



“World Medical Relief saved his life”



Jennifer B. is eager to tell the story about how World Medical Relief saved her husband’s life. Michael is 73 and has type 2 diabetes and other health issues. Until fall of 2020, the diabetes was managed well with Metformin, a low-cost glucose-lowering tablet. But disaster struck when Michael fell last November. He ended up having surgery which was unsuccessful and then another one when his hip was replaced.

While recovering in the hospital, Michael was prescribed Lantus, a long-acting insulin injectable drug which is unlike Metformin much costlier. Michael was also suffering from atrial fibrillation which caused his heart to beat much faster than normal. The heart’s upper and lower chambers do not work together as they should which increases the risk of forming clots and can lead to strokes or other complications. Michael was taking Coumadin to prevent blood clots. It is a tough drug to take as you must go for regular blood tests that will measure how long it takes for your blood to clot.

The couple was struggling to afford the Lantus and Michael’s primary care physician suggested to contact World Medical Relief.

After a phone call to the agency, the couple received the easy to complete enrollment form for the Affordable Prescription Program which provides medicine (if available) to qualifying clients for \$8.30/script for a month supply. Once enrolled the Lantus came by mail followed up by a phone call from the diabetes coordinator who checked in to see how World Medical Relief could be of further assistance and who offered education as well. Jennifer was impressed with the prompt communications from World Medical Relief. “Especially the pharmacy staff was great to work with”, she says.

Further review by an endocrinologist confirmed that Michael is on the right drugs but the physician recommended to change the Coumadin to Eliquis (which is a newer but very expensive medicine) and prescribed an additional drug Farxiga which is an oral diabetes medicine that helps control blood sugar levels by helping the kidneys get rid of glucose from the bloodstream. With the support of United Way for Southeastern Michigan, the City of Detroit (for Detroit residents), local foundations and individual donors, World Medical Relief was able to provide all these drugs to Michael.

Jennifer says, “I don’t know what we would have done without World Medical Relief. I know people who are taking their insulin only every other day as they cannot take it how it was prescribed. Having all the support from World Medical Relief is very helpful. It is wonderful that he has what he needs”.

Michael is feeling much better and is not so sleepy anymore. In fact, he felt so good that the couple was able to get away for a few days up North. “They had a great time”, Jennifer said.

More information about the Affordable Prescription Program (including income guidelines and the application form) as well as other local program services can be found at www.worldmedicalrelief.org/local-programs or by phone: (313) 866-5333.

