

Diabetes

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working for JDF was a positive way to channel their frustration.

Working for a cure

Eighty-two cents of each dollar donated to JDF goes to research to find a cure for diabetes, Salyer said. The remainder is for administrative costs. There are 14 million Americans and between 100 and 150 million people with diabetes worldwide. Complications from diabetes is the third largest killer in the United States.

There are two types of diabetes, juvenile, the more severe form, can appear at any age, though it is most commonly diagnosed from infancy to the late 30s. Maturity-onset diabetes usually begins in the middle or later years and treatment typically involves dietary and weight control, although oral medication or insulin may be required in some cases.

"There are a lot of complications with diabetes," Salyer said. "A lot of people don't understand it."

"But there have been so many breakthroughs because of the research money," she added pointing to advancements in eye laser treatments.

"We're probably somewhere close to a cure."

The longer it takes for a cure the more chances Alexandra will face complications.

"They tell me the cure might be 10 years away and I want it now," Franca said. "I feel Allie is going to have a good life because of the research."

Wondering why

Meanwhile, the Gardners are searching for answers. Neither know of any hereditary links. Their other children have no signs of diabetes. They wonder if Allie's diabetes was triggered by something in the environment, like the water or possibly a reaction to a DPT (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) shot.

"I like to get people like the Gardners involved, because it also acts as a support group for them."



Sneaky disease: Margo Salyer, director of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, says a cure for diabetes is on its way.

■ 'There are a lot of complications with diabetes. A lot of people don't understand it.'

Margo Salyer
JDF director

Salyer said explaining that another volunteer, Ann McNamara of Farmington Hills, began working at JDF in Southfield after her grandchild was diagnosed with diabetes.

Franca said she hopes her volunteer work will help save other parents from having to deal with the worry she and her husband have faced.

"I don't know what tomorrow will bring," Franca said with a grimace. Franca and Glen Gardner want to start a support group for other parents with diabetic children. Call JDF at (313)559-6171 for more information. Similarly, JDF International was founded in 1970 by parents of diabetic children convinced that diabetes could be cured.



Family affair: Alexandra Gardner is flanked by her siblings, Gabrielle and Jacob.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMMON

Miss Michigan Latina pageant seeks entrants

The Instituto Cultural Latino Americano Inc. is sponsoring the 1994/1995 Miss Michigan Latina Pageant.

The pageant is being held in conjunction with the Miss Latina U.S.A. and the Miss America Latina International, therefore the candidate selected as Miss Michigan Latina is invited to participate in the Miss Latina U.S.A. Pageant and, if chosen, Miss Latina U.S.A., to compete in the Miss America Latina International Pageant.

In addition, the candidate selected Miss Michigan Latina will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to the college, university or vocational school of her choice.

To qualify the contestant must be single (without children) 18 to 25 years old, speak Spanish, be of Latin American descent (at least one of the parents must be from Latin America of Spanish descent), be a Michigan resident and able to travel to the Miss Latina U.S.A. pageant.

The Miss Latina of Michigan pageant will be on May 28 at the International Institute, 111 E. Kirby, Detroit.

The pageant is open to the public. For information regarding pageant participation and reservations call Beatriz Cazala, (810) 855-4948, or write to Miss Michi-

gan Latina Pageant, c/o Beatriz Cazala, 5673 Springwater Court, West Bloomfield, 48322.

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Preview

Monday, March 21 12 noon - 8 p.m.
Tuesday, March 22 12 noon - 8 p.m.
Wednesday, March 23 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Auction

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Golf coupon book offered

The Arthritis Foundation is offering a Golf Coupon Book, which provides 500 rounds of golf, for \$25.

The book provides an opportunity to enjoy events that take place during the golf season throughout Michigan, in northwestern Ohio and southwestern Ontario.

Additionally, the book provides valuable information — such as holes, par, yards, green fees, cart rates, special discounts and more about 700 public golf courses.

A directory of major golf associations and regional travel associations is also included.

Books can be obtained by calling (810) 350-3030. The Arthritis Foundation is the only volunteer health agency seeking to discover the causes, cures and better treatment of all forms of rheumatic disease. It is committed to helping people with arthritis better manage their lives.