

A Note from the Executive Director

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation
Headline News - February 2011

Mary Anne Schall, Interim Executive Director



For over 30 years, Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation (GLHF) has dedicated itself to advocating on behalf of the bleeding disorder community. In the fall of 2010, the GLHF Board of Directors and staff created a strategic plan that recommitted advocacy as one of the Foundation's top three priorities over the next several years.

An important part of this commitment is the revitalization of the advocacy committee. This group of consumers, board members, and staff will develop strategies to address key issues at the state and national levels. With health care reform in flux and anticipated state and national budgetary shortfalls on the horizon, this moment is crucial for the bleeding disorders community. It is critical that we come together and let our voice be heard. The advocacy committee, with the assistance of our lobbyist, will be closely monitoring state budgetary allocations. Staff and members of the advocacy committee will be contacting and meeting with Wisconsin legislators. Plans are underway for our Wisconsin Legislative Day in Madison on April 20.

To make this happen, WE NEED YOUR HELP! We need you there, we need your voice, we need you to tell your story so the bleeding disorders community will be heard and not forgotten. Please consider joining the GLHF Advocacy committee by contacting Karin Daniels at 414.937.6782 or emailing kdaniels@glhf.org. Let us know if you have an existing relationship with a Wisconsin legislator. We can help you tap into that relationship to share your story. Mark your calendar for April 20 and join us for Legislative Day. You can register for Legislative Day online at glhf.org or calling 414.937.6781.

Change doesn't just happen. Whether it is a bill to direct the way Wisconsin regulates or finances bleeding disorder care, or assuring the continuation of the Wisconsin Chronic Disease Home Care Program, change is driven by people and organizations who are committed to making a difference and who help to persuade others. If policymakers are going to take action to preserve and expand access to quality care for people with bleeding disorders, they need to hear directly from YOU. By taking action you can assure that your child, a friend, a co-worker, a loved one, and you have access to high quality care when it's needed.

Advocacy is really very simple:

- **Don't' be intimidated.** Advocating for a cause is as American as baseball and apple pie. It is how we get important laws passed and how we change society.
- **Learn the issues.** GLHF will provide you with updates on bleeding disorder issues, an understanding of the issues, and the tools to engage in advocating for them.
- **Relax.** Although communicating with policy makers may seem intimidating, you can do it! Remember that Legislators were elected to represent you.
Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. -Margaret Mead

Become a part of GLHF's advocacy efforts on behalf of families with bleeding disorders. Join us with your voice. No experience needed.