World Hemophilia Day 2012 – April 17
Close the Gap

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An estimated 1 in 1,000 women and men has a bleeding disorder. However, 75 per cent still receive very inadequate treatment or no treatment at all.

What will it take to Close the Gap?

Due to the efforts of chapters like yours, the level of care for bleeding disorders in the United States is significantly higher than in developing countries around the world. In fact, the reality is that most people with inherited bleeding disorders in less developed countries do not receive adequate diagnosis, treatment, and management for their conditions. As a result, many of these people suffer from pain, stigma, disability, and even early death.

On World Hemophilia Day 2012, help us spread the message to “Close the Gap” in care around the world. Together, we can work toward a day when treatment will be available for all globally.

How you can help

The World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) provides programs that support countries where the gap in care is the greatest. One significant way to get involved with the Close the Gap World Hemophilia Day campaign is to raise awareness by giving the gift of WFH membership to someone you care about. Gifts of membership will be available as of April 1. At that time, please visit www.wfh.org/whd for more details.
WFH members receive our newsletter, *Hemophilia World*, and the WFH Annual Report. Reading these publications, and learning more, will open the eyes of young people, family, or friends who may not realize how important it is to ensure sustainability of care, even at home. The stronger our community is globally, the bigger the impact in protecting and improving care everywhere in the world; and a reminder not to take our own care in the United States for granted.

We also encourage you and your community to connect online. The WFH will post weekly Facebook and Twitter messages leading up to World Hemophilia Day. To learn more, visit the WFH Facebook page at [www.wfh.org/facebook](http://www.wfh.org/facebook). Connect with people around the world and share your stories about how you will mark World Hemophilia Day.

Many people will be wearing red to help raise awareness about World Hemophilia Day. The WFH will be collecting photos of you, your family, and your friends wearing red. Post your photos on the WFH World Hemophilia Day Facebook page or send them to [sford@wfh.org](mailto:sford@wfh.org). The WFH will then select photos from your submissions for a poster that will be displayed at the WFH 2012 World Congress in Paris.

The WFH would like to hear how you and your organization or treatment center marked World Hemophilia Day. Please send an update, along with a few high resolution photos to [sford@wfh.org](mailto:sford@wfh.org) by May 18.

Join the international bleeding disorders community on April 17 to mark World Hemophilia Day. Together, we will Close the Gap.

If you would like to request a photo to use with this article, contact WFH communications manager Sarah Ford at [sford@wfh.org](mailto:sford@wfh.org).

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

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