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THE AlphaNetter

Message from Your New CEO

— by Bob Barrett



Robert C. Barrett

I couldn't quite grasp the concept when I first heard about AlphaNet. A not-for-profit corporation... founded by three individuals afflicted with alpha₁-antitrypsin deficiency, a little known and widely misunderstood lung and liver disorder... a business that employs Alphas who coordinate the insurance benefits, pharmacy, infusion and ancillary healthcare services of other Alphas nationwide... a compassionate company which supports Alpha community programs and returns its profits to support research for improved treatments and a possible cure for the disease. Run that by me again... .

Unique, I thought. Creative. Logical. I felt I might have an opportunity to play a meaningful role in moving this company forward. In May 1998, after a lengthy interview process, I was hired by AlphaNet. Since then, I have been learning about the company and its resources, the disorder and its effects on Alphas and their families, the therapies and the possibilities. I have concentrated my efforts on insuring a solid financial footing for your organization.

I consider it is a privilege to work for you. I will do my best to position AlphaNet to provide the widest range of meaningful, high quality, cost-effective services possible to our members. I believe that AlphaNet has the expertise to be the preeminent, not-for-profit, disease-specific, integrated health delivery network in the United States.

This quarterly newsletter is a communications vehicle written for, and by, AlphaNet members and staff. Please use it. If you have a question which you would like addressed regarding AlphaNet services, Prolastin, or any other area related to alpha₁-antitrypsin deficiency, please send or e-mail it to your coordinator or me. We'll get you the answer. Or, if you have an interesting article or story that you would like included in a future issue of AlphaNetter, send it. Space permitting, we'll print it. We also welcome your comments, suggestions and criticisms.

Best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy 1999!

AlphaNet Milestones

AlphaNet is a not-for-profit corporation created in 1995 with the twofold mission of improving the health and well-being of its AlphaNet patient members and contributing toward alpha₁-antitrypsin deficiency research activities. Its unique corporate structure supports an integrated disease-specific health management model for the Alphas it serves, while advancing knowledge of the disease that affects them.

Managing alpha₁-antitrypsin deficiency is complicated and involves dramatic life-style changes for those suffering from the disease. AlphaNet encourages a holistic approach to healthcare, consolidating therapeutic services, social services and reimbursement counseling. AlphaNet coordinators, who are Alphas themselves, help patients plan their care and work closely with the caregivers to provide effective, cost efficient augmentation therapy and other health services.

In addition to producing a more balanced and consistent state of health, AlphaNet provides significant cost savings to its subscribers. The cost of augmentation therapy has been reduced by as much as 30% during AlphaNet's three years of operation.

AlphaNet returns all net revenues to support research efforts of the Alpha One Foundation and other programs of the Alpha community. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, AlphaNet donated over \$100,000 to the Alpha One Foundation, funding Phase One of a Cost of Illness Impact Study, one of the first initiatives of the Alpha One Registry, as well as other research and programs.

During the recent Prolastin® shortage, AlphaNet distributed Health Tips for Alphas, a pamphlet to help Alphas deal with the crisis, and coordinators assisted members and nonmembers alike

— continued on page 2, col. 1



