



HEALTHWELL
FOUNDATION®

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News Update: 2010 Recap

**HealthWell Board Chair Named Boston Healthcare Lawyer of the Year,
Guides Organization through Increasing Demand for Services**

Gaithersburg, MD (December 13, 2010) The HealthWell Foundation® congratulates its Board Chair, Stephen M. Weiner, on being named 2011 Boston “Lawyer of the Year” for healthcare law by the peer-review publication *Best Lawyers*.

Under Weiner’s leadership, HealthWell has responded to unprecedented demand, received national recognition as one of America’s most efficient charities and become one of the largest copayment foundations—and nonprofits—in the country.

Weiner has more than 30 years of experience in healthcare as a policy maker, educator and attorney representing healthcare service providers in a broad array of matters. His expertise has been instrumental in helping HealthWell navigate the changing landscape resulting from healthcare reform and a lagging economy.

HealthWell launched its first fund in 2004, the year Weiner became Board Chair. That year, the organization granted close to \$3 million to help underinsured people afford life-saving medications. Under Weiner’s leadership, HealthWell has grown significantly and in 2009 alone it granted more than \$137 million to 46,900 patients.

This growth has been in response to increasing demand. Requests for assistance jumped 40 percent in 2009 and more than 20 percent so far this year as costs skyrocketed and unemployment persisted. Despite the passage of the Affordable Care Act, demand for HealthWell’s services have increased and this trend is expected to continue.

“Even with health reform, we need to remain vigilant about the growing underinsured population,” Weiner says. “Every day we hear from people who are struggling to afford critical medications. We must continue ensuring that people don’t go without healthcare due to cost, and that filling vital prescriptions doesn’t lead to bankruptcy.”

Under Weiner’s leadership, HealthWell has also greatly expanded its disease funds, now covering 30 disease areas. It is preparing to launch a new Pediatric Assistance Fund to provide copayment assistance to help children start, or continue, critical medical treatment regardless of disease type or condition. Through the end of 2010, HealthWell will match any donations to the Pediatric Assistance Fund through a matching grant.

Buoying contributions and donor confidence is HealthWell’s ranking, for the third year in a row, as one of the most efficient charities in the country in Forbes’ annual list of America’s 200 largest charities. HealthWell is the only organization in its field to achieve 99 percent fundraising efficiency.

To learn more about how you can make a difference in the lives of America's underinsured, please visit the HealthWell Foundation website at www.healthwellfoundation.org.

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Since 2003, the HealthWell Foundation® has helped more than 100,000 patients with serious and chronic conditions meet their cost-sharing obligations for treatment. HealthWell is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit association that provides financial assistance to cover the cost of prescription drug coinsurance, co-payments and deductibles, and health insurance premiums. The Foundation considers individual financial, medical and insurance situations when determining assistance eligibility.