. “Be Inspired, Get Involved in Treatment for All” this World Hemophilia Day and see how a small but dedicated community can create positive change around the world.

Read inspirational profiles of individuals involved in the bleeding disorders community and share your story from April 1-30 at www.wfh.org/whd.

For more information about WFH activities, visit www.wfh.org.

If you would like to request a photo to use with this article, contact WFH communications manager Liane Cerminara at lcerminara@wfh.org.

Permission to translate and/or reprint this article is granted to interested hemophilia organizations, with appropriate acknowledgement of the WFH.