



# GRATITUDE REPORT 2025

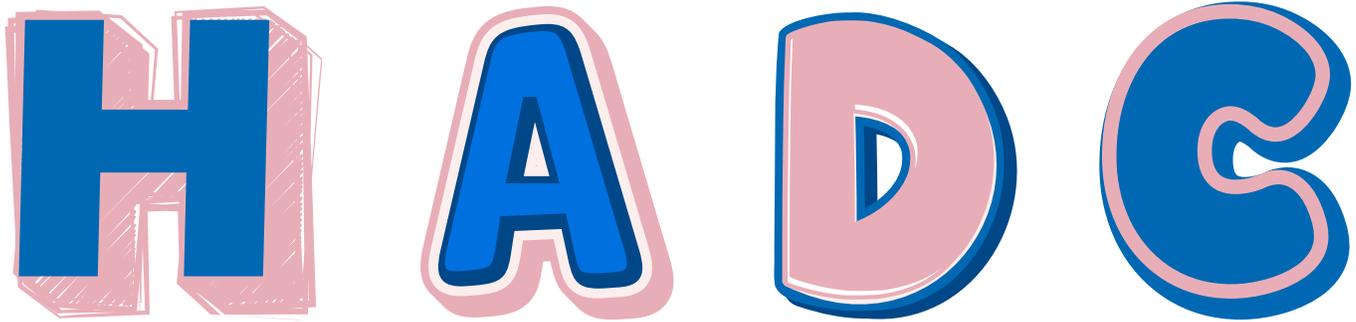


Help A  
Diabetic  
Child™

Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) "A Cause Before the Cure"  
[www.helpadiabeticchild.org](http://www.helpadiabeticchild.org)

# HADC'S MISSION

**Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) strives to ease the burden for children and young adults who struggle financially and emotionally while living with diabetes.**



I am so grateful to continue my work at Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) and I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your incredible support to keep our mission alive for nearly 14 years.

Because of you, we've been able to positively impact thousands of families, children and young adults who live with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) and needed our support during their most difficult times in their lives.

This year, your generosity has been instrumental in HADC continuing to expand our program services to school nurses and hundreds of their most vulnerable T1D students.

This success is not ours alone; it belongs to every one of you who has contributed your time, resources, and belief in HADC and our mission.

The stories of those we serve are a testament to the power of your support. They are a reminder that when we come together, we can overcome challenges and build a brighter future especially for children.

Thank you for being a part of our HADC family. Your trust and partnership mean the world to me and our HADC team. We are more determined than ever to continue growing our programs and provide support for those in need in the upcoming year.

With heartfelt thanks,

*Tami Balavage*

Tami Balavage  
President/Founder



**Help A  
Diabetic  
Child™**



# HADC helping a 7 year old student



Help A  
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Good Morning Tami, I am a school nurse and I am hoping you can assist one of my students who has type 1 diabetes (T1D) in getting a new Freestyle Libre Monitor. I would so appreciate it. The family is not able to get one and the one they have is taped together and does not always work. Student is 7 years old and is in 1st grade with T1D. Thank you for any help!

This student is using a broken taped together reader to check his glucose levels, which can lead to inaccurate readings and inappropriate diabetes treatment, risking dangerously high or low blood sugar levels.



From  
Broken



To  
Brand New



The cost of a replacement FreeStyle  
Libre 3 Reader is \$122.49

School nurse writes:

I can't thank HADC enough for your support as this kind of help is critical in ensuring the well-being of these young kids and helps prevent them from missing school or their classes.

**HADC was able to cover the cost of the Freestyle Libre Reader (Continuous Glucose Monitor - CGM) for this 7-year-old child because of your support and belief in our work.**

**THANK YOU!**



Many individuals living with diabetes face significant financial struggles affording Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs), despite the technology's proven health benefits.

The financial strain comes from high costs for devices and supplies, restrictive insurance coverage, and burdensome prior authorization processes.

High out-of-pocket costs

Even with insurance, costs can remain high due to deductibles and copayments. For the uninsured, annual out-of-pocket costs can range from \$2,500 to \$7,000, depending on the brand.



What is needed to manage type 1 diabetes (T1D) continuously?

- Fast-acting insulin (multiple injections per day)
- Needles or syringes to inject fast acting insulin (multiple times per day)
- Long-acting insulin (1-2 injections per day)
- Needles or syringes to inject long-acting insulin (1-2 times per day)
- Glucose meter and testing strips to test blood sugar (5-10 times per day) OR Continuous glucose monitor (CGM) (1 new sensor every 10-14 days)
- Lancing device and lancets (5-10 times per day)
- Glucagon pen for Emergency low blood sugars (as needed, one dose per pen)
- Doctor Visits/Endocrinology (3 annual visits)

Here is some information on diabetes:

Depression is estimated to affect one in four people with diabetes. Adolescents with type 1 diabetes (T1D) have five times the rate of depression than adolescents who do not have T1D.

According to the NIH. The prevalence of depressive symptoms is relatively high in adolescents with T1D. Longer diabetes duration, higher glycated hemoglobin level, and less frequent blood glucose monitoring are associated with higher depression scores.

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is one of the most common chronic diseases in children and adolescents, with possible serious short-and long-term complications including diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA – which is a serious condition that can lead to diabetic coma or even death and is caused by an overload of ketones present in your blood often due to lack of insulin) and microvascular and macrovascular complications

### Supplies for 90 days



Standard of Care: improved outcomes	Quantity	Cost
Glucose Meter	2: 1 Home, 1 School	\$70
Test Strips	50	\$30
Lancets	100	\$13
Continuous Glucometer monitor (CGM)	9	\$2,030
Fast acting Insulin	3 vials	\$1500
Insulin Pump	30	\$1827
Glucagon	2: 1 Home, 1 School	\$600
One Endocrinologist visit	1	\$550
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>90 Day Diabetes Management</b>	<b>\$6,607</b>

**Insulin & Glucagon are 7 to 10 times more expensive in the U.S. compared with other countries around the world.**

**But it takes only an estimated \$2 to \$4 to produce a vial of insulin.**



**BAQSIMI - AVERAGE COST: \$295.59**

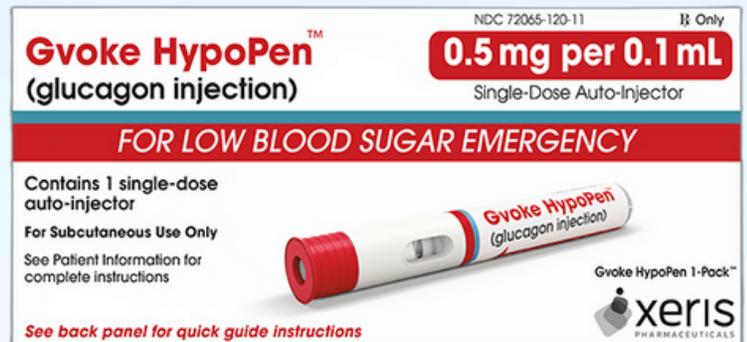
A school nurse reached out to Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) for support.

She explained that a student at her school had recently been hospitalized due to critically low blood sugar levels (hypoglycemia). During discussions with the child's parents, she learned that they did not have an emergency Glucagon Pen, Baqsimi, or a Gvoke pen at home. She inquired if HADC could assist in obtaining emergency glucagon for their child.

The child needed this emergency glucagon in order to return to school.

On the same day, HADC coordinated a meeting with the child's father at the pharmacy to cover the cost of Baqsimi, a dry nasal spray that contains glucagon. This hormone is essential for raising blood sugar levels and is used to treat severe hypoglycemia or dangerously low blood sugar.

This child was back in school within one day.



**GLUCAGON PEN -  
AVERAGE COST: \$326.80**

**GVOKE HYOPEN -  
AVERAGE COST: \$352.58**

Emergency glucagon is a fast-acting - life saving rescue medication used to treat severe hypoglycemia (very low blood sugar) in people with diabetes.

### **Glucagon is a lifesaving treatment**

used when a person is unable to take sugar by mouth because they are unconscious, confused, or having a seizure. It is most often prescribed for patients who use insulin.

If a T1D child or young adult doesn't have Glucagon when their blood sugar drops dangerously low, they are at risk of experiencing serious complications like confusion, seizures, coma, and potentially death

HADC has covered the cost of hundreds of Emergency Glucagons for T1D children and young adults in most need.

**Your support saves lives!**

HADC recently provided support for a child newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) by covering the expenses for a glucose meter, test strips, lancets, ketone strips, a month's supply of insulin, and a glucagon emergency pen.

**\*\*THE TOTAL COST:\*\*** \$862.00

**\*WHY\*** is managing diabetes so costly?



Here are some statistics published January 27, 2025 by KFF

- HealthCare.gov insurers denied nearly one out of every five claims (19%) submitted for in-network services and an even larger share (37%) of claims for out-of-network services in 2023
- Diabetes is currently the most expensive chronic disease in the nation, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Diabetes-related retinopathy is a leading cause of blindness in American adults and it affects over one in four of those living with diabetes.
- Health Insurance - The average premium for single coverage in 2023 was \$8,435 per year. The average premium for family coverage was \$23,968.
- Younger adults, those with lower incomes, and the uninsured are particularly likely to report problems affording health care.

**HADC is dedicated to supporting school nurses throughout Florida for their underserved students living with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D).**

It has truly been a pleasure working Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) this year. I really appreciate your responsiveness, assistance with our T1D students, quick callbacks, and timely communication. I can't tell you enough how much your support has helped me as a school nurse in providing care for our students. You have supplied me with much needed diabetes supplies at my school clinic for our students. This is a huge win because unfortunately, these families struggle financially and sometimes cannot afford insulin and medical supplies. You have a great office that clearly cares deeply for those who need help.



As the Supervisor of School Health, I oversee several students from underprivileged families who are living with Type 1 Diabetes. Unfortunately, these families are struggling to provide the school with glucometers, test strips and other supplies. Last year, we reached out to you, and HADC kindly supplied these students with much needed diabetes supplies. Currently, our T1D students are running low on glucometes, glucose test strips, lancets, ketone strips, glucose tablets and ketone strips. Could you possibly send us a new supply for our T1D students? This assistance would greatly benefit both the school, the families, and will ensure that these students can manage their diabetes effectively and avoid missing classes.

Thank you immensely for all that you do!



Students with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) are likely to miss more school days than their peers who do not have diabetes, particularly when their diabetes is not well-controlled

A study published in the Journal for Diabetes Care found the following:

- Children with type 1 diabetes miss, on average, nine more half-days (sessions) of school per year compared to children without the condition.
- Children with type 1 diabetes who maintain healthy blood glucose levels miss seven more sessions annually.
- Children facing challenges in managing their diabetes miss a larger number, 15 more sessions, each year.

This indicates that poor glycemic control, often seen in uncontrolled diabetes, directly correlates with increased school absenteeism among children with Type 1 diabetes.



**Please support HADC so we can help keep T1D children in school.**



**Individuals with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) from low-income backgrounds often lack consistent access to essential supplies like insulin, blood glucose monitoring kits, and other diabetes management tools.**

My name is Katie Perez, I am the newest addition to the Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) family.

I was born and raised in Naples Florida and I am a proud wife and mother to three amazing young children. My daughter Rosie was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) at just ten months old. Having no family history or prior knowledge about T1D her diagnosis came as a shock and I felt extremely overwhelmed. Logically I knew we weren't alone on this journey however I couldn't help but feel very isolated.

My friends and family were very sympathetic and did their best to understand what life was like for our family, however unless you live it, you really can't understand just how consuming suddenly having a child with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) can be. The constant sugar highs, lows, alarms going off, carb counts, and anxiety over how I will be able to manage this, learn everything and keep Rosie happy and healthy felt impossible. That's when I knew I needed to find other families who were ahead of us on this journey and who could remind me on the hard days that there were good days ahead.

It was very important to me that other families didn't feel alone. Upon starting my research I found the Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) website and saw a video where Tami spoke about why she started this nonprofit organization and I was brought to tears. I knew pretty instantly that I wanted to become involved with HADC! The financial burden Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) causes some families can be extreme such as deciding between putting food on the table or keeping their loved ones alive with their needed medical supplies, insulin, and doctor visits.

My daughter Rosie spent a week at the PICU and had gone into DKA the day she was diagnosed, if she didn't have health insurance when she was diagnosed and admitted to the hospital, I can't imagine the bills we would have received.

My passion now is bringing Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) families together for support, friendship and connection. I feel it is so important for the children in our community to have one another and know that they aren't alone. Statistics show this also dramatically decreases their feelings of isolation and depression helping their overall mental health and well being.

I have started hosting T1D events for our local communities through HADC and with the support of our sponsors and supporters this dream has quickly become a reality. I do ask that you please reach out to me directly if you feel called to help us with hosting or sponsoring an event. Your generosity directly impacts the lives of so many families like mine living here in the SWFL area. I am committed to HADC and I am hopeful that I will be able to positively impact the lives of many other families within our communities alongside Tami.

Sincerely,

*Katie Perez*

**Katie Perez**  
**Outreach / Event Director**  
**Katie@helpadiabeticchild.org**  
**239•994•8063**



**THANK YOU TO OUR DINNER  
SPONSORS & VENDORS**



**Help A  
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# THE JACK **PARKER** CORPORATION

Mr. Charles Frick  
in support of his  
granddaughter  
Caitlin Neeley  
  
Diagnosed T1D  
at 11 years old



**First Call Pest Control**  
FIRST CALL SOLVES THEM ALL

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CARENOW  
PHARMACY



We wish to thank you for the supplies for 2 of the students at GEM with diabetes. This has help both of them.

Naples Community is fortunate to have you!

Thank you

Adler

Tami, Joe + Staff  
It's hard to put into words how grateful I am.

I only hope you know just how much I mean when I say thank you for everything.

Thanks you  
Beth SAHWA

Sue Walsh  
RN Clinic

Ridge Allen  
clinic aide

## Thank you cards from schools to HADC!

I understand this is a big request, but I genuinely believe that the T1D students and their families at my school are incredibly deserving of your assistance. Given the challenging times we are facing, any diabetes medical supplies you can provide would be greatly appreciated. The work you do is truly remarkable, and please know that this support is deeply valued! If there's anything else you need from me to help make this process smoother, just let me know.

Dear Tami and all Help a Diabetic staff, volunteers, and donors;

Thank you for all you do to help us

Keep our kids in school when they struggle with supplies, and for all you to help them at home.



Your generous hearts and donations are deeply appreciated by our schools and families.

Wishing you a wonderful and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Kristie Reid

SO VERY Thankful



Help A Diabetic Child™

Dear Help a Diabetic child staff & donors,

Thank you for

the supplies.  
Yasiel

Ridge Josiah

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS & SUPPORTERS

Mr. Charles Frick in support of Caitlin Neelley  
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Michael J. Haller MD - University of Florida Diabetes Institute  
Allied Pavers Systems - Don Montroy  
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Nathalie and Kenneth Ralton  
Sam Patel - Carenow and Medstop Pharmacies  
Rebecca and Bud Cox  
Caterpillar Foundation  
Il Primo Pizza & Wings - 2464 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.



**MAKE  
NEW  
FRIENDS**



**Help A  
Diabetic  
Child™**

*Join Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) for our upcoming*

# **T1D Community Events**

*Building Connections in the Type 1 Diabetes Community*

*Connecting with others who understand the struggles of living with type 1 diabetes (T1D) can significantly reduce feelings of isolation.*

*Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) organizes events that create an opportunity for children, teenagers, and young adults and their families to share experiences, connect, volunteer, and develop friendships.*

*A variety of fun activities are available for participants of all ages.*

*Join the Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) T1D Community today!*

**JOIN US**

To learn more contact:  
Katie Perez - Outreach & Events Director  
[Katie@helpadiabeticchild.org](mailto:Katie@helpadiabeticchild.org)

For a list of events visit:  
[www.helpadiabeticchild.org](http://www.helpadiabeticchild.org)



SUPPORTED BY

# SISTER SEEKERS

Making waves of change

Thank you Julia and Jayda Reisman Founders of Sister Seekers! Sister Seekers is excited to sponsor HADC for their annual dinner A Cause Before the Cure "An Evening in Blue"

Sister Seekers believes that the HADC team puts every effort into helping children and young adults living with diabetes, aiding those who struggle financially and emotionally in every way they can. We are happy to show our support as they care for our community.



Joe tirelessly dedicates himself to providing resources and support to children and young adults who are in the most urgent need.



Help A  
Diabetic  
Child™

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**



Thank you Michael J. Haller, MD Professor and Chief of Pediatric Endocrinology at the University of Florida for presenting at the HADC annual dinner on the following topics:

Research being conducted at the University of Florida Diabetes Institute (UFDI) and statewide initiatives.

Diabetes screenings and prevention programs.

Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) new onset.

And a special Thank you for fourteen years serving as HADC's Medical Director and championing HADC's mission to support children and young adults living with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D).



**CARENOW  
PHARMACY**

Sam Patel

HADC's Pharmacy Liaison for the past twelve years

Carenow - Medstop Pharmacies

Phone: 386-456-0055

Fax: 386-456-0214



**MEDSTOP  
PHARMACY**



[www.adwdiabetes.com](http://www.adwdiabetes.com)

ADW Diabetes - HADC's resource for Diabetes  
Medical Supplies for the past twelve years

HADC is grateful to Don Montroy for being a dedicated HADC sponsor each year.



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Diabetic  
Child™

*THANK YOU!*

*A Cause Before the Cure*

*"An Evening in Blue"*

KNOWLEDGE SPONSOR

Knowledge Sponsor IMPACT:

3-month supply of insulin for 20 children

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## The Story of Insulin - November "Diabetes Awareness Month"

Before the 1920's, a diabetes diagnosis meant a death sentence for people all over the world. The main treatment was starvation diets to prolong the inevitable.

In 1920, a Canadian physician and scientist named Frederick Banting began working on an idea to isolate and extract insulin. He worked in the laboratories of J.R.R. McLeod, a professor of physiology at the University of Toronto. The medical student Charles Best aided him in his work to test out insulin on dogs. Chemist James Collip worked with Banting and Best to purify and refine insulin for clinical trials in humans.

On January 23rd, 1923 Banting, Best, and Collip were awarded the American patents for insulin. They sold the patent to the University of Toronto for \$1 each. **Banting notably said: "Insulin does not belong to me, it belongs to the world." His desire was for everyone who needed access to it to have it.**

In order for the insulin to be mass produced and widely available, the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Co. were given the rights to do so. While this incredible advancement was intended as a gift from the discoverers, Eli Lilly and the two other major insulin producers, Sanofi and Novo Nordisk, have turned insulin into profit machines, assisting in bringing in billions of dollars in profit every year.

A gift to the world has become a tool for price gouging patients all over the world. The greed of the pharmaceutical industry is keeping insulin out of the hands of millions. This greed leads to the loss of countless lives and dampens the dream of Banting, which was to make insulin a gift that belongs to the world.

Without enough insulin, diabetes medical supplies and needed medical care, diabetes can lead to severe health problems if not managed properly. These include heart disease, nerve damage, kidney disease, and vision loss.

**Insulin Prices Are Sharply Higher in the United States Than in Other Countries. The gross price of insulin in the United States is more than nine times higher than in 33 high-income comparison nations, according to a new RAND report.**



**Help A  
Diabetic  
Child™**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF HADC WHICH ALLOWS  
US TO GET INSULIN TO THOSE WHO NEED OUR ASSISTANCE.**





**Help A  
Diabetic  
Child™**

**Let's work together to turn a child's  
tears back into joyful smiles!**



\$100.00 - 50 Glucose Test Strips - 50 Lancets - 1 Glucose Meter



\$250.00 - 5 Insulin Pens - 200 Pen Needles



\$500.00 - 3 Vials of Insulin - 200 Syringes - 1 Emergency Glucagon Pen



\$1,000 - 1 Vial of Insulin & a 2-month supply of Insulin Pods



\$2,000 - 3-month supply of Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) Sensors  
3-month supply of Glucose Test Strips and Lancets  
1 Gvoke Emergency Glucagon



\$5,000 - 20 Insulin Pens - 400 Pen Needles - 200 Ketone Strips  
2 Emergency Glucagon Pens (one for home and one for school)  
3 Month supply of Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) Sensors - 2 Doctor visits



\$10,000 - 30 Omnipod Insulin Pods (3-month supply) - 18 Vials of Insulin  
300 Syringes - 300 Glucose Test Strips - 300 Lancets - 3 Glucose Meters  
3 Emergency Glucagon/Gvoke Pens - 300 Ketone Strips - 2 Emergency Medical I.D's



\$15,000 - 60 Omnipod Insulin Pods (3-month supply for 2 children) - 24 Vials of Insulin  
400 Syringes - 600 Glucose Test Strips - 600 Lancets - 6 Glucose Meters  
6 Emergency Glucagon/Gvoke Pens - 600 Ketone Strips - 10 Boxes Alcohol Wipes  
2 Emergency Medical I.D's - 3 Pediatric Endocrinology visits



**To learn more about Help A Diabetic Child (HADC)**

**To sponsor more children & young adults  
please visit: [www.helpadiabeticchild.org](http://www.helpadiabeticchild.org)**



*thank you*





Your support for the HADC mission would be greatly appreciated. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us continue providing diabetes resource for children & young adults living with diabetes.

By supporting HADC, you are playing a vital role in ensuring that children & young adults receive the care, education, insulin, and diabetes medical supplies they need to manage their condition and lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

Thank you for being a part of our HADC family and helping to make a difference in the lives of so many.

Help A Diabetic Child (HADC)  
Diabetes Resource & Advocacy Center  
2800 Davis Blvd  
Unit 107  
Naples, FL 34104

[www.helpadiabeticchild.org](http://www.helpadiabeticchild.org)



**Thank you!**  
**Michael Balavage**



**A cause before the cure.**

# Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) 2025 / 2026 Ambassadors



**Rodrigo  
Abalos**



**Adriel  
Colon**



**Hank  
Kapke**



**Abby  
Schuessler**



**Rosie  
Perez**



**Owen  
Hollingsworth**



**Caitlin  
Wolf**



**Zoe  
Long**



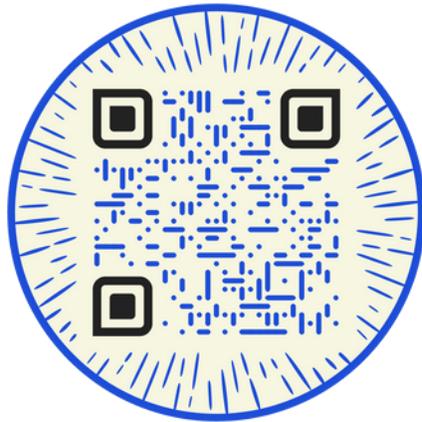
**Caitlin  
Neelley**



**Ellie  
Rogers**



**Julia  
Reisman**



Please use the QR code  
to make a donation in honor  
of our 2025 / 2026 ambassadors



## HADC “A Cause Before the Cure”

Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) strives to ease the burden for children and young adults who struggle financially and emotionally while living with diabetes.