



**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR
2025 MODELS**



TORONTO MODEL SPOTLIGHT

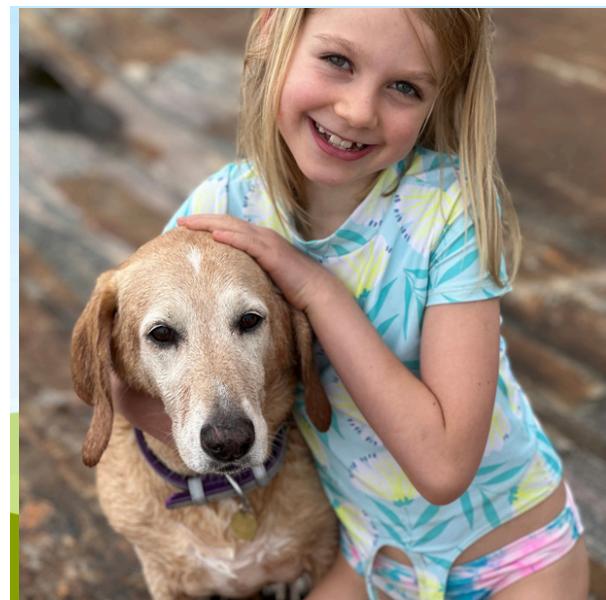


ADEN BARR-STEIN

Aden was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2018, which significantly changed his life, but he hasn't let it stop him from doing what he loves—especially playing hockey. With the help of a pump and continuous glucose monitor, he's been able to stay active and safe. He's participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and show other kids that diabetes doesn't have to hold them back. Attending D-Camps shortly after his diagnosis helped him feel a sense of belonging and taught him to manage his diabetes with confidence. Now, he's applied for the Leadership Development program to help other kids gain the same independence, and he's raising money to ensure more children can benefit from the D-Camps experience.

AUDREY WILSON

When Audrey was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age six, she initially believed nothing would change—but everything did. With the support of her family and the team at SickKids, she's learned to manage her condition confidently, even administering her own insulin before switching to the easier-to-use Omnipod, which she recommends to other kids. Audrey is active and spirited, enjoying competitive acro dance, jazz, tumbling, skiing, and school, where she helps monitor the younger kids. She also loves cuddling with her dog Orly and always keeps her favorite low snack, strawberry Fruit-tella, on hand. Audrey had a blast at D-Camp and the Pump Couture show, where she made friends and memories, and she's excited to raise awareness and funds for diabetes.





CAROLINE MICHON

Caroline was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at just 10 years old and has now lived with it for 24 years, using an insulin pump for most of that time. She describes diabetes as a lifelong rollercoaster, filled with highs and lows, frustration and fear, but also moments of deep gratitude and personal growth. One of her biggest challenges was learning to process the emotional weight of her diagnosis, especially as a child trying to protect her parents from the pain she was feeling. Over time, Caroline found strength in vulnerability, allowing her to live more freely and fully. Her message to those newly diagnosed is to never be afraid to ask for help—support is always there. Today, Caroline thrives as a mother of two, a full-time worker, and the proud owner of a micro bakery, proving that diabetes doesn't define her, it fuels her resilience.

BETSY CHENG

Betsy was diagnosed with Latent Autoimmune Diabetes in Adults (LADA) in May 2008 after an initial misdiagnosis of type 2 diabetes, and while adjusting to life with diabetes was difficult, the support of her family and advancements in diabetes technology helped her regain confidence and control. A spirited and adventurous individual, Betsy enjoys yoga, K-pop, Korean dramas, reading, and board games, and has even taught English in Thailand—a rewarding yet challenging experience. She emphasizes that diabetes impacts every aspect of life, not just blood sugar, and while wearing a diabetes device can be inconvenient, it has significantly improved her well-being. A passionate traveler with dreams of visiting South Korea, New Zealand, and Nepal, Betsy is also modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show this year to raise awareness and promote inclusivity in health and fashion, hoping to inspire others by showing that diabetes does not define who they are.





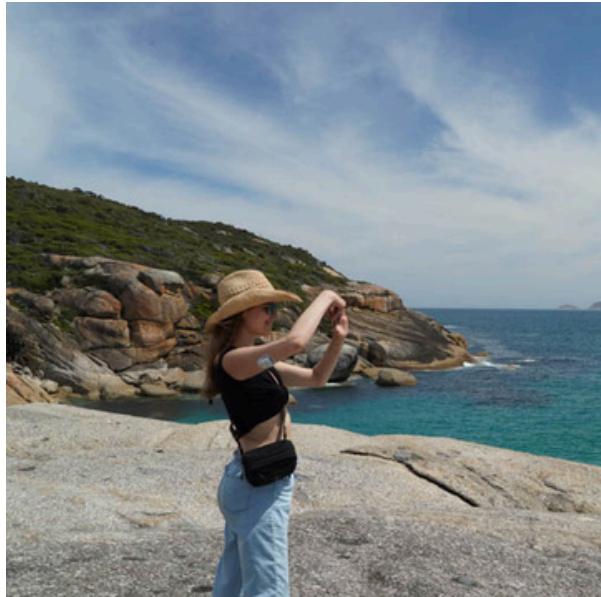
CHANTELLE VALLEY

Chantelle was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 8 and learned to manage it with her family at the pediatric unit in Owen Sound. Despite the challenges of maintaining stable blood sugar during physical activities like dance, swimming, and gymnastics, she remains passionate about competitive dance and enjoys creative hobbies like drawing and coloring. Chantelle wants to raise awareness that type 1 and type 2 diabetes are different and hopes to participate in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support other kids attending D-Camp, which she has enjoyed twice. Her parents are proud of her resilience, especially during a family trip to Newfoundland where she managed her diabetes while hiking and flying. Chantelle dreams of becoming a teacher or pet sitter and is grateful for friends who support her diabetes journey.

CHLOE POW

Chloe was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of four, a life-changing moment that her family faced with strength and unity. Now a passionate advocate, Chloe uses platforms like the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and show that wearing diabetes devices can be beautiful. Despite occasional feelings of exclusion from certain activities, she remains determined to educate others and push for greater understanding in her school. Chloe takes pride in independently managing her condition, which empowers her and showcases her resilience. She also supports D-Camps, helping other children with diabetes gain confidence and learn to manage their health in a supportive environment. Through her advocacy and strength,





CHRISTINE MACGIBBON

Christine was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before her 10th birthday, a life-changing moment that initially left her feeling isolated—until she found a lifelong friend, Kathy, who shared the same diagnosis. Over the past 27 years, Christine has embraced her journey with resilience and creativity, channeling her passions into photography, home decor, crafts, and time spent with loved ones and her beloved pet. Proud of the strength she's gained through self-advocacy, she now models in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, fight stigma, and support D-Camps, hoping to inspire others with type 1 diabetes to live boldly and authentically.

CLAIRE BROADBENT

Claire was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in the fall of 2024, which came as a surprise despite her feeling unwell for some time. With support from her grandfather, who also has diabetes, Claire began adjusting to her new routine, including daily insulin shots and dietary changes. One of her biggest challenges is managing her condition while staying active, especially in gymnastics, where she excels at skills like aerials and handstands. She wears a continuous glucose monitor (CGM), which she appreciates for helping her track her blood sugar, though it can be tricky to keep on while swimming. Claire wants others newly diagnosed to know that while it's hard at first, it gets easier, and they're not alone. She's passionate about raising awareness and supporting D-Camps, which she loves attending.





ELI MOORE

Eli was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 30, following rapid weight loss and severe nighttime thirst. Faced with long wait times for treatment, he had to advocate for himself to access insulin. One of his most difficult experiences was losing all his diabetes supplies while traveling in rural Costa Rica. Eli emphasizes that diabetes affects nearly every aspect of life, from daily routines to travel. While modern diabetes devices have significantly improved his health and quality of life, the financial burden of managing the condition remains substantial. Despite the challenges, Eli believes a normal life is possible with proper management and is committed to supporting the diabetes community.

CONNOR GILLESPIE

Connor was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11, which brought new challenges to her active lifestyle. With strong family support, she's thriving. Managing diabetes alongside a learning disability made tasks like carb counting and site injections especially difficult, particularly while playing five different sports. Attending Camp Huronda for five years helped Connor gain independence and confidence in managing her condition while staying active. Now returning as a model in the fashion show, she's passionate about raising funds for D-Camps so more kids can benefit from the same life-changing experiences.





ELLA IERULLO

Ella, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 4, faces daily challenges with strength and positivity. Supported by her family, she manages her condition with the help of diabetes devices, despite occasional frustrations like devices falling off or nighttime low blood sugar. Ella enjoys reading, gymnastics, video games, and crafting, and she dreams of becoming a librarian. She recently used her Apple Watch to manage her diabetes on a beach vacation in Mexico. Passionate about raising awareness, Ella is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support Diabetes Canada and D-Camps, where she and her family have made lasting memories. Her message to others: "You're strong and smart. You can do this!"

EMERSON TROTTIER

Emerson was just 14 months old when he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, after initially being misdiagnosed with a virus despite his mother's instincts. Since then, diabetes has been a constant part of his life, but with the unwavering support of his family, friends, and helpful wearable technology, Emerson is thriving and enjoying all the things a typical 5-year-old loves—including eating ice cream. Although he hasn't yet attended D-Camps, he's eagerly looking forward to Family Camp, where he'll meet other kids living with diabetes. In the meantime, he's raising awareness and funds to help others like him experience the joy of camp.





GEORGIA TANAKA

Georgia is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support fundraising efforts and enjoy time with her "diabuddies." Having attended the D-Camps program herself, she fondly recalls making new friends, learning to manage her diabetes—like counting carbs—and enjoying a full week of fun and connection. Traveling with diabetes presents challenges, but Georgia's family is well-prepared, especially during their annual Christmas trips to southern Georgia, where her parents make sure to overpack a dedicated carry-on full of diabetes supplies to ensure she's always covered.

EMILY CORDEIRO

Emily was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10 in 2016, a frightening and uncertain time for her and her family. Over the past eight years, she has transformed that initial fear into strength and resilience, learning to manage the complexities of diabetes while embracing life fully. Though she has faced challenges like anxiety over low blood sugars in public and the discomfort of wearing diabetes devices, these tools have also brought her and her family peace of mind. Emily finds joy in fitness, cooking, and spending time with loved ones, and she proudly teaches cycling classes at her university after earning her instructor certification. Her journey has included international travel, like a three-week trip to Portugal, proving that with preparation, diabetes won't hold her back. Now, as a model in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she raises awareness and encourages others with diabetes to seek community and support, reminding them they are never alone.



GRACE LEEDER



Grace was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on her 15th birthday, a life-changing moment that led her to find hope and support through D-Camps, which she credits with saving her life and helping her embrace who she is. Despite the constant demands of diabetes, Grace remains resilient and optimistic, believing it becomes more manageable over time. She has improved her Time in Range (TIR) and A1C, though unexpected challenges still arise. Passionate about raising awareness and supporting the diabetes community, Grace participates in initiatives like the Pump Couture Fashion Show. In her free time, she enjoys video games, podcasting, TV and movies, reading, and walking her dog, Luna.

HAILEY TOLENSKY

Hailey was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 17 months old, and since then, she has faced the daily challenges of managing her condition with courage and resilience. Despite the frequent finger and toe pricks and the frustration of diabetes devices getting dislodged, she has grown into an independent and passionate young person who enjoys musical theatre, singing, crafting, and all things Disney. Hailey is determined to combat misconceptions about diabetes—like the myth that cinnamon is a cure—and speaks out against the stigma and hurtful comments she sometimes encounters. She proudly models in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and recently managed a three-night school trip on her own. With dreams of becoming a Broadway star, Hailey continues to inspire others by showing that life with diabetes can still be full of joy, creativity, and strength.





JOANNA JACKSON

Joanna was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age five, a life-changing event that inspired her family to embrace a philosophy of giving and philanthropy. Despite the ongoing challenges of managing her condition—especially the constant balancing act of blood sugar levels—Joanna has remained resilient and committed to her health, particularly during her pregnancies. Her transformative experience at Camp Huronda, where she gained independence and lifelong friendships, deeply influenced her, and she later returned as a counselor to empower others. Today, Joanna continues to advocate for diabetes support programs like D-Camps, participating in events like the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and funds, ensuring future generations can benefit from the same life-changing experiences she had.

JOANNA NICHOLSON

Joanna's journey with type 1 diabetes began at age 12 on March 16, 1998, after alarming symptoms led her to the emergency room and a life-changing diagnosis. Despite the daily challenges of managing her condition—balancing food, exercise, stress, and sleep—she has embraced a life of resilience and strength. Passionate about fitness, Joanna enjoys pilates, cycling, and staying active, while cherishing time with her husband and daughters. A dedicated traveler and advocate, she's now participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and inspire others, proving that diabetes is just one part of her vibrant, empowered life.



KALEB DAHLGREN

Kaleb Dahlgren is a resilient and inspiring figure who has defied the odds from a young age, overcoming a type 1 diabetes diagnosis and the tragic Humboldt Broncos bus crash to become a national role model. Despite being told he wouldn't succeed in hockey, he rose to play at the highest levels and used his journey to launch Dahlgren's Diabeauties, a mentorship program supporting children with diabetes. His dedication to community service earned him numerous accolades, including the Canadian Volunteer Award and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. A York University graduate and valedictorian, Kaleb is now a chiropractic student, bestselling author, international keynote speaker, and mental wellness advocate. Passionate about empowering others, he continues to break barriers and inspire confidence in those living with diabetes, proving that the condition should never limit one's dreams.



KATELYN ZAORAL

Katelyn was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 6 in 2007, a life-changing moment that brought a steep learning curve for her and her family, who had no prior experience with the condition. Despite the initial fear and isolation, especially with no one else in her circle living with diabetes, her parents became her unwavering support system—managing her care, encouraging her to live fully, and helping her adapt. Over the years, Katelyn has embraced her passions like sports, event planning, and karaoke, while navigating the daily challenges of diabetes, including the emotional difficulty of speaking up when her blood sugars are off. Her diabetes devices have brought her greater freedom, though not without occasional mishaps. Celebrating her 18th “diaversary” in 2025, Katelyn reflects on how transformative experiences like diabetes camp helped her find community and independence. To others facing similar struggles, she offers encouragement: you’re not alone, and diabetes may be a backseat driver, but you’re still in control of the journey.



KRISTIN NUGENT

Kristen was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before her 11th birthday, spending that milestone in the hospital learning to manage her condition with the support of her family. Over the past 33 years, she has faced many challenges, including dangerous low blood sugars and the difficulty of managing her condition before modern diabetes technology. A life-threatening episode in her twenties underscored the importance of the supportive people around her and the life-saving role of diabetes devices, which now give her more freedom and safety. Kristen is proud of managing three high-risk pregnancies and raising healthy children, and she remains passionate about raising awareness and helping other children with diabetes, inspired by her empowering experience at Camp Huronda shortly after her diagnosis.

LAURA SYRON

Nearly eight years ago, I was stunned to be diagnosed with diabetes during a routine check-up, and my initial reaction was one of deep shame—I confided only in my husband, feeling as though I had somehow caused it. Over time, I've come to understand that diabetes is influenced by many factors and that the stigma I felt is unfortunately common. Now, as CEO of Diabetes Canada, I'm dedicated to changing the conversation around diabetes to eliminate that shame and promote support and acceptance. That's why I'm stepping far outside my comfort zone to model in a fashion show on June 10th, proudly wearing my diabetes technology alongside 25 others living with the condition. Together, we aim to raise awareness, celebrate self-acceptance, and reach my fundraising goal of \$15,000 to support this vital cause.





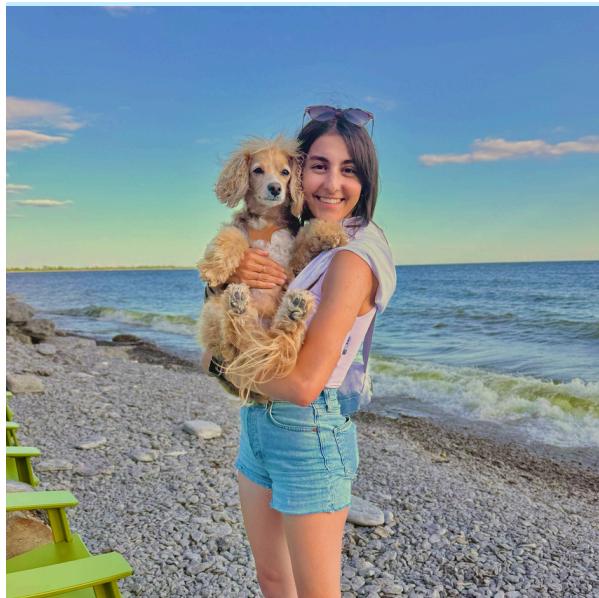
LORRAINE O'QUINN

Lorraine was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes on August 14, 2023, marking a challenging yet transformative chapter in her life. Through determination and lifestyle changes, she has achieved remission and now embraces an active, joyful life filled with pickleball, hiking, Pilates, and deep connections with loved ones. Committed to thriving rather than merely managing, Lorraine advocates for greater awareness and inclusivity for those living with diabetes. Her participation in the Pump Couture Fashion Show reflects her mission to inspire others and spark a positive ripple effect of hope, support, and empowerment.

LENAEE DUPUIS

Lenaee was diagnosed with diabetes at just 2.5 years old, but she never let it hold her back from living a full and active life, participating in everything from Girl Guides to dance. In the 1980s, she found a sense of belonging at D-Camps, where she could manage her diabetes without judgment and build lifelong friendships —some of whom will join her on the runway in an upcoming fashion show. Passionate about breaking down harmful misconceptions about diabetes, Lenaee speaks out against the stigma and misinformation that people with the condition often face. Despite being told by a doctor that she couldn't have children, she is now a proud mother of a healthy 18-year-old and has lost over 120 pounds in the past 13 years thanks to improved diabetes management and technology like continuous glucose monitors.





MELISSA SCALZO

Melissa was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just four years old on November 11, 2004, a life-changing moment that led to regular hospital visits and learning to manage her condition at school. With unwavering support from her parents, she grew up embracing her diagnosis, never letting it define or limit her. Now, 20 years later, Melissa celebrates her journey, crediting diabetes for shaping her into a confident, independent, and resilient individual. Empowered by technology and a strong support network, she manages her health with assurance. Inspired by the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Melissa has taken up modeling to raise awareness and advocate for the diabetes community, championing the power of positivity and support.

MASON DOS-ANJOS

Mason was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 16 months old, a life-altering moment that demanded immense adaptability from his family. Despite the early challenges of managing a complex condition during his toddler years, Mason quickly showed remarkable resilience, embracing the routines of finger pokes, injections, and later, diabetes technology. His journey became even more complex with a diagnosis of Celiac Disease, yet he continues to thrive, supported by a close-knit family that values advocacy and unconditional love. Mason has also faced emotional hurdles, including bullying and the stigma of wearing medical devices, but he's grown into a confident, empathetic young boy who uses his experiences to support others. His passions—basketball, swimming, art, and music—reflect his vibrant spirit, and his leadership in helping newly diagnosed children showcases his compassion. While diabetes devices have greatly improved his quality of life, they come with their own challenges, such as discomfort and technical issues. Still, Mason's courage, adaptability, and empathy make him not only a fighter for himself but also a beacon of hope for others navigating similar paths.





MICHAEL JACOBY

Michael's journey with Type 1 Diabetes began with a misdiagnosis of Type 2, leading to months of frustration before receiving the correct diagnosis just before his 25th birthday. Adapting to a rigorous routine of blood sugar monitoring and insulin injections, he overcame initial sadness by drawing inspiration from figures like Bobby Clarke and Jackie Robinson, shifting his mindset to embrace the challenge.

Passionate about music, food, art, and culture, Michael stays active through travel, sports, and endurance events like marathons and triathlons. His diagnosis has been a transformative experience, helping him discover authenticity, joy, and a supportive community. Now, he's using his platform—like modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show—to raise awareness and show that life with diabetes has no limits.

NANCY JOSEFOWICH

Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 6 following a severe case of chicken pox, Nancy grew up managing her condition without the modern tools available today, making nighttime lows a constant worry for her parents. Although an emergency appendectomy delayed her first year at Camp Huronda, she eventually attended at age 9 and discovered that kids with diabetes could safely enjoy activities like canoeing, windsurfing, and horseback riding. Now, after 48 years of living with diabetes and facing its complications, Nancy remains active and dedicated to helping others, volunteering with the Lions Foundation Dog Guides of Canada and St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs, where she visits long-term care residents with her dog, Nelson..





VANCOUVER MODEL SPOTLIGHT

HENNESSY ESCOBAR

Hennessy's life underwent a profound transformation when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in January 2018. She faced numerous challenges, including daily injections and constant blood glucose monitoring, which brought stress and uncertainty, especially during activities like school camping trips. With resilience and support from her family and friends, Hennessy learned to manage her condition and live life to the fullest, despite ongoing challenges with blood sugar control and hormonal changes. Her determination led to moments of success, such as improving A1C levels and managing diabetes independently. Hennessy's participation in the Pump Couture Fashion Show reflects her passion for raising awareness and supporting others with diabetes, as well as her commitment to fundraising for research and enabling children to attend supportive D-camps.



JAYDEN MARGETTS

Jayden was diagnosed with diabetes at age 5, shortly after a trip to Disneyland. Managing her condition involves constant vigilance over her diet, blood sugar levels, and ensuring her devices function properly. Despite these challenges, Jayden views her diabetes devices as her "superpower" and emphasizes the importance of self-advocacy for those newly diagnosed. She participates in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support sending kids with type 1 diabetes to D-Camp, which has been a transformative experience for her.

Jayden is proud of not letting diabetes control her life, staying active and pursuing her dreams of becoming a human rights lawyer. She even managed a month-long boat trip along the Mediterranean, ensuring she had all necessary supplies to stay safe.





AMANNAT DHALIWAL

Amannat, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 9 during the COVID pandemic, has faced the challenges of managing her blood sugar levels with the support of her loyal dog, Chico. She advises others to take care of themselves and acknowledges that it's okay to feel overwhelmed. Participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show has allowed her to raise awareness, meet others with diabetes, and learn new management strategies. Amannat dreams of becoming a nail tech and visiting LA, feeling prepared for trips thanks to her mom's careful planning. She encourages support for her fundraising efforts to send more kids to D-Camps.

ELLAZARA SMITH

Ellazara, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 6, faces unique challenges despite her familiarity with the condition through her father. Her insulin pump limits her clothing choices, making activities like ballet awkward. She often encounters misconceptions about diabetes, wishing people understood the differences between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. While her device simplifies diabetes management, it complicates activities like running and playing field hockey. Ellazara advises newly diagnosed individuals that they will adapt to living with diabetes. She aspires to model in the Pump Couture Fashion Show for a fun experience and values D-Camps for providing a supportive community for kids managing diabetes.





MIRA DE AUSEN

Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 7 months old, Mira has grown up knowing no other "normal." Her parents were initially shocked, as she was the first in the family with this condition. Despite daily challenges like waiting 15 minutes before eating to manage her insulin, Mira lives as normally as possible, using an insulin pump and Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) to maintain her freedom. She emphasizes that diabetes isn't caused by eating too much and encourages others to ask questions and seek support. Mira is proud of her resilience and aims to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps. She dreams of becoming a chef or police officer and enjoys traveling, never letting diabetes hold her back.

TIHA ROBERGE

Tiha was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age two and has spent the last nine years managing the condition with her family's support. Despite the challenges, including dealing with high blood sugar levels and the inconvenience of changing her diabetes device, Tiha leads an active and fulfilling life, enjoying activities like video games, dancing, and spending time with loved ones. She emphasizes that diabetes doesn't define her and appreciates the ease her diabetes devices bring to her daily routine. Tiha is passionate about raising awareness and supporting others through events like the Diabetes Canada Pump Couture Fashion Show. She dreams of becoming a lawyer or actress and continues to embrace life fully, even on trips where extra preparation is needed.





MACIE GILLESPIE

Macie, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age, wishes people understood that her condition isn't due to anything she did. Over time, she has adapted well, with her diabetes devices aiding her parents in monitoring her blood sugar levels, though she feels uneasy when people stare at them. Passionate about dancing, art, swimming, and surfing, Macie finds joy and positivity in these activities. She loves dolphins and even had the chance to swim with them. Macie is now modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness about diabetes and hopes her story will inspire support for sending more kids to D-Camps.

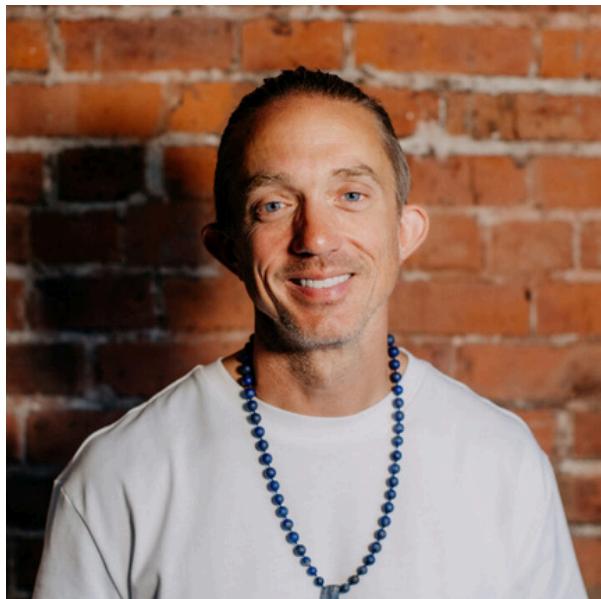
CHARLOTTE MILLER

Charlotte, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 3, quickly adapted to her new reality despite initial fear. She struggles with having to pause playtime to manage her condition, wishing others understood that diabetes is lifelong. Her devices, though sticky, are crucial for monitoring blood sugar levels. Charlotte encourages newly diagnosed individuals not to be afraid and is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to showcase her devices and raise awareness for D-Camps. She enjoyed the Friends for Life Diabetes Conference in Florida, where she connected with others who have diabetes. Through her participation in the fashion show, Charlotte hopes to inspire others and support D-Camps.



AL FORTUNE

Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 57 in August 2021, Al faced significant physical changes and challenges, including weight loss and symptoms that disrupted his active lifestyle. Despite the initial fear, especially given his father's severe complications from late-onset diabetes, Al continues to engage in various activities like cycling, running, and woodworking. Al plans to run his 15th marathon in May 2025 and cycle over 700 km in August 2025 to raise funds for D-Camps. Proud of his diabetes devices, Al aims to inspire others by participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and raising awareness and funds for D-Camps.

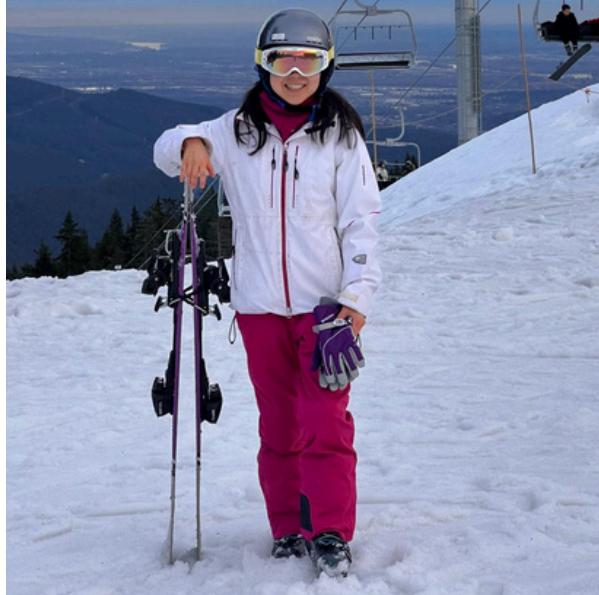


ARLEN HANSEN

Fifteen years after being diagnosed with diabetes, Arlen reflects on his journey and the challenges faced by children with type 1 diabetes. He understands the importance of creating spaces where these kids feel included and supported, both physically and emotionally. To help, Arlen is raising funds for D-Camps, summer camps that provide a community for children with diabetes to connect, gain confidence, and make lifelong memories. At the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Arlen shares his story to raise awareness, emphasizing that diabetes doesn't have to define one's life and every child deserves the chance to thrive.



COLE PRICE



JUNE LEE

June's journey with diabetes began at age 12, transforming her family's life as they adapted to her needs. Her mother meticulously managed her diet, while her father became her sports trainer to keep her active. Despite the constant challenges of diabetes, June learned to navigate her unique journey, celebrating small victories like walks and nutritious meals. She maintains an active lifestyle, recently discovering a love for skiing. June models in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, inspiring others to embrace life's challenges with grace and perseverance.

Cole was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of two, which brought significant challenges for him and his family. His parents learned to manage his condition, including waking him up at night to test his blood sugar and adjusting his diet and activities to avoid highs and lows. Despite these challenges, Cole developed a passion for photo and video editing and became involved in raising awareness and funds for diabetes research. He has participated in various events, including the Pump Couture Fashion Show and D-Camp, and his family has raised over \$90,000 for type 1 diabetes research. Cole also has celiac disease, which adds complexity to his condition, especially when traveling. He is considering a career in engineering or film production and remains committed to advocating for advancements in diabetes technology and support for those affected by the disease.





MINDY WONG ROY

Mindy was diagnosed with diabetes at 26, and despite uncertainty about whether she has type 1 or type 2, she has excelled in managing her condition. Diabetes has guided her towards a healthier lifestyle, especially before her pregnancy, and she is now fitter than ever. She works in Water Treatment and co-manages the Golden Spike Can Can Dancers, balancing her diabetes management with her active life.

Mindy is proud of maintaining stable levels and adapting to new technology, and she models for Pump Couture to raise awareness and funds for diabetes. She encourages donations to support kids managing diabetes and aims to educate others about living with the condition.

SANDY STRUSS

Sandy's life changed dramatically when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 17, forcing her to adapt to daily insulin injections and a new sense of identity. Despite feeling isolated for 16 years, Sandy developed resilience and a determination to serve the diabetes community, creating a legacy of inspiration and lifelong friendships. After battling thyroid cancer, she remains positive and committed to helping others, modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to demonstrate that thriving is possible even after decades with diabetes. Sandy believes that connecting with peers and supporting children at D-Camp can profoundly impact their lives.



NATHALIE PELOQUIN

Nat was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11 in 1978 and learned to manage her condition through diet, insulin injections, and urine testing. Despite the challenges, she remained active in sports and piano during high school, which helped her maintain her health. After graduating from teachers college, she joined the "Class A'Float" program, teaching and sailing around the world, proving that diabetes wouldn't hold her back. Nat continues to lead an active life, balancing her diet and enjoying travel, cooking, piano, and reading with her family. She emphasizes that managing diabetes is a full-time job, requiring constant monitoring and preparation, but advancements in technology and support groups make it possible to live a happy, near-normal life. Nat seeks support for her fundraising efforts to send more kids to Diabetes Camps.



RACHAEL ROOK

Rachael, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 9, has adapted to her condition with her family's support, managing blood sugar levels during various activities. She believes that with proper insulin, people with diabetes can enjoy any food, and she proudly wears her diabetes device, even during the Pump Couture Fashion Show. Passionate about raising awareness, Rachael highlights the importance of carbohydrate counting and blood sugar monitoring. Her positive camp experiences inspired her to support D-Camps, aiming to help more kids attend. Currently pursuing dual degrees, Rachael is determined to continue her advocacy and fundraising efforts.





WINNIPEG MODEL SPOTLIGHT



DYLAN MCKAY

Dylan diagnosed himself at just 13 after old after spotting a Diabetes Canada ad and recognizing his own symptoms. Dylan is really proud of the life that he has built, in spite of living with diabetes, he has a wonderful family and loves having the opportunity to be able to make an impact as a respected health researcher and professor.

Regardless of his independence and his education, he like so many others still faces challenges.

He didn't attend D-Camps as a child, living in Newfoundland he doesn't think there was the opportunity back then, but if there was, he wished he had known about them.

He's taking this stage this year as the committee chair and as a model, raising awareness and funds for kids to attend D-Camps.

CHARLES GREEN

Charles was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 11, a life-changing moment that brought fear and uncertainty, especially for his family. Despite the daily challenges of managing fluctuating blood sugar levels and the emotional toll of constant vigilance, Charles remains resilient and determined. He enjoys sports like hockey and football, spending time with his cats, camping, and helping his friend with a race car. Though he often hides his struggles behind a smile, he emphasizes that living with diabetes means constantly calculating and adjusting—like being a mathematician of your own health. Charles works as a maintenance man at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and has faced serious health scares, including a severe low blood sugar episode, but continues to live fully and fearlessly. He participates in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and funds for diabetes research, showing others that a fulfilling life is possible with a chronic illness, even without access to programs like D-Camps.



BARBARA AMMETER

Barbara was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 12, she managed her condition independently, shaping her into the strong, self-reliant person she is today. Inspired by her early healthcare experiences, she became a registered nurse and spent 20 years in cancer research. She loves traveling and doesn't let diabetes get in the way. She meticulously plans her trips, researches local foods, and takes extra supplies to ensure she can enjoy her travels. Now, she's taking the Pump Couture runway to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, proving that diabetes never held her back.



KAYLA SAARINEN

Three years after being unexpectedly diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, Kayla has adapted with resilience and humor, embracing life fully while managing the daily complexities of her condition. With the unwavering support of her family and friends, she's returned to doing all the things she loves—working, teaching, parenting, working out, and enjoying time with loved ones. Though diabetes requires constant planning and decision-making, Kayla sees it as a challenge that keeps her sharp. She's passionate about raising awareness, especially through her involvement in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, and believes in empowering kids with diabetes through safe, supportive experiences like summer camp. Reflecting on her journey, she's proud of how far she's come, especially after a joyful family trip to Jamaica that symbolized how Type 1 hasn't held her back.





NOAH BANERA

Noah, diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 7 like his older brother, is an active and determined young athlete who excels in hockey, golf, and billiards. Despite the constant challenge of monitoring his blood sugar nearly every half hour—especially during demanding hockey trips—he remains committed to his sport and refuses to let diabetes define him. Noah encourages others to integrate diabetes into their lives rather than letting it take over, and he's using his voice to raise awareness by participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show. His experience at D-Camp, where he connected with peers facing similar challenges, was transformative. Now, he's fundraising to help more kids attend D-Camps, hoping to inspire others and prove that diabetes won't hold him back.

EVAN BANERA

Evan, diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 3 alongside his brother, refuses to let the condition define him. An avid golfer, weightlifter, and hockey player, he manages his blood sugar levels with constant vigilance, even during challenging situations like camping or high-level sports. Evan encourages others to integrate diabetes into their lives rather than revolve their lives around it. He's participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and funds, aiming to send more kids to D-Camps—an experience that deeply impacted him by connecting him with others managing the same condition. Through his active lifestyle and advocacy, Evan hopes to inspire others and prove that diabetes won't hold him back. Please support his mission by sharing his story and contributing to his fundraising efforts.





HEIDI PETERS

Heidi was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at 59 following a severe DKA episode, just before the COVID-19 pandemic began. Despite recognizing classic symptoms, her initial doctor visit led to a misdiagnosis and sleeping pills instead of proper testing. Receiving insulin was life-changing, but she was shocked by the widespread lack of diabetes education. Managing her condition involves daily challenges like modifying recipes and navigating inconsistent food labeling. Determined to thrive, Heidi studied Certified Diabetes Educator materials, built her own nutritional database, and became a certified fitness trainer. She advocates for awareness that Type 1 can occur at any age, emphasizes the importance of technology despite its flaws, and encourages others to stay hopeful and informed. Now, she models in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support D-Camps and inspire others with her story.

MATTHEW FLISFEDER

Matthew was initially misdiagnosed with type 2 diabetes at age 38, but after his wife encouraged further testing due to their daughter's type 1 diagnosis, he was correctly identified as having type 1 diabetes. Balancing his health with his roles as a father, husband, and University Professor has been mentally taxing, though his supportive family helps him manage. He finds joy in reading philosophy and history, watching films, listening to music, and sharing moments on Instagram. Matthew emphasizes the mental burden diabetes brings and advocates for self-care and rest. He participates in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and inspire his daughter, Lilah, while also hoping to impress his wife. Though proud of his academic achievements, he considers his family his greatest success and dreams of traveling again to Europe, Tel Aviv, and Japan—trips that now require careful planning to manage his condition.





DANIELLE OLSEN

Danielle was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at just 18 months old, a surprising development given no family history, and her early symptoms were difficult for her family to interpret. After an emergency diagnosis in Brandon and a week of family training in Winnipeg, diabetes became a central part of her life. She's grown up navigating the daily challenges of blood sugar management and device use, attending D-Camps, and becoming a passionate advocate for diabetes awareness. Despite struggles like allergic reactions to adhesives and adjustments in her dance life, Danielle remains confident and driven. She's currently studying nursing with the goal of supporting children with diabetes and is excited to participate in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and have fun. Through it all, she emphasizes that diabetes isn't a limitation and encourages others to seek support and live fully.

ISOBEL BOYES-WATSON

Isobel was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at just 18 months old, and while it was a difficult journey for her parents, she has grown up resilient, viewing diabetes as her normal. Though she once hid her condition, fearing judgment, she now embraces it and shares her experiences openly, including a funny story about relearning to ride a bike at 14. She debunks myths about diabetes, like the idea that people with Type 1 can't eat sugar, and highlights how modern devices have made management easier—despite occasional fashion challenges. Isobel encourages others with diabetes to stay strong and adaptable, reminding them they're not alone. Her participation in the Pump Couture Fashion Show helped her raise awareness and support for D-Camps, and she's excited about her future, having been accepted to study engineering at Sheffield University. Currently traveling solo across Australia, the US, and Canada, she's navigating new healthcare systems with growing confidence, all while staying connected to home thanks to her supportive mom.





ANNA MCKAGUE FROST

Anna, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 3, is thrilled to participate again in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, an event she loves for its fun and its role in raising awareness. Her journey began with a serious illness that led to a hospital stay and a life-changing diagnosis, making her the first in her family to navigate the challenges of diabetes management. Despite the daily demands of devices, insulin, and blood sugar monitoring, Anna remains brave and resilient, encouraging others to believe they can do hard things too. She cherishes her time at D-Camps, where she felt truly understood among fellow campers with diabetes, and she dreams of becoming a rock-climbing instructor and visiting Mesa, Arizona. Proud of her climbing and swimming skills and her role as a big sister, Anna sees the fashion show as a chance to share her story and connect with others in the diabetes community.

ADALINE LUNDGREN

Adaline was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 2.5 years old, shortly after her baby brother was born, and since January 2, 2019, she has bravely faced the daily challenges of managing her condition. Supported by a loving circle of friends and family, she endures the discomfort of diabetes devices, which have become more frequent, but appreciates the freedom they give her to explore food and gain independence. Adaline encourages others with diabetes to stay strong and proactive, sharing her message of hope: "You got this!" She's raising awareness by modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and dreams of becoming a teacher and visiting Harry Potter World, ready to manage her diabetes wherever life takes her. Last summer, she and her family took a road trip to the East Coast, prepared with plenty of supplies, and despite a few tech hiccups, the journey was a success.





BRIAR HOGUE

Briar was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at just one year old in the summer of 2022, after a series of illnesses led to a critical hospitalization in Winnipeg where she was found to be in DKA. Her week-long stay included intensive care and extensive diabetes education for her family, who had to quickly adapt to a new way of life. Despite the challenges—like managing nighttime blood sugar drops and navigating daycare limitations—her family is grateful for the life-saving technology and support systems that help Briar live a relatively normal childhood. With her father also living with Type 1 Diabetes, they understand the daily complexities of managing the disease, from monitoring glucose levels to dealing with device malfunctions. Yet, they remain hopeful and proud of Briar's resilience and maturity, and they encourage others facing similar diagnoses to know that it does get easier with time, support, and community.

MACEY KASPRICK

Macey was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 2 years old, a life-changing moment that her family found frightening but ultimately manageable thanks to a supportive community. Though Macey doesn't remember much from that time, she understands the importance of her care and the challenges that come with it—especially having to think carefully about what she eats. She wants others to know that people with diabetes can still enjoy a wide variety of foods and encourages those newly diagnosed to stay true to themselves and not let others bring them down. Macey is now using her voice and presence in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to help more kids attend D-Camps, which have empowered her to manage her condition and make lasting friendships. With dreams of becoming a doctor, model, or hairstylist—and one day visiting Disney—Macey continues to face her journey with courage and hope.



HUNTER WILKINSON

Hunter was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 10, which came as a surprise to his family, but with the support of the Diabetes Clinic team, they quickly adapted to their new normal. Despite the challenges—especially during holidays like Halloween and Christmas when he has to manage his candy intake—Hunter stays positive and wants others to know that people with diabetes can still enjoy sugar with proper insulin management. He enjoys video games, skateboarding with friends, and recently began drum lessons. Hunter encourages others to take things one day at a time and is raising awareness by participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show for the second year in a row, where he made new friends and had a great time.



KATE RINN

Kate was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10 in November 2021, prompting her family to overhaul their lifestyle, especially around food and daily routines. Despite the challenges of managing her condition—like using needles, counting carbs, and adjusting insulin for travel—Kate has become independent in administering her own injections and uses a diabetes device to monitor her blood sugar more easily. She finds changing the device and handling others' questions difficult but appreciates the reduced need for finger pokes. Passionate about raising awareness, Kate participates in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support D-Camps, which she values for connecting with peers who share her experience. Outside of managing diabetes, she enjoys rock and heavy metal music, playing multiple sports, and spending time with friends.



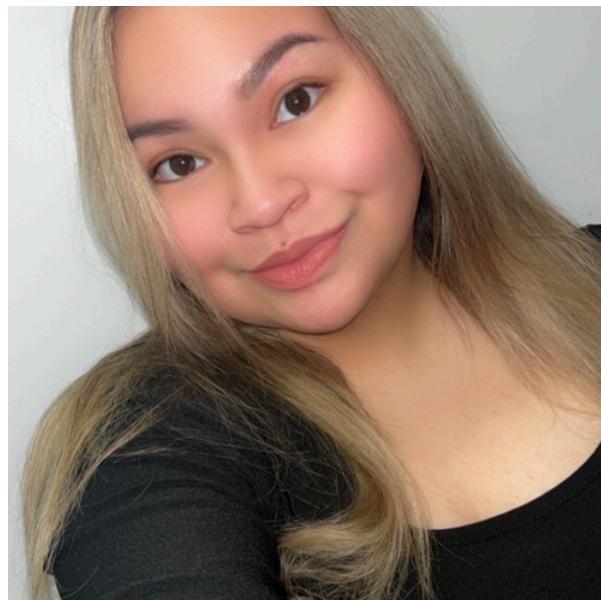


NATALIE HYNTKA

Natalie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before the COVID-19 pandemic in December 2019, which brought significant changes and challenges for her and her family as they learned to manage her condition and diabetes devices. Over time, Natalie took on new responsibilities like administering insulin, counting carbs, and managing her blood sugar levels, though she still faces difficulties, such as dealing with device alarms in class and concerns about her devices staying on while swimming. Despite appearing confident, she sometimes struggles internally and wishes others understood that. Her advice to others newly diagnosed is to ask for help, as support is available, and she takes pride in being able to live like any other kid. A memorable challenge for her was a 2024 cruise to Alaska, where being away from home and dealing with device issues tested her confidence.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

Jennifer's journey with type 2 diabetes began in her early teens, continuing a family history of the condition that included her grandfather and father. Feeling unwell and ashamed of her symptoms, she bravely visited a teen clinic alone, where she was diagnosed and referred to a children's hospital. Though the diagnosis was difficult—especially breaking the news to her father, who felt responsible—Jennifer and her dad learned together how to manage her condition. Despite financial challenges, they adapted, and Jennifer eventually embraced her new reality with the support of her family and healthcare team. Now, as a model in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and Co-Chair of ICARE for diabetes research, Jennifer is using her voice to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, helping other children with diabetes gain independence and confidence in managing their health.



DELILAH RAIN

Delilah was diagnosed with diabetes in August 2023 at Winnipeg's Children's Hospital, and since then, she has faced her condition with remarkable resilience and positivity. Passionate about dance and K-pop, she takes eight dance classes and is thrilled to attend a Stray Kids concert in Toronto. While managing diabetes presents challenges—like waiting for her pre-bolus before enjoying treats—Delilah finds comfort in her interests and the support of her diabetes devices, which reduce the need for finger pokes. She encourages newly diagnosed kids to attend D-Camps, where she's made cherished memories and friendships. Delilah is proud to be modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and dreams of becoming a dance teacher, continuing to inspire others with her strength and determination.



KAREN JURKOWSKI

Karen's journey with diabetes began with a misdiagnosis of type 2 diabetes in January 2018, later corrected to type 1 in July 2019—a revelation that left her overwhelmed and emotional. Her path has been marked by serious health challenges, including emergency surgery, endometriosis, diabetic ketoacidosis, and complications from illness. Despite these hurdles, Karen has shown remarkable resilience, traveling solo to Montreal just a month after starting insulin and learning to manage her condition with the help of her medical team. Passionate about baking, crafts, and spending time with her nieces and nephew, she now models in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness for type 1 diabetes and support D-Camps, hoping her story inspires others and helps send more kids to camp.



LILAH FLISFEDER

Lilah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just one year old, and one of her biggest challenges is waking up at night to treat low blood sugar. She wishes more people understood that type 1 diabetes isn't caused by eating too much sugar. Despite the ups and downs, Lilah encourages others that managing diabetes becomes part of life, and she finds strength and joy in her community—especially at Camp Huronda in Ontario, where everyone understands what she's going through. Passionate about art and design with dreams of singing and traveling the world, Lilah refuses to let diabetes hold her back. Participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show allows her to share her story and connect with others living with diabetes, proudly embracing the motto: "Type 1 Diabetes is the new fashion trend!"

ANNALYNNE SMITH

Annalynne was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes just before Halloween in 2019 at the age of 8, a frightening time when she feared losing the joys of childhood like trick-or-treating. With the help of her first nurse, Betty, she and her family learned to manage the condition through blood sugar monitoring and insulin injections. Despite the challenges—including mood swings, nighttime lows, and the emotional toll—Annalynne remains active and creative, enjoying arts and crafts, video games, sports, and playing the saxophone. Though shy at first, she easily makes friends and wants others to know that sugar didn't cause her diabetes. Attending D-Camps at Camp Briardale has boosted her confidence and connected her with peers facing similar challenges. One of her proudest achievements is learning to give herself insulin shots, and she dreams of becoming a fashion designer or an endocrinologist. Japan, especially the Aokigahara Forest and cherry blossoms, tops her travel wish list.





MONICA WHITE

Monica, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1990, has faced numerous health challenges with remarkable resilience, including a kidney transplant, Charcot foot, and diabetic complications. Supported by her loving husband Dean, family, and a strong community, she has embraced life with determination and grace. Monica finds strength in connection, encourages others to seek support, and believes managing diabetes becomes easier over time. Her passion for travel, animals, and advocacy shines through her participation in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, where she proudly represents the type 1 community. Her journey is a powerful testament to perseverance, growth, and the importance of living fully despite adversity.

MAEVE HYNDMAN

Maeve was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 5 in January 2019, but thanks to her mom's quick action, she avoided becoming seriously ill. Although the diagnosis forced her to mature quickly, Maeve has never let it stop her from doing what she loves—playing soccer, crafting, and being a dedicated AA hockey goalie. Managing diabetes during games is tough, especially when others don't understand her needs, but moments like receiving a hockey stick from Max Domi inspire her to keep going. Her diabetes device gives her more freedom, allowing her parents to monitor her blood sugar remotely. Maeve is passionate about raising awareness, attending Diabetes Camp annually, and now modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to help send more kids to camp. She encourages others not to give up, dreams of becoming a PWHL goalie or sports commentator, and hopes to one day meet Max Domi in Toronto—proving every day that diabetes won't hold her back.





REESE NORMAND

Reese was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10, prompting her whole family to quickly learn about nutrition and carbohydrate management. Despite the challenges, including managing her blood sugar during intense dance practices and competitions, she continues to thrive through hobbies like reading, baking, dancing, and thrifting. A former gymnast who broke her back at age 6, Reese now uses diabetes devices to reduce finger pokes, though they require frequent changes. She wishes more people understood the difference between type 1 and type 2 diabetes and encourages newly diagnosed individuals that it gets easier. Proud of her academic and dance achievements, Reese is also modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and connect with the diabetes community.



CALGARY MODEL SPOTLIGHT



MARK CARDINALE

Life threw Mark a curveball when he was 44 years old and diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. As someone who does shiftwork and has a busy family life, the condition has impacted his health, resulting in highs, lows and a constant blood sugar rollercoaster.

Amidst all the ups and downs, Mark and his Family found a groove. A grandfather of three, Mark had to explain the little ones "why grandpa can't munch on everything". He and his wife also began a more active lifestyle.

MATTHEW BEAUCHAMP

Matthew, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 20 months old, has lived his entire life managing the condition. Growing up, he faced unique challenges that set him apart from his peers, but modern diabetes technology has significantly improved his quality of life. As an adult and parent, he balances the constant demands of diabetes management with family responsibilities, often feeling the mental strain of this "full-time job." Matthew emphasizes the profound impact diabetes has on mental health and encourages others to seek support and celebrate small victories. He actively raises awareness through events like the Pump Couture Fashion Show and cherishes his role in nurturing his emotionally aware children.



JAMIE CLEGHORN



Diagnosed with diabetes at three, Jamie learned to manage his condition at D-Camps, where he found a supportive environment. An active child, he faced challenges but developed self-management skills through camp activities. Jamie and his friend fundraised over \$400,000 to send kids to camp. Now, he's modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and help more kids experience the community and confidence he gained.

Jamie is one of many Cross-Canada models, having participated in the shows in Toronto for the past 3 years!

LARS STEVENSON

Lars was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was 14 years old. While there were suspicions beforehand, it took a trip to the Starship Auckland Children's Hospital to confirm.

Years later, Lars moved from New Zealand to Canada, and became a Canadian Citizen. He considers this to be the highlight of his life. He is excited to be modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to help raise awareness.

He also knows that there's unfortunately still a lot of stigma that surrounds diabetes and thinks the show is one way to help educate people.





CHEYENNE TRINH

Cheyenne grew up in the Philippines which caused some additional challenges living with type 1 diabetes. New to advocacy, she aims to empower others with her journey. Inspired by dogs', joyful nature and Caitlin Clark's fearless spirit, Cheyenne embraces life with energy and determination, believing in breaking barriers and shining brightly through every challenge. She is excited to participate in Calgary's Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise funds for D-Camps, where kids with diabetes can build confidence and find community.

CANDACE PICHONSKY

Candace was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1978 when she was in grade 3, making it a unique and challenging experience as the only one in her family with the condition. Managing diabetes back then meant adhering to a strict diet, taking one shot a day with an insulin syringe, and using urine specimens for home testing. One of her biggest challenges is that diabetes is an 'invisible' disease, which can be exhausting and anxiety-inducing. She advises newly diagnosed individuals that while it's hard, there will be good days ahead.





AMELIA DINEL

Amelia was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 3, which drastically changed her family's life as they learned to manage her condition through carb counting, regular blood sugar checks, and a balanced diet. Despite the challenges, Amelia enjoys activities like ballet, gymnastics, soccer, and swimming, though her mom worries about her feeling isolated. Her mom emphasizes that diabetes doesn't prevent Amelia from living a normal life and highlights the supportive community available. Amelia's bravery and independence shine through as she dreams of becoming a doctor and loves Palm Springs. Her family is committed to raising awareness and funds for diabetes support.

NICKI MANNING

Nicki, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 9, emphasizes the need for greater attention to mental health in diabetes. Despite daily struggles with fluctuating blood glucose levels and the emotional toll, she leads a full life, working in a chronic disease clinic, raising two kids, and staying active. Nicki highlights that diabetes isn't a death sentence and stresses the importance of hearing from those living with the condition. She faces sleep challenges due to her condition but believes in smart planning and management. Modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she aims to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, hoping her story inspires others and supports more children with diabetes.



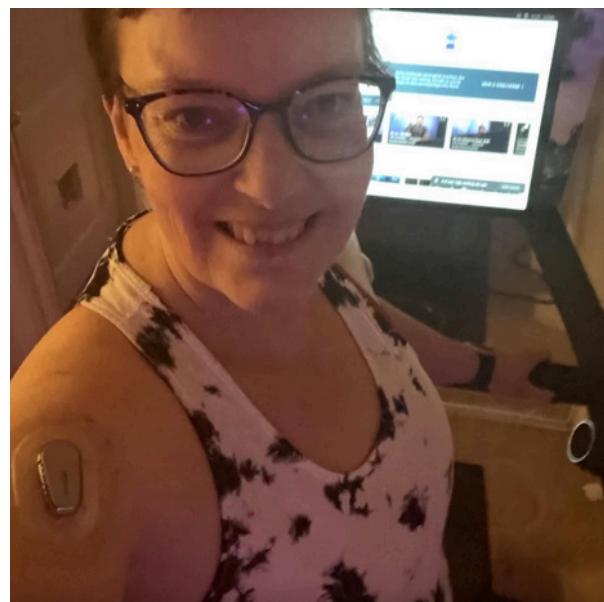


ASHLEY FULLER

Ashley was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on September 23, 2024, which turned her life upside down. With the support of her fiancé and kids, she has navigated the challenges of managing her condition, including overcoming her fear of injections. Ashley enjoys outdoor activities with her family, baking, and playing video games. A self-proclaimed geek, she excels in Harry Potter and Game of Thrones trivia and loves Dungeons & Dragons. Modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she aims to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, hoping to end the stigma around diabetes and bring awareness to its symptoms. She plans to travel to Mexico in the spring, confident with her fiancé's support.

LISA HART

Lisa and her daughter Megan were both diagnosed with type 1 diabetes 20 years ago, just two days apart, a unique and stressful situation that became a blessing as they had each other for support. Lisa loves to travel, spend time with family, work out, and tend to her plants. Managing diabetes 24/7 is challenging, especially while caring for a child with diabetes, leading to years of little sleep. Lisa enjoys learning languages and is currently working on Mandarin and Spanish. She emphasizes that many factors affect blood sugar, including mental health, activity levels, illness, and hormones. Lisa advises reaching out to others on the same journey for support. She wants to help kids attend diabetes camp and raise awareness about living well with diabetes, having seen the positive impact on Megan's confidence and friendships.





MEGAN HART

Megan was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2005, and just two days later, her mom Lisa was also diagnosed, changing their family's life. Megan is grateful to have her mom by her side, encouraging her independence in managing diabetes. In her spare time, Megan loves to rest and recharge with a good book and a warm drink. Managing diabetes takes a toll on her mental health and consumes energy and time. Proud to be a Girl Guide leader, Megan believes diabetes is not something to be ashamed of. Using a pump has given her freedom in what she eats and how she exercises. D-Camps have significantly impacted Megan's life, making her a more confident person with type 1 diabetes.

KRISTINE KLUKAS

Kristine was diagnosed with diabetes in 1982 while in university. She faces challenges like lack of flexibility in activities, constant ups and downs, and no escape from the disease. Fortunately, she hasn't had serious side effects but is more susceptible to illness and fatigue. Kristine is very determined and wants people to understand the constant vigilance required to manage diabetes. Wearing diabetes devices has positively affected her life, making blood sugar levels more regulated, though she dislikes having something attached to her. Kristine advises newly diagnosed individuals to seek support from groups, online resources, and caring people. Modeling in Pump Couture, she aims to raise awareness and show that those with diabetes are not alone.



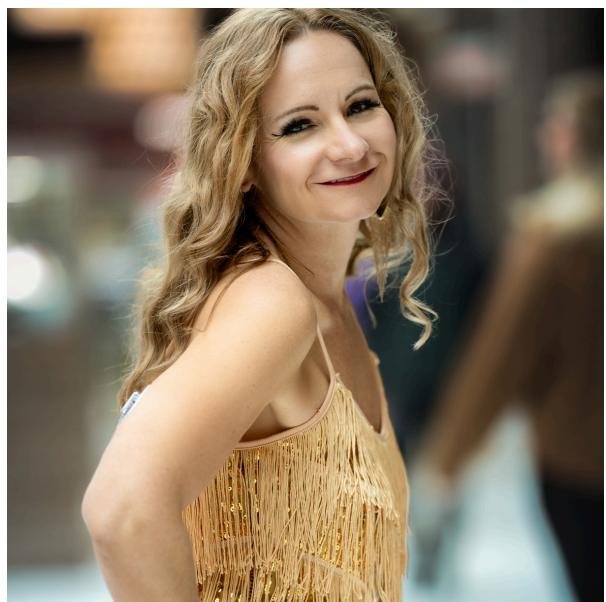


KELSEY MORROW

Kelsey was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 15 and initially struggled with the extra steps required to manage her condition. Dating someone who became paralyzed for five years gave her perspective, motivating her to take better care of herself. She wishes people understood and took diabetes more seriously, as managing it means counteracting everything she eats with medication multiple times a day. The convenience of checking her blood sugar with her phone has been a game changer, though she wishes the devices were less noticeable. Kelsey believes this event is a fantastic way to educate people and meet others with diabetes, emphasizing that an illness does not define her. Despite challenges like spending time in the ICU during a trip to Cancun due to DKA, she strives to be happy and financially free.

DAWNELLE SALANT

Dawnelle was 25 and teaching in England when she began experiencing symptoms of Type 1 Diabetes, including unquenchable thirst, dramatic eyesight changes, and rapid weight loss. Diagnosed on her Grandma's birthday, her mother flew over to be with her. Dawnelle loves photography, travel, reading, hiking, and swimming, but finds managing her blood sugars challenging while traveling. Proud of her devices, she wants to raise awareness and funds, believing there should be diabetes camps for adults too. To celebrate her 50th birthday, Dawnelle traveled to Iceland for a photography tour, facing unique challenges for her blood sugar management due to constant daylight. Despite running higher than she liked, she enjoyed the experience, even though it included her most expensive low—a \$10 Pepsi!



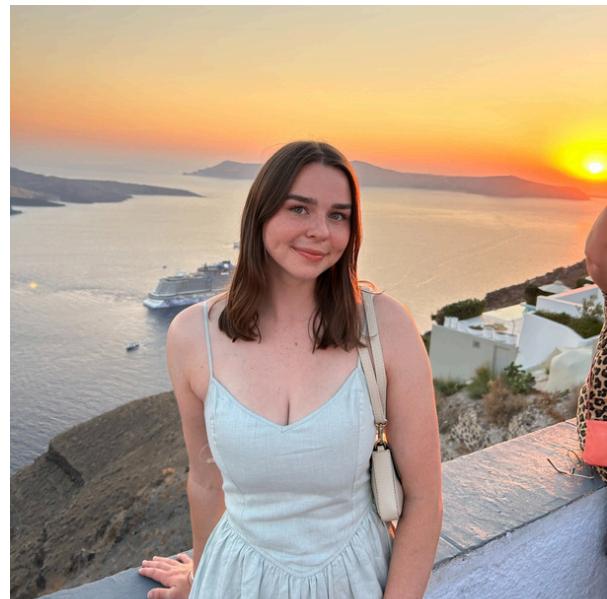


JACI PETERSON

Jaci was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 5 1/2, recognized by her aunty when she was close to DKA. Her younger years were a rollercoaster, adjusting to diabetes amidst financial struggles due to her ill mother. Jaci faces challenges like an enlarged liver and three eye surgeries due to high glucose levels. She wants people to know diabetes affects each person differently and wishes there was more knowledge about the differences between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Wearing a diabetes device has given her better control of her blood sugars, which has been a huge relief. Despite her tough exterior, Jaci is a closet Manga nerd, surprising many who see her in skate shoes, comfy clothes, or cowboy boots.

ALYSSA COULTER

Alyssa was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 18 months old, presenting a challenge for her parents to manage her condition. She started using an insulin pump at three and spent much of her childhood at D-Camps, eventually becoming a camp counsellor. After modeling in the Toronto Show for three years, Alyssa is excited to step on the runway in Calgary. She and her fiancé Jamie, whom she met at D-Camps, recently moved to Alberta, where Alyssa is finishing her first year of teacher's college. They love the outdoors, enjoying backpacking, skiing, and looking forward to backcountry camping this summer. Alyssa credits D-Camps for providing her with survival skills and the confidence to manage diabetes in the wilderness.



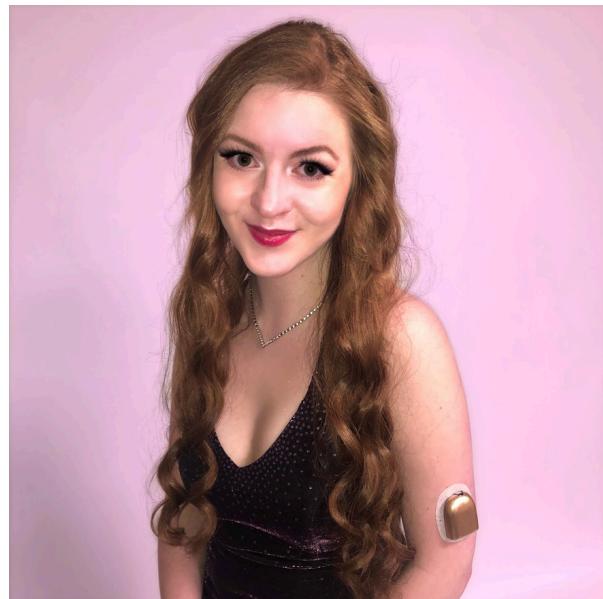


SHAYDA YAZDANMEHR

Shayda, diagnosed with type 1 Diabetes at 15, faced significant challenges growing up in Yellowknife with limited resources. She dropped out of high school due to illness and struggled with mental health issues, including diabulimia and substance abuse. Despite isolation and a lack of support, her parents were a crucial help. Advanced diabetes technology has improved her management, allowing her to enjoy life more. Shayda encourages others with diabetes to seek online resources and be accepting of themselves, emphasizing that thriving with diabetes is possible. She enjoys hiking, singing, dancing, cooking, skiing, and spending time with loved ones.

BROOKLYN RHEAD

Brooklyn was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 17, a surprise that she and her family faced with determination. Refusing to let the condition define her, she pursued a nursing career, showcasing her resilience and strength. With the support of her family and a friend living with T1D, Brooklyn has continued to break barriers, push limits, and challenge the stigma surrounding diabetes. She is now modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, not just to be on the runway, but to use this platform to raise awareness and change the conversation about diabetes. Her journey is a testament to her perseverance and advocacy, inspiring others to see beyond the condition and recognize the potential within.





NAYLAH SMITH

Naylah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 8, shortly after moving from Ontario to Alberta. Initially thought to be homesick, her symptoms worsened until a hospital visit revealed her high blood glucose level. Living with a single mother on one income, Naylah faced many challenges and took on the responsibility of managing her diabetes herself. She works hard to keep her blood glucose levels down and wishes people understood that managing diabetes isn't easy. Thanks to her diabetes devices, Naylah's blood sugar is mostly normal now. She wants to tell those newly diagnosed that it gets better and they are not alone. Naylah loves attending D-Camp, playing volleyball, video games, doing hair and makeup, and spending time with friends.

AMY DIBB

Amy was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 7, a moment that changed her family's life forever. Despite needing 24/7 care, she stays active with sports like basketball, biking, skiing, and swimming, and enjoys crafting and playing with her sister. Managing diabetes can be challenging, especially with the extra time it takes and misunderstandings from others. Traveling is hard, but Amy's outgoing nature helps her overcome these obstacles. She believes diabetes doesn't stop you, though site changes and device malfunctions can be frustrating. Amy stays positive and is passionate about raising awareness and having fun, loving D-Camps and connecting with others with type 1 diabetes. Despite finding airport security invasive during her recent trip to Hawaii, Amy remains enthusiastic and determined, living her life to the fullest.





RINA CORNELIUS

"My name is Rina, I'm 50 years young! Let me tell you how my life changed on June 30th, 2015 when I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) as an adult. Facing the Diagnosis: Lying in the hospital bed, the doctor's words hit me hard: "#1, you could have died. #2, it's surprising you didn't slip into a coma. He, like everyone else, was shocked. I was healthy and active, had just finished a 5km run, and was training for a Spartan Race. I pushed through, finishing the race before literally running into the hospital the next day. There, the ER doctor's pronouncement was clear: "YOU HAVE TYPE 1 DIABETES!" The diagnosis came alongside diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), with dangerously high blood glucose, dehydration, and acidic blood. I was fortunate though as the hospital staff was amazing. They educated me on living with T1D and supported me until my blood sugar stabilized."

Nine years later, Rina is managing her diabetes very well, always keeping her medical team proud.

NEVE BUCHANAN AND LILLY

Neve was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 2, which significantly impacted her family as they learned to manage the condition. Despite the challenges, such as dealing with medical devices during sports and travel, Neve enjoys activities like reading, drawing, baking, and karate, and loves planning special events. She wants people to understand that diabetes doesn't define her and that it's possible to live a full life despite the disease. This year, she achieved the milestone of managing her diabetes at school independently and dreams of becoming a singer.

Neve is joined by Lilly who has been there for Neve since the very beginning. They are only 2 weeks apart and live only a block away from each other. Lilly is Neve's emotional support person! Lilly is there through Neve's lows, pod changes, and everything else in life. That is they're walking together today.





REGINA MODEL SPOTLIGHT



DREW WILBY

Drew was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10 in 1993, a time when managing the disease was more challenging due to the lack of advanced technology. This required significant lifestyle changes for him and his family, including multiple daily injections and strict dietary control. Despite the stigma and constant need to educate others, Drew has successfully managed his diabetes and takes pride in being a devoted husband and father to his three boys, with the support of his wife, Brooke. He is excited to participate in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and be a positive role model for his son Blake, who also has type 1 diabetes. Although Drew did not attend D-Camps, he understands their importance through his efforts to support and educate his son.

BLAKE WILBY

Blake was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 14 months old, making it a challenging time for his new parents. His dad, who also has diabetes, has been his biggest support system, though managing the condition at such a young age was still difficult. Blake has never known life without diabetes but has always felt supported by his family. As an avid hockey player, he is proud that his team won the U11 City Championship despite having to manage his diabetes during games. Blake is returning as a model in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and show other kids that diabetes doesn't have to stop them from achieving their goals. Although he has never attended D-Camps, he understands their importance and is excited to help send kids like him to these camps.





JASON DEAN

Jason was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of two in 1976, facing initial misdiagnosis and a near-fatal coma before being stabilized at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg. Despite the challenges, his family managed his condition without advanced technologies, and Jason adapted well until his 40s when he had to relearn how to manage his diabetes. He proudly shares his journey to raise awareness and advocate for self-care, participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and fundraising for D-Camps to support children with diabetes in feeling empowered and connected.

NATALIE BELL

Natalie, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before her 6th birthday, has shown remarkable resilience, helping her family manage the condition better each day. Despite the challenge of maintaining consistent blood glucose levels, she remains active and enjoys coloring and playing with her toys. Natalie emphasizes that diabetes is not caused by poor eating habits and values the peace of mind that constant glucose monitoring provides, though it requires her to keep a phone nearby. She advises others that while diabetes is tough, it becomes easier to manage over time, especially with technology. Excited about raising awareness, she looks forward to participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and attending diabetes camp. Proud of her ability to do her own finger pokes, Natalie dreams of becoming an endocrinologist or scientist to cure diabetes. A memorable trip to Disney World highlighted the challenges of managing diabetes on vacation, but Disney's special fast pass for people with diabetes was a big help.





HARTLEY HALVORSON

Hartley was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of two, a shock to her family with no prior history of the condition. Despite the challenges, Hartley's resilience and positive attitude shone through as she adapted to her new reality. Excited to model in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she aims to raise awareness and celebrate those living with diabetes. Hartley loves swimming, though managing her blood sugar in the pool is tough, she remains undeterred, enjoying activities with confidence and courage. Attending D-Camps, she looks forward to making new friends who understand her journey.

ROBBIE MCLELLAN

Robbie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 25, during a time of significant personal change. Despite the challenges, he adapted to a healthier lifestyle and successfully managed his condition through rigorous discipline, balancing his career and fatherhood. Technological advancements, like monitoring blood sugar levels via his phone, have made diabetes management easier for him. Robbie enjoys sharing his experiences and emphasizes the importance of staying strong and focused. He actively participates in diabetes awareness events, ensuring his condition doesn't hinder his role as a father and partner.





NATHAN GAWLEY

Nathan, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 9, grew up watching his father and grandfather manage the disease, with his mother, a diabetes educator, providing crucial support. Despite his strong support system, Nathan faced challenges, particularly in maintaining consistent blood sugar levels during physical activities. Using an insulin pump and continuous glucose monitor connected to his phone has significantly improved his management, allowing him to stay active as a teacher and coach. Nathan, who values his family above all, is now raising awareness about diabetes and management devices by modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, emphasizing the positive impact of wearable technology on his life.

GEORGE ARCHIBALD

George was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just after his 3rd birthday in March 2021, which was a challenging time for his family, especially his mom, who felt their world was falling apart due to the lack of support and the Covid pandemic. Despite these difficulties, George continues to enjoy activities like coloring, soccer, swimming, and skiing, although he mentions that managing his blood sugar levels is a challenge. Born in Iqaluit, Nunavut, George understands that living with diabetes isn't easy and appreciates the reduced need for needles and finger pokes, though he still has to change his devices frequently. He sees the positive side, enjoying opportunities like Diabetes family camp and sports camp, which encourage him to keep trying and never give up. Proud of his ability to dose himself with insulin, George dreams of becoming a chemical engineer or medical researcher.





JENESSA EXNER

In late March, Jenessa began showing signs of excessive thirst and frequent urination, prompting concern from her parents, especially after recalling similar symptoms in a neighbor's child with type 1 diabetes. Despite initial doubts, they took her for tests, which revealed dangerously high blood sugar levels, leading to an urgent ER visit where she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Fortunately, they caught it early, avoiding a more severe condition called diabetic ketoacidosis. The family spent a week in the hospital learning how to manage her condition, including blood sugar monitoring, insulin administration, and carb counting. Jenessa, a vibrant girl who enjoys musical theatre, dolls, and spending time with friends, now faces challenges like pre-bolusing before meals and missing out on sleepovers. She wants others to understand that type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease unrelated to sugar intake and is passionate about raising awareness, especially after a positive experience at D-Camp. Despite the added complexity of managing diabetes during travel, Jenessa remains hopeful and dreams of becoming a singer.

MATHEW VOSS

Mathew faces significant challenges managing his type 1 diabetes, particularly with maintaining blood sugar levels during activities, schoolwork, and physical exercise. These tasks require extra planning and effort, making everyday activities more time-consuming and frustrating. Despite these difficulties, Mathew is determined to conquer these challenges, focusing on his schoolwork and grades while ensuring his blood sugar remains in range during exams. He emphasizes the importance of planning for meals, activities, and other daily tasks. Mathew encourages others with diabetes to manage their health while enjoying life and seeking support from others. He is passionate about raising awareness and connecting with the diabetes community, finding great value in experiences like camp, where mutual understanding and support are abundant.





CELESTE MATECHUK

Celeste, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 8 during a family vacation in the USA, faced a life-threatening coma that led her parents to rush her to a Canadian hospital for treatment. Despite the challenges of growing up with diabetes and her parents' farming responsibilities, Celeste received crucial diabetes education. She enjoys lake life activities like fishing, boating, and gardening, and now models in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, hoping her story inspires others and supports sending more kids to these camps.

CARLI CAROLAN

Carli was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 31, a surprising development given her family's lack of diabetes history. Despite enjoying 30 years of carefree eating, her diagnosis brought sudden changes and challenges, including feelings of isolation and burnout from managing her condition. Determined not to let diabetes define her, Carli uses diabetes devices to live a normal life, though she finds their beeping annoying. She encourages newly diagnosed individuals to embrace imperfection and not let the disease control them. Carli is proud of her efforts to navigate medical and insurance systems and is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support the diabetes community and advocate for a cure.





MAVERICK BAST

Maverick, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes after showing classic symptoms and a confirmed test, has adapted to his new lifestyle with the support of his family and diabetes technology. Despite the constant management required, including monitoring blood sugar and using an insulin pump, Maverick continues to enjoy his favorite activities like beach weekends and campfires. He raises awareness by modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and cherishes the community he has found through diabetes family camps. Maverick dreams of becoming a YouTuber and recently enjoyed a family trip to Minneapolis, where careful planning ensured diabetes didn't hinder their fun.

EMILY ROWEIN

Emily, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in March 2024, has transformed her lifestyle and her family's routines to manage her condition, which involves constant monitoring and carrying a phone. Despite initial fears of needles, she now administers multiple daily injections and uses advanced devices to track her blood sugar, though they come with challenges. Emily enjoys dancing, outdoor activities, and socializing, and she finds inspiration in events like the Pump Couture Fashion Show and diabetes camp. Proud of her proactive approach to managing diabetes, she aspires to become a dietitian to help others and looks forward to future travels with her family.





ROBERT GAWLEY

Robert, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1962, has managed his condition with the support of a dedicated healthcare team and is grateful for the chance to see his great-grandchildren grow. Despite the challenges of maintaining blood sugar levels, he has found ways to live fully and even let his condition influence his voting. Passionate about raising awareness and funds to end diabetes, Robert participates in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and was named National Volunteer of the Year in 2016. He cherishes annual family trips to Alberta, where they gather at his grandson's farm, and hopes his story will inspire others and support D-Camps for children with diabetes.

LINDSAY MUNOZ

Lindsay's journey with diabetes began at age 20 with a misdiagnosis of type 2 diabetes, leading to a correct diagnosis of type 1 diabetes after spending Christmas Eve in the hospital. With foundational knowledge from her father, who also has type 1 diabetes, Lindsay educated herself further on managing her condition. She became an advocate for wearable diabetes technology, participating in events like Pump Couture to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, which provide supportive environments for children with diabetes. Despite daily challenges, Lindsay finds her life simplified by diabetes devices and proudly maintains healthy pregnancies as a mother of four. Her resilience and advocacy inspire others, showing that with the right tools and support, individuals with diabetes can lead fulfilling lives.



GRACE ABOOD



Grace, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 7 on October 17, 2023, has faced a year of learning and adjustments. Despite the challenges of managing her blood sugar levels, Grace enjoys traveling, creating art, and practicing gymnastics. She wants others to know that life with diabetes can be fun and fulfilling, just with some adjustments. Her diabetes device has made eating more flexible, and she can sleep in on weekends. Grace advises that it gets easier with time and had a great experience at the Pump Couture Fashion Show, where she is booked again this year. With a positive attitude and dreams of becoming an artist, Grace's family is planning a trip to Guatemala in March to celebrate her birthday, ensuring they pack extra supplies for the journey.

KARLEE DOREY

Karlee was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 6, which significantly impacted her family as they adjusted to a new routine involving needles, blood tests, and doctor appointments. Despite the challenges of managing her diabetes, especially during sports, Karlee enjoys activities like soccer, swimming, reading, and painting. She emphasizes that diabetes remains unpredictable even after 14 years, though medical devices help manage it. Karlee advises seeking support and values her advocacy work and experiences at D-Camps, which fostered her independence. A university student aspiring to be a teacher, she hopes to travel Europe, mindful of her diabetes management needs.





RAFAEL MEAD-JIMENEZ

Rafael was diagnosed with diabetes in September 2015, which brought significant changes and challenges to his life and his family's. Despite the initial fear and pain from needles, Rafael has found positive aspects in managing his condition, such as improved flexibility with eating times and better blood glucose control. He emphasizes patience and kindness, advocating for greater awareness and understanding of diabetes. Rafael's experience has boosted his confidence and sense of community, inspiring him to raise awareness through modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show and supporting D-Camps. Aspiring to be a pilot or lawyer, Rafael remains undeterred by the challenges of traveling with diabetes items, hoping his story will inspire others.

SOPHIA HIRSCHFIELD

Sophia, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in November 2021, initially struggled with managing her condition but has since gained confidence through the use of diabetes devices. Despite facing stigma and daily challenges, she enjoys reading, drawing, baking, and playing competitive rugby. Sophia advocates for diabetes awareness, participating in events like the Pump Couture Fashion Show and attending diabetes camp, where she feels accepted and understood. One of her proudest moments was attending Breakthrough T1D's Kids for a Cure in Ottawa, where she shared her story with MPs and senators. Sophia aspires to study psychology, driven by her interest in how the brain works and processes emotions.



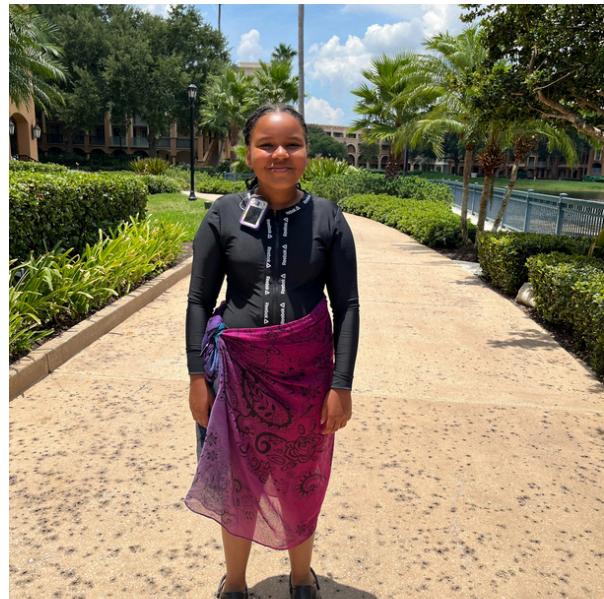
AMIRAH N.



DELVEEN SLAEMAN

Delveen was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on August 10, 2022, which was initially a challenging and emotional experience for her and her mom. Over time, she adapted and found joy in activities like listening to music, singing, reading, boxing, drawing, and watching movies. Despite the additional challenges of ADHD and ODD, Delveen manages her diabetes with the help of her devices, which simplify carb calculations and insulin management. She is passionate about raising awareness for diabetes, values the independence she has gained, and dreams of becoming a singer or actress. One of her proudest moments was successfully managing her diabetes while attending a Taylor Swift concert in Vancouver. Delveen encourages others to grieve as needed and assures them that it gets easier with time.

Amirah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 7, a life-changing moment for both her and her mom. Terrified of needles, she endured nearly 5,000 insulin injections before receiving a diabetes device that now delivers insulin continuously. One of her biggest challenges is managing blood sugar overnight, often leaving her tired at school. Despite the difficulties, Amirah has gained independence and confidence, especially after attending D-Camps, where she learned to give herself injections. She participates in events like the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and support for others with type 1 diabetes, emphasizing that it's an autoimmune condition—not caused by sugar. Amirah hopes her story inspires others and helps more kids attend D-Camps.



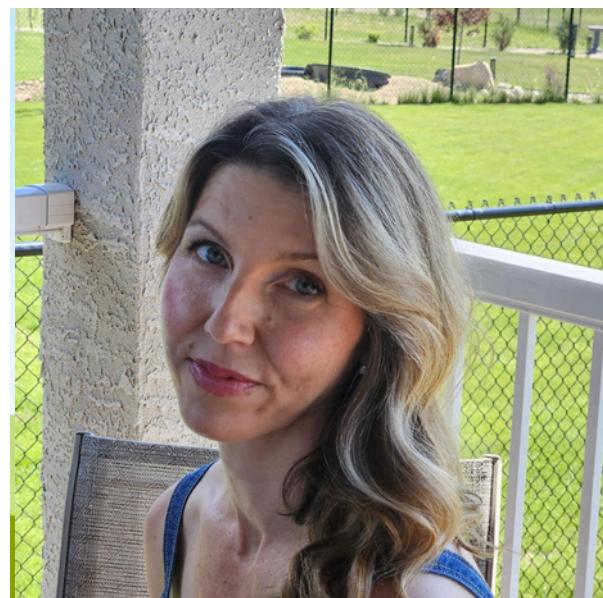
JAYME AST



Jayme, diagnosed with diabetes at 14, has had unwavering support from her family, especially her mother, who volunteered in a diabetes group. This support network helped Jayme understand the emotional and physical impacts of fluctuating blood sugars, emphasizing the need for understanding over judgment. Diabetes devices have been vital for her, though they pose challenges due to her active lifestyle. Jayme encourages newly diagnosed individuals to stay positive, turn weaknesses into strengths, and live fully by managing their condition proactively. Celebrating 30 years with diabetes, she is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise funds for diabetes youth camps.

EMMA WEINBERGER

Emma, diagnosed with diabetes at 38 in 2024, initially recognized her symptoms due to her background as a nurse and having a parent with Type 1 diabetes. Despite an initial diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes, she continued to advocate for herself, leading to a correct diagnosis eight months later. Supported by her husband and two kids, Emma has adopted a healthier lifestyle, though she struggles with giving up favorite foods and wishes people understood that diabetes does not discriminate. Diabetes devices have positively impacted her life, despite occasional inconveniences. Emma advises others to stay motivated and seek support, focusing on good days. She is proud to model in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, supporting kids with diabetes, and hopes her story inspires others to live their best life.



ELENA BEISEL



Elena was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 6 on Christmas Day, spending five days in the hospital during a difficult time for her family. Since then, she has shown impressive independence, managing her own insulin dosing with the help of diabetes devices and taking pride in counting her own carbs. This summer, she looks forward to attending her first kids camp. Creative and full of life, Elena dreams of becoming an artist and enjoys playing piano, drawing, reading, skiing, dancing, and expressing herself through art.

ELYSSA STEPAN

Elyssa was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 8 in 2003, and with the strong support of her parents, she maintained a joyful childhood despite the condition. As she grew older and took on her own diabetes management, she struggled with guilt, self-worth, and hypo-anxiety due to past hypoglycemic seizures, which led her to keep her blood sugars high as a safety measure. Over time, Elyssa learned not to let diabetes define her and now thrives both personally and professionally as a registered nurse and Diabetes Educator. She emphasizes that diabetes is a complex, full-time condition influenced by many factors beyond medication, and she encourages others not to strive for perfection but to take it one day at a time. Elyssa is proud of overcoming her anxiety through therapy and community support, and she now enjoys traveling and living life fully, grateful for the medical devices that help her manage her condition.



CLARA LAYFIELD



LEEZA PICARD

Leeza was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 13 months old in July 1999, after an initial misdiagnosis of an ear infection. Thanks to her father's persistence and family experience with diabetes, she received the correct diagnosis and care. Now living with diabetes for nearly 26 years, Leeza continues to learn and grow in her journey, passionately advocating for awareness and fundraising to support D-Camps, where she gained independence and lifelong friendships. One of her proudest accomplishments is having a healthy daughter, and despite the challenges of managing diabetes, she has traveled to Europe and dreams of more adventures with her family.

Clara was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10 on July 12, 2016, after becoming severely ill with diabetic ketoacidosis and spending several nights in the ICU. The diagnosis turned her life upside down, leaving her and her family feeling overwhelmed and confused. Living with diabetes—and 13 other chronic illnesses—has been challenging, especially dealing with burnout, feeling different, and being the only student with diabetes at her school. Despite these struggles, Clara has grown more confident and improved her diabetes management, thanks in part to helpful devices. She wants others to know that type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease and not something she caused. Clara is passionate about raising awareness and fundraising for D-Camps, encouraging others that while the journey is tough, it does get better with time and support.





HALIFAX MODEL SPOTLIGHT



CIARA STEVENS

Ciara, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1998, has faced numerous challenges, including stigma within the diabetes community. She advocates for eliminating shame and blame, emphasizing unity among those with type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Inspired by her late father, Ciara promotes understanding that type 2 diabetes is not caused by poor decisions. She values community and connection, aiming to change misconceptions about diabetes. Attending diabetes camp empowered her to embrace challenges, and she now works to reduce stigma in healthcare. Despite the extra planning required, Ciara found her recent biking and boating tour in Croatia incredibly rewarding.

JULI MACHATTIE

Juli, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1989, has faced significant challenges and stigma throughout her life, including misinformation and denial of disability tax credits. Despite these hurdles, she has managed her condition with modern devices and emphasizes the importance of awareness, community support, and fundraising. Juli enjoys crafting, home renovations, and spending time with her family. She also participates in events like the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and support for others with type 1 diabetes, demonstrating that a fulfilling life is possible with proper medical interventions.





MURIELLE DIETRICH

Murielle, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 39 after an initial misdiagnosis, faces challenges managing her condition due to her sensitivity to insulin. Despite the struggles of adjusting her diet and lifestyle, she enjoys activities like reading, knitting, and fitness. She emphasizes that diabetes is not caused by sugar intake and highlights the importance of self-education, medication, and support. Murielle believes in living a happy, healthy life by managing blood sugar daily. She participates in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, combat stigma, and support fundraising for children with diabetes to attend camp.

KELSEY DEMPSEY

Kelsey was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 9, and her family's support was crucial in managing her condition. Despite the challenges, she leads an active lifestyle, loves cooking, and enjoys outdoor activities with her dogs. Living sober for over two years, she finds diabetes management mentally exhausting due to various factors affecting her blood glucose levels. Kelsey values connecting with others who have diabetes to combat isolation and aims to raise awareness after experiencing burnout. D-Camps significantly impacted her life, helping her feel less alone. Proud of her achievements, she completed her first half marathon and now aims for a full marathon, proving doubters wrong.



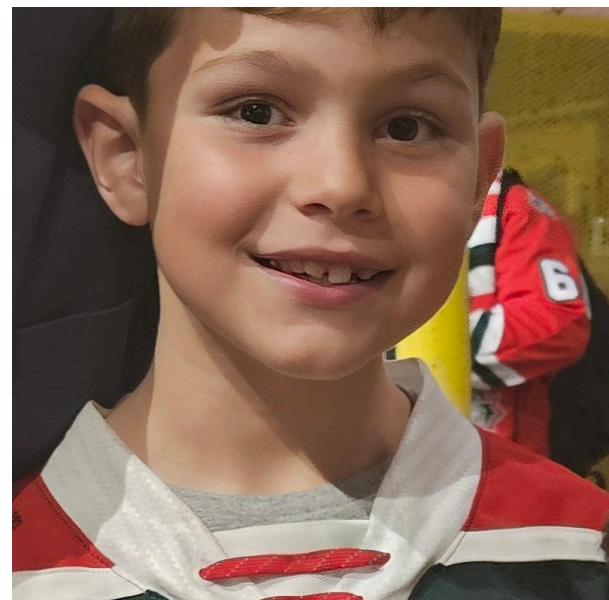
AIDEN WESSEL



Aiden's diagnosis at age three significantly impacted his family's life, leading his mom to become a stay-at-home parent. He struggles with carb counting and monitoring his numbers, limiting his freedom and making school lunches challenging. As an avid athlete, Aiden worries about damaging his device during sports, which affects his performance. Despite these challenges, he is learning to manage his diabetes independently, with D-Camps playing a crucial role in his journey.

PETER MCCARTHY

Peter's life was transformed when he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at 40. Despite the unpredictable nature of the disease, he has successfully managed his condition with a diabetes device, significantly lowering his A1C levels. Peter advocates for education and support, emphasizing that asking for help is a strength. He is dedicated to raising awareness and funds, recently participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support D-Camps. His story of resilience and meticulous diabetes management, including during his recent eye surgery, serves as an inspiration to others.





HUNTER KEDDY

Hunter, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 3, often feels excluded from activities with friends due to their discomfort in managing his condition. Despite these challenges, he finds joy in music and hockey, dreams of being a drummer, hockey player, or boxer, and values diabetes education. Hunter loves camp for the camaraderie with others who share his struggles. He is raising awareness and funds by modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, showing that he can still enjoy sports and fun. Hunter aspires to be a paramedic and dreams of visiting Prince Edward Island. Support his fundraising efforts and stay updated on his journey.

CHARLEE BUTLER

Charlee was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before her 5th birthday in 2021, which significantly impacted her and her family's lives. Despite initial challenges, Charlee has adapted and proudly calls herself a "tough sugar-free cookie." She enjoys gymnastics, reading, making bracelets, and practicing jujitsu. Charlee wants others to know that having a low blood sugar doesn't mean she's in danger; she just needs some candy to feel better. Her experience at Camp Maxwell made her feel understood and included among other kids with diabetes. Charlee dreams of becoming a teacher and recently had an exciting trip to Toronto to see Taylor Swift, which caused her blood sugar to spike due to the excitement.





NORA CLARK

Nora was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in January 2023, which required her and her family to adapt their daily routines to manage her condition. Despite challenges like fluctuating blood sugar levels affecting her focus, Nora enjoys playing hockey, applying make-up, styling her hair, and playing with her dogs. She faces misunderstandings from classmates but finds support in her diabetes community. Nora loves fashion and celebrates her "diaversary" and fashion show events. A highlight for her was winning the Esso medal for "Most Dedicated" hockey player, with her name displayed in the Hockey Hall of Fame. She dreams of becoming a professional hockey player and cherished meeting her idol, Max Domi, in March 2024.

LILY MACLEAN

Lily was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on June 5, 2023, but it was caught early before she developed Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA). The diagnosis affected her family differently: Lily faced it with determination, her sister Bridget initially struggled but became supportive, and her mom worried about managing Lily's blood glucose levels. Over time, the family adapted their lifestyle to manage diabetes, becoming more active and mindful of their diet. Lily became an advocate for diabetes awareness, participating in activities like ringette, camping, and kayaking, and raising awareness through her involvement with D-Camps, aiming to help other kids enjoy a normal childhood experience.





AALIYAH COOK

Aaliyah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 7. Since then, she has been deeply involved in awareness and advocacy work. Aaliyah wishes people understood that diabetes is not caused by eating habits and that she can still enjoy sugar. Wearing a device makes her an identifiable individual with diabetes, which has created many teaching and learning opportunities. As a rugby and taekwondo coach, she works closely with different groups, especially younger children.

SILVIE MAHONEY

Silvie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 7, which initially devastated her and her family. Her first visit to D-Camp four months later helped her accept her condition. Despite her resilience, Silvie sometimes struggles with feeling different due to her diabetes devices and the constant need to manage her diet. As a competitive cheerleader, she faces additional challenges but takes pride in her growing independence. Participating in the Pump Couture event brings her joy, allowing her to fundraise for D-Camp, educate others about diabetes, and connect with fellow diabetics, fostering a sense of community and support.





LAUREL SAJKO

Laurel, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 4, found support and understanding through Diabetes Canada and D-Camps. These camps not only helped her manage her condition but also led to lifelong friendships. Now, Laurel is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, which provide inclusive, supportive environments for children with diabetes. These camps offer various activities and 24/7 medical care, ensuring all children can attend regardless of financial circumstances. Laurel's goal is to give more kids the life-changing experiences she had.

DEBBIE SAVARD

Debbie, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes 18 years ago, quickly learned that managing the condition is a 24/7 commitment. Despite the challenges, she enjoys watching her daughter play hockey and spending time with her family on Prince Edward Island. Debbie emphasizes that diabetes is not a joke and wears her condition as a badge of honor, often receiving supportive gestures from others with diabetes. Frustrated by misinformation, she encourages acceptance of love and support. Now, she is actively fundraising and raising awareness to end the stigma, inspired by the support of her family. Debbie is also modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support D-Camps and hopes her story will inspire others.





KAYLEN LYITLE

Kaylen was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10, experiencing symptoms like frequent urination, dry mouth, and weight loss. Despite the initial shock and adjustment, she embraced learning about her condition and educating her classmates. Her best friend, Laurel, whom she met at D-Camps, shares her love for reading and physical activities like basketball and pickleball. Kaylen finds managing diabetes challenging due to its unpredictability but accepts it as part of life. She enjoys baking, though it requires careful insulin management. Kaylen wishes people understood that type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease, not caused by diet. Visible diabetes devices help her connect with others, though their noises can be awkward. She encourages newly diagnosed individuals to embrace the supportive community and models to raise awareness and reduce stigma. Camp experiences have been pivotal in her growth and independence.

GRETA ROHDE-STERLING

Greta, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 3, praises Pump Couture for their support to the diabetes community. Transitioning from injections to a diabetes device greatly improved her and her family's quality of life. An active athlete, Greta finds managing diabetes challenging but feels less pressured with her device, despite occasional issues during sports. She emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between type 1 and type 2 diabetes and advises newly diagnosed individuals to seek supportive communities, sharing how D-Camp provided her with invaluable support and lifelong friends.



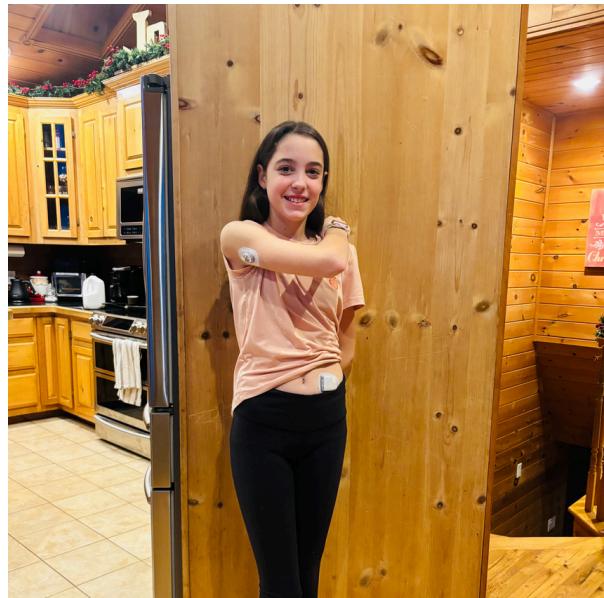
ELLIE RHYNO



MOLLY MACEACHERN

Molly was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 14, a condition she identified herself. With the support of her family, especially her dad who has type 2 diabetes, she adjusted to her new lifestyle. Molly enjoys various activities like walking her dogs, sewing, and attending live music shows. Despite struggling with diabetes management initially, she found it led to lifelong friendships and opportunities. Molly advocates for people with diabetes and supports D-Camps, a program she believes is crucial for peer support and practical diabetes management. She is proud of her work with D-Camps and hopes to continue for years. Her first solo travel experience to Spain taught her the importance of being prepared, especially regarding her insulin.

Ellie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on February 9, 2023, which initially made her more reserved. However, attending D-Camp helped her become more outgoing and provided one of the best experiences of her life. She loves playing volleyball and spending time with friends, though managing her blood sugar levels in public can be challenging. Ellie attended Camp Maxwell, where she felt included and understood, and now wants to fundraise to send more kids to camp. Proud of her diabetes management, Ellie aspires to become an endocrinologist and dreams of traveling to California.





MAYA THOMPSON

Maya, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2015, faces challenges like managing insulin for every gram of carbs she eats and dealing with dyslexia and dysgraphia. Despite these hurdles, she enjoys sports, cheerleading, and spending time with loved ones. Maya is determined to support other kids with diabetes, attending D-Camps to connect with peers and gain independence. She proudly educated her school's staff about diabetes and dreams of becoming a singer or actor. Modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Maya aims to raise awareness and funds for D-Camps, inspiring others with her story.

ANTHONY CRAIG

Anthony was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before his 10th birthday in March 2021, which was a significant shock for him and his family. Despite the challenges, he remains an active teenager who enjoys sports, outdoor activities, and building things. D-Camp has been a crucial part of his life since his diagnosis, providing a supportive environment where he feels understood. Anthony is determined not to let diabetes slow him down, participating in various sports and planning a future in woodworking or physical education. He is also involved in raising awareness and funds for D-Camps through the Pump Couture Fashion Show, hoping to inspire others and support more kids with diabetes.

