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To IDF member associations
Cc: IDF Regional offices

Brussels, 10 February 2006

Dear friends

Re: World Diabetes Day and Diabetes Atlas case stories

I am writing to you to ask for your collaboration in this year's World Diabetes Day campaign that IDF will launch on February 26th. As you may well know, in 2006 IDF will focus on diabetes in the disadvantaged and the vulnerable. Around the globe there are many communities that find it hard to access appropriate diabetes care and information, because they are excluded in some way. Our aim for 2006 is to raise awareness and highlight the message that every person with diabetes deserves the highest quality of care and education that their healthcare service can provide.

In order to highlight the problem that disadvantaged and vulnerable communities face, and to show the human side of diabetes, we would like to collect **case stories** from different countries. These would be posted to our website and included in our press packs. We would be very grateful if you could provide us with such examples or indicate a third party to whom we could turn.

At the same time, we would also like to feature case stories in the *Diabetes Atlas*, third edition which will be released at the 19th IDF World Diabetes Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in December. These case studies will illustrate the different aspects of the diabetes burden and will act as a reminder that diabetes is about people and not numbers. The case studies will appear in the hard copy of the Atlas, on CD-ROM and eventually on the e-Atlas, the online version.

The stories for World Diabetes Day should be of a person who for some reason has found himself/herself to be disadvantaged. The story should illustrate his/her difficulties in accessing adequate diabetes care and education, but should preferably have an optimistic tone. By disadvantaged or vulnerable, we were thinking of the following contributing factors, or a combination thereof:

- economically disadvantaged
- geographically isolated
- migrant communities/ethnic minorities
- indigenous populations
- elderly
- under-insured
- socially excluded (homeless etc.)



The stories for the *Diabetes Atlas* could be of persons who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- have type 2 diabetes, with emphasis on young people (aged 20 and under) and people in their 30s and 40s
- have gestational diabetes mellitus
- have diabetes combined with psychosocial disorders
- have a or a variety of diabetic complications
- have problems related to poor access to insulin and lack of monitoring
- any profiles that show that type 2 diabetes was prevented through lifestyle intervention
- have been diagnosed with the metabolic syndrome

It would be of great help to us if you could identify a person and tell us the story. For this we would need:

- the name of the person (it can be fake if the person wishes to remain anonymous)
- the age and how long he/she has had diabetes
- the problems encountered
- potential "solution" or ideas that your association and the person are working on to resolve the issues
- if possible, at least one high resolution (at least 300 dpi) picture of the person (if not of him/her, then of something that can help visualize the context in which he/she lives)

Could you please let us know by the 28th February by returning the attached form if you think you can find a story. The deadline for the story itself is 31st March 2006

We would like to thank you in advance for your help

With kind regards,

Anne Pierson
IDF Public Relations Manager