



ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION

About the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

In 1981, Elizabeth Glaser was infected with the AIDS virus through a blood transfusion. Elizabeth and her husband, Paul Glaser, later learned that she had unknowingly passed the virus on to their daughter, Ariel, and subsequently to their son, Jake. At the time, it was not yet widely known that HIV/AIDS could be passed from mother to child in utero or through breast milk. Few people understood that HIV affected children differently than adults. And children were being left behind in HIV/AIDS research and treatment.

Following Ariel's death in 1988, Elizabeth and her two best friends, Susan DeLaurentis and Susie Zeegen, created a foundation with a simple but critical mission: to bring hope to children and families affected by AIDS. The Foundation was established to be a strong voice for children in the fight against AIDS by raising awareness and funding vital pediatric research.

In the 19 years since the Foundation began around a kitchen table, we have emerged as the worldwide leader in the fight against pediatric AIDS in 18 countries worldwide by using three main strategies: **funding critical research and training; launching and supporting global health initiatives to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and provide care and treatment; and advocating for children's health.** Whether we are drawing top researchers to the field of pediatric HIV/AIDS, creating programs to provide a full range of critically needed services in developing countries, training tomorrow's leaders, or advocating for children with policymakers, our programs offer hope for children and families living with HIV.

Funding Critical Research

The Foundation's longstanding commitment to HIV/AIDS research is at the very heart of what we do. We drive urgent and innovative projects, bring vigorous minds together in collaboration, bridge gaps within the medical and research communities, and serve as a strong voice for children and families around the world.

Guided by the spirit of collaboration, we strive to find more effective means to:

- Identify better technologies and interventions, including more complex antiretroviral therapy (ART) regimens;
- Understand transmission of HIV through breast milk;
- Improve the diagnosis of infants exposed to HIV;
- Develop a preventive vaccine; and ultimately
- Find a cure for HIV.

Thanks in large part to research funded by the Foundation, HIV-infected children in the United States are living longer, healthier lives, and the rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV has dropped to as little as 2 percent in the United States.

International Family AIDS Initiatives

While new HIV infections in children have dramatically declined in the United States and other developed nations, they have exploded in the developing world. Worldwide, more than 1,000 children are infected with HIV every day, 90 percent of whom acquire the virus from their mothers. An estimated two-thirds of adults and children living with HIV globally reside in sub-Saharan Africa. As many as two-thirds of HIV-positive pregnant women around the world do not receive the medicines they need to prevent transmission of HIV to their babies.

Every child deserves a lifetime.



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The Foundation's International Family AIDS Initiatives focus on the following elements:

- Increasing access and scaling up services for PMTCT;
- Increasing access to care and treatment for children and families, including ART;
- Linking PMTCT services to care and treatment in order to provide a full range of critically needed services;
- Documenting replicable models in PMTCT and care and treatment; and
- Training research and program leaders to advance all of the above.

The Foundation is currently providing support to more than 3,200 sites worldwide. As of June 30, 2008, the Foundation's programs reached more than 5.7 million women with access to services to prevent transmission of HIV from mothers to babies. More than 4.8 million women have been tested for HIV through our programs.

But prevention of HIV is only half the battle. The Foundation's International Family AIDS Initiatives also include major new programs to extend the lives of children and families infected with HIV by providing expanded care and treatment services. **As of June 30, 2008, more than 470,000 individuals, including more than 39,000 children, have been enrolled into our care and support programs. Since enrollment began, more than 260,000 individuals have begun ART, including more than 20,000 children under the age of 15.** The Foundation is also aggressively pursuing a 15 percent treatment goal for children, aiming to ensure that 15 percent of its patients receiving care and treatment are children.

Advocating for Children's Health

Elizabeth Glaser went to Washington, D.C., 19 years ago to share her story and to convince key leaders that children's health must be one of our nation's top priorities. Since then, the Foundation's commitment to advocacy has produced real victories for children. By working with elected officials, policymakers, infected children and families, the scientific community, business leaders, and the national media, the Foundation has: successfully expanded funding for pediatric research; worked to improve the Ryan White CARE Act; fought to prevent discrimination against people living with HIV; successfully advocated for increased global AIDS funding; and improved the safety, efficacy, and availability of drugs for children with AIDS.

As the AIDS pandemic continues to spread, children continue to be left behind when it comes to the important issues of medical research, vaccine testing, care and treatment, and development of medical devices. Children require a strong voice and an advocate in the United States Congress, international organizations, and governments around the world.

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