

JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION Nanaimo Chapter P.O. Box 836 Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5N2

(604) 758-5196 or 758-0016

January 24, 1985.

Letter per 19 Feet. 185

Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 178 2020 West Sixth Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3T5.

Gentlemen:

The Nanaimo Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation needs your help in raising funds for research on a cure for diabetes.

Diabetes is the third leading cause of death by disease. One in five Canadians who lives to age 70 will be a victim of diabetes. In children, the onset can be particularly swift and severe. At present, one half of these victims will die from kidney disease within an average of 25 years after the malady is diagnosed. Diabetics are 25 times more prone to gangrene (often leading to amputation) and twice as prone to heart disease. Juvenile-onset (insulin-dependent) diabetics face a life expectancy reduced by 30% on average.

The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation is a non-profit, volunteer organization formed to help diabetics and their families, to increase public awareness, but more importantly, to raise funds for diabetes research. Since its founding in 1970, it has contributed more than \$25 million to research more than any other non-governmental organization.

We are federally chartered and registered with Revenue Canada as a charitable organization with tax deductible receipt, of course, available.

Our Nanaimo Chapter is the only one in British Columbia and as such we extend our appeal to all of British Columbia. We hope that we may receive favourable consideration from your charitable grants committee and would be most happy to answer any questions.

Help us put ourselves out of business!

Sincerely,

Bitty Jamieson

Encl.

#### FACT SHEET

JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION NANAIMO CHAPTER 2248 DEPARTURE DAY ROAD NANAIMO, B.C., V9S SVB (604) 758-0016.

DIABETES IS THE THIRD LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH BY DISEASE, outranked only by cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Diabetics are 25 times more prone to blindness than non-diabetics, 17 times more prone to kidney disease, over 5 times more prone to gangrene (often leading to amputation) and twice as prone to heart disease.

It is estimated that diabetes now affects one million people in Canada. Its prevelence is increasing by 6% a year. Juvenile-onset (insulin-dependent) diabetics face a life expectancy reduced by 30% on agerage.

# JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION (JDF)

The JDF is a Canadian, non-profit, volunteer organization formed to help diabetics and their familes, to increase public awareness and to raise funds for medical research. The JDF is federally chartered and is registered with Revenue Canada as a charitable organization for income tax purposes.

The JDF was founded in Montreal in 1974. Since then Chapters have been formed in Burlington, Toronto, Calgary, Ottawa, Peterborough, Perth, Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, Regina, Winnipeg and most recently, Nanaimo.

The JDF is affiliated with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International, founded in Philadelphia in 1970 who now have more than 160 chapters world-wide and increasing.

The Nanaimo Chapter's monthly meeting is usually held at 7:30 on the last Monday of each month at St. James Church hall on Departure Bay Road, opposite Northbrook Mall. (Please phone to confirm.)

#### RESEARCH AND GOALS

Since insulin controls the overt symptoms of diabetes, it was heralded as a cure for many years after its discovery in Toronto in 1921. It is now recognized as a treatment and not a cure. Funds are still inadequate for long-term research studies of diabetes.

More than 90% of all funds raised by JDF go directly to medical research. Last year, JDF awarded \$5 million internationally, Canadians raised \$1 million of this amount. We are proud of these accomplishments.

To date, 18 diabetes research projects in Canada have been funded entirely by JDF. More progress has been made in treating diabetes in the past decade than in the previous 3500 years that the disease has been known.

## SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT

Symptoms of diabetes can include increased thirst, increased urination, weight loss in the face of increased appetite, itching of the skin, frequent tiredness, vision changes, slow healing of cuts and bruises.

Presently the only known treatment for juvenile diabetes is a combination of insulin therapy, diet and exercise.

Please see reverse .....

### DEFINITIONS AND STATISTICS

Diabetes Mellitus is a chronic, metabolic disorder which adversely affects the body's ability to manufacture and/or utilize insulin, a chemical needed for the conversion of carbohydrates into energy.

There are two clinical types: Juvenile-onset (insulin-dependent) diabetes and maturity-onset diabetes. Juvenile diabetes, the most severe form of the disease, can appear at any age, though most commonly from infancy to the late thirties. Its victims must take daily injections of insulin to stay alive.

Maturity-onset diabetes usually begins in the middle or later years, but is better characterized by a slower progression of the disease and its complications. Treatment is usually through control of diet and body weight, sometimes with the addition of oral medication. Insulin is generally not required, at least for a number of years.

Women are 50 percent more likely to have diabetes than men; non-whites are 20 percent more likely to have it than whites; low-income people are 3 times more likely to have it than middle and upper-income people; and the chance of developing it doubles with every 20 percent of excess weight and each decade of life.

During pregnancy, diabetes increases the chances of premature delivery and fetal mortality.

Diabetes is the third major chronic ailment of children, as well as the most common endocrine disorder of that age group.

Diabetics commonly experience greatly accelerated degeneration of blood vessels in many organs, which can lead to blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke, gangrene and problems of the nervous system.

In children, the onset of diabetes can be particularly swift and severe. Juvenile diabetics suffer the greatest disabilities and are most likely to develop incapacitating complications.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST - WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US? - BE A VOLUNTEER !

- FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: - dela dela

JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION
NANAIMO CHAPTER

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