



The festive season is upon us, with lots of eating and drinking – why don't you incorporate Global Feast in your celebrations....

Global Feast is a fundraising opportunity for Australians to raise funds which will be used for people with bleeding disorders around the world who need our help.

Without proper treatment for their bleeding disorder, most children with severe haemophilia will die when they are very young. An estimated 400,000 people worldwide are living with haemophilia. 75% of people with bleeding disorders throughout the world are undiagnosed and untreated, particularly in countries where health care is not well resourced. WFH is striving to close this gap. Australia is one of the fortunate countries where people with bleeding disorders receive high quality care and treatment. We can all make a difference by working with World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH).

Incorporating Global Feast into your festive celebrations is a great and easy way to raise money for people with bleeding disorder internationally. It's easy, you can ask your guests for a donation or place a money tray at the front entrance and your guests can drop in a few coins (or notes!) – HFA can send you promotional material and forms.

All monies will be donated directly to WFH. WFH will use these funds to provide safe and effective blood treatment products free of charge to people in urgent need. WFH works in more than 50 developing countries providing programs, services, educating families and training doctors and nurses in some of the poorest regions of the world.

For more information and promotional items, contact Natashia at HFA on 1800 807 173 or ncoco@haemophilia.org.au.

Joan organised a Middle Eastern dinner with 17 family and friends and in total raised \$355 for Global Feast. **H**

US HIV TRAVEL BAN TO BE LIFTED

Suzanne O'Callaghan

On 30 October 2009 United States President Obama announced that the 22-year ban on travel to USA by people with HIV would be lifted early in 2010. Obama said that the ban had been "a decision rooted in fear rather than fact" and that "we talk about reducing the stigma of this disease and yet we've treated a visitor living with it as a threat."

Originally the ban was introduced during the 1980s when there was widespread fear that HIV could be spread by physical or respiratory contact. The US remains one of only a handful of countries that bar people with HIV from entry. US public health officials have long stated there was no scientific or medical basis for the ban. Because of this restriction, no major international AIDS conference or international Congress of the World Federation of Hemophilia has been held in the US since 1990.

In July 2008, under George Bush's presidency, Congress began the process to remove the ban by repealing the law which excluded people with HIV from visiting or immigrating to the US. The next step was to remove HIV from the list of communicable diseases that mean a person is unable to enter the US. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) approved the removal of HIV from the list on 2 November 2009. In January 2010, after a routine 60-day waiting period, the final procedures to remove the ban from the regulations can be implemented.

Under the previous regulations, HIV positive people could obtain an HIV waiver for travel to the US for business, conference, family reunion, or pre-approved medical grounds, but the procedure was so complicated that many felt it was not worthwhile.

HFA will review and confirm the new administrative procedures for entering the US for an HIV positive person with a bleeding disorder once the ban has been lifted.

The confirmation that the ban will be lifted in January 2010 has been celebrated by HIV organisations worldwide – and will be good news for HIV positive people with bleeding disorders who plan to travel to the US in the future. **H**

