ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION

FACT SHEET

photo: Olivier Asselin

About the Foundation

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a global leader in the fight against pediatric HIV and AIDS. We're working in 15 countries around the world to provide HIV prevention, care, and treatment services for children, women, and families—with a mission to eliminate pediatric AIDS.

Elizabeth's Story

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation was born from the most powerful force of all: a mother's love for her children. Elizabeth Glaser contracted HIV through a blood transfusion in 1981 while giving birth to her daughter, Ariel. She and her husband, Paul, later learned that Elizabeth had unknowingly passed the virus on to Ariel through breast milk and that their son, Jake, had contracted the virus in utero.

In the course of trying to treat Ariel, the Glasers discovered that drug companies and health agencies had no idea that pediatric HIV was prevalent. The only drugs on the market were for adults—nothing had been tested or approved for children.

Ariel lost her battle with AIDS in 1988. Fearing that Jake's life was also in danger, Elizabeth rose to action. She approached her close friends Susie Zeegen and Susan DeLaurentis for help in creating a foundation that would raise money for pediatric HIV/AIDS research.

The Pediatric AIDS Foundation had one critical mission: to bring hope to children with HIV/AIDS. Elizabeth made her first trip to Washington in 1988, when she met with President and Mrs. Reagan, representatives at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and members of Congress. In 1989, the Foundation held its first fundraiser and awarded its first grant for research on the immune dysfunctions in children living with HIV. Dozens more Washington trips and research grants followed.

Elizabeth lost her own battle with AIDS in 1994, and to honor her legacy, the Pediatric AIDS Foundation was renamed the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

The Foundation Today

With a global staff of more than 1,000—more than 85 percent of whom are in the field—the Foundation has become the leading global nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing pediatric HIV infection and eliminating pediatric AIDS through research, advocacy, and prevention and treatment programs. And today, because of the highly successful work of the Foundation and its partners, pediatric AIDS has been virtually eliminated in the United States.

We've also made remarkable strides throughout the world: Half of HIV-positive pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries now receive medicines to help prevent transmission of HIV to their babies—triple the percentage from just three years earlier. In 2009, more than one in five of those women received their medicines through Foundation-supported programs.

1140 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200 • Washington, D.C. 20036
t 202-296-9165 f 202-296-9185 e info@pedaids.org

Yet despite our progress, more than 1,000 children are still infected with HIV every day because their mothers don't have access to the medicines they need to prevent transmission of the virus. We can—and must—change this.

The Foundation uses a three-pronged strategy to implement its work around the world:

Research: The Foundation's leadership in pediatric HIV and AIDS research over more than 20 years has resulted in major scientific advances that are chiefly responsible for HIV-infected children in the United States leading longer, healthier lives. Foundation-supported research efforts around the world seek to improve the prevention, care, and treatment of pediatric HIV infection; train international research leaders to respond to the virus in children; and pursue the development of a pediatric HIV vaccine.

Lifesaving Programs: The Foundation's work supports program implementation in those areas deeply affected by HIV/AIDS. The Foundation works with partners to provide accessible HIV prevention, care, and treatment services for children, women, and families; to research and identify better technologies and interventions for those in need; and to document models that can be replicated throughout the world.

Public Policy and Global Advocacy: Elizabeth Glaser was a pioneer in fighting for the rights of children living with HIV, who were forgotten in the early days of the pandemic. Through work with policymakers, affected children and families, the scientific community, business leaders, and the media, the Foundation has built upon Elizabeth's legacy by expanding funding for pediatric research; improving the safety, efficacy, and availability of drugs for children living with HIV; and fighting to prevent discrimination against people living with HIV. Today, the Foundation continues to be a strong global voice on behalf of children, to both the U.S. government and international organizations and governments.

Before the Foundation's inception, children living with HIV/AIDS had no voice. Today, thanks to Elizabeth's vision and the support of generous donors and partners, we are able to improve the lives of millions of children around the world every year.

But our work is far from over.
We have the science. We have the medicines. We can eliminate pediatric AIDS.

Elizabeth Glaser acquired HIV through a blood transfusion and unknowingly passed the virus on to her daughter, Ariel, and her son, Jake. Following Ariel's death in 1988, Elizabeth joined with two close friends with one goal: to bring hope to children with AIDS. The Foundation that now bears Elizabeth Glaser's name has become a global leader in the effort to eliminate pediatric AIDS, working in 15 countries and at more than 5,400 sites around the world to prevent the transmission of HIV to children and help those already infected with the virus. The Foundation's global mission is to implement prevention, care, and treatment; further advance innovative research; and give those affected by HIV and AIDS a voice to bring dramatic change to the lives of millions of children, women, and families worldwide.