



November, 2002

Dear Friend,

All too often, we take for granted some of the most essential aspects of life. We assume for example, that there will be heat to warm our homes, fresh water when we turn on the tap and medicine available to heal us when we are ill. For many families, this is indeed the case. However, for my family life hasn't been that easy. You see, we are among a number of people around the world who are born with a bleeding disorder. In our family, it is passed on from parent to child and continues through the generations.

Pictured in this letter are my children, Cherie and Todd, holding their newest son Jacob, who sadly, was born with Hemophilia just a few months ago. I am holding my 3-year old grandson, William who also has Hemophilia. Hemophilia was passed on to the boys from their mother.

Years ago, the diagnosis of Hemophilia carried with it a life of isolation, social stigma, frequent treatments in emergency rooms and hospitals, deteriorating painful joints and a life expectancy of less than 30. Today, thanks to the Mary M. Gooley Hemophilia Center, my grandsons can look forward to long, active, productive and more carefree lives.

Each and every day, the Hemophilia Center is working to find new ways to improve quality of life for people with bleeding or blood-related disorders. Not only do they provide emergency treatment for "bleeding episodes" but they also encourage prophylactic treatment to prevent "bleeds." Center nurses taught my daughter Cherie to do preventive infusions for William at home 3 times a week. What a tremendous gift of independence this gave to our family! Now Will plays like any other child, and bumping into furniture, or falling off a bike is not necessarily a catastrophic event.

Our Center is considered nationally as a center of excellence, and plays a key role in the development of better treatments, improved quality of life and delivery of comprehensive care. And they provide value not only to patients, but to insurance companies as well.

Our Hemophilia Center also provides evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and support to people suffering with von Willebrand Disease (another bleeding disorder) and Hemochromatosis (an overload of iron in the body). I am proud to say that our Hemophilia Center saves lives and dramatically improves the quality of life not only for my grandsons, but also for all whom they serve. Their compassionate care allows William, Jacob and all their other patients to live relatively normal lives free of the fear and loneliness once experienced by people with Hemophilia or other genetic bleeding disorders! We are hopeful that through research efforts around the country, a cure will be found before another generation of children is born.

From a mother, a father and grandmother whose families' lives have been improved by a welcoming and supportive health care organization called the Mary M. Gooley Hemophilia Center, we ask you to search your heart. Then, please make as generous a contribution as you can. Families like ours are counting on you!

Gratefully,

Vicki D. Steele

Vicki Steele
Grandma

MARY M. GOOLEY 
Hemophilia Center
Treatment, Advocacy and Research



Hemophilia. von Willebrand disease. Hemochromatosis.
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