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TORONTO MODEL SPOTLIGHT

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MELISSA SCALZO

Melissa was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age four and learned early how to manage a complex condition while growing up faster than most. With strong support from her family, care team, and diabetes technology, she built confidence, resilience, and independence. Living with diabetes shaped her passion for advocacy and addressing stigma, ultimately guiding her into a career as a Registered Dietitian. She believes diabetes does not define a person and that no one should face it alone.

CLAIRE BROADBENT

Claire first became sick and extremely thirsty at summer camp before being rushed to SickKids and diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Though she was scared at first, the support of her family and her grandfather, who also has type 1 diabetes, helped her adjust. Living with diabetes means constant planning around blood sugars and technology, but it has made Claire organized and confident. She loves penguins, dreams of becoming a penguin researcher, and believes that with support and encouragement, you've got this.



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SUKI KAUR

Suki was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in India at age 13, a challenging time that required her to grow up quickly. Managing diabetes means carrying a constant, often invisible workload, but it has shaped her resilience, self-awareness, and compassion. Her lived experience led her into healthcare, where she now supports and advocates for others. She believes diabetes does not define a person and that understanding and support matter most.

JOANNA NICHOLSON

Joanna was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age twelve, a life-changing moment that forced her to grow up quickly and live without "autopilot." Managing diabetes is a constant, often invisible workload that requires balance, patience, and self-compassion, especially alongside motherhood and a demanding career. Diabetes shaped her into someone disciplined, empathetic, and deeply in tune with her body. Today, she is a mom of two, works in communications, teaches Pilates, advocates for the T1D community, and believes that with support and grace, it is possible to live fully and with confidence.



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KYLEE ELTERVOOG

Kylee was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age eleven in July 2022, a frightening but early diagnosis that allowed her and her family to learn and adapt together. Managing diabetes alongside school, friendships, and sports requires constant planning, but it has made her responsible, resilient, and confident. She is passionate about advocacy, using her voice to normalize diabetes devices and show others that diabetes does not limit what they can achieve. Outside of diabetes, Kylee runs a small business with her sister and leads community initiatives, proving that young people can make a meaningful impact.

BROOKS ROCHE

Brooks was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2001 and has spent nearly 25 years living with its constant mental and emotional demands. While diabetes adds ongoing anxiety and planning, it has also deepened his empathy and strengthened his advocacy. In 2025, he established a scholarship for Prince Edward Island students living with chronic illness, with the first recipient being a fellow T1D. Brooks believes life with diabetes is possible and meaningful, even if it's often more challenging.



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LENAEE DUPUIS

Lenaee was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at two and a half, with one of her earliest memories being that she could no longer have brown sugar on her oatmeal. Over the years, she has faced many misconceptions about diabetes, especially confusion between type 1 and type 2, which she now handles with education and confidence. After living with diabetes for 51 years, Lenaee has grown into a strong, independent, and successful woman who has never let the condition stand in her way. Guided by her father's advice and her own resilience, she believes in living life fully, allowing yourself one day to feel sorry for yourself, and then moving forward boldly.

ISABELLE CARDEN

Isabelle was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age eleven in July 2022 after noticing high blood sugar while helping her grandmother. Catching it early allowed her family to adapt together, and managing diabetes alongside school, celiac disease, and academy volleyball has made her strong and resilient. She is a passionate advocate who works to normalize diabetes devices and show that kids with diabetes can do anything. Outside of diabetes, Isabelle gives back to her community through a small business and local donation initiatives.



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BRIANNE HODSON

Brianne was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1997 at the age of eleven and has spent years turning her experience into advocacy and education. Once hesitant to speak about her condition, she now confidently challenges stigma and works to be a role model for others diagnosed young. Living with diabetes has made her stronger, more organized, and a powerful self-advocate. A proud mom of three, Brianne believes that while type 1 diabetes is hard work, it does not limit a full, meaningful life, and that support, education, and community make all the difference.

BETSY CHENG

Betsy was diagnosed in 2008 and later learned she has type 1.5 diabetes, a discovery that shaped her understanding of herself and her life. Managing diabetes brings a constant mental and emotional load, but she now sees it as a source of strength rather than limitation. She openly shares the real, unfiltered side of life with diabetes to show it doesn't stop adventure or joy. Betsy believes in giving yourself grace and remembering that no one faces diabetes alone.



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MAKENZIE KELLY

Makenzie was diagnosed with diabetes in July 2021, a life-changing moment that brought both visible and unseen challenges, including anxiety and confidence struggles. Over time, managing a chronic condition has helped her grow stronger, more patient, and self-aware as she learns to take each day as it comes. Soccer remains her greatest passion and source of confidence, reminding her that diabetes has not limited her dreams of becoming a professional athlete. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Makenzie hopes to raise awareness and share a powerful message: there is no perfection in managing diabetes—give yourself grace, take it one day at a time, and know you are not alone.

JAYDON-MAE DAUB

Jaydon-Mae was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in June 2024 at age eleven, a challenging experience that helped her grow in confidence. While explaining diabetes can bring anxiety, switching from MDI to a pump has made daily management easier. Living with diabetes has made Jaydon-Mae less afraid of uncertainty, and she pushed past her fears to join her school's volleyball and basketball teams and perform in a play. She wants others to know that it gets better with time and kindness toward yourself matters.



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CHRISTINE MACGIBBON

Christine was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age nine and initially felt overwhelmed and afraid. Diabetes camp helped her gain confidence, learn self-care, and feel less alone. Despite facing serious, often invisible challenges, diabetes has shaped her resilience, empathy, and purpose. Christine now advocates for the diabetes community and encourages others to give themselves grace and ask for help.

RUGIA ABU AL HASSAN

Rugia was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at thirteen, a frightening time that required her to manage a constant mental load. Living without early access to diabetes technology was challenging, but later access transformed her health and quality of life. Diabetes shaped her resilience as a first-generation immigrant and later as a mother. She is now a strong advocate for women with type 1 diabetes, especially around pregnancy and equitable access to insulin pump therapy.



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CHANTELLE VALLEY

Chantelle was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on December 15, 2023, where she began learning to manage a condition she didn't yet understand. Daily life now requires careful planning, especially around school, travel, and activities, and it can be frustrating to sit out when blood sugars go low, particularly during dance. Living with diabetes has made Chantelle strong and resilient, and she continues to thrive as a competitive dancer and gymnast. She hopes to become a pediatrician one day and encourages newly diagnosed kids to know it gets better and to connect with others through diabetes camps and events.

CHLOE POW

Chloe was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes around Halloween, a scary time when she expected to go trick or treating but instead spent the day in the hospital. Low blood sugar can mean sitting out while friends play, and high numbers can make parties feel stressful. Over time, Chloe has learned that diabetes does not control her and she enjoys helping others understand it. She loves dancing, drawing, and making surprise bags for friends, and believes that focusing on support and the good around you makes hard days easier.



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LUKAS AND VICTORIA YERLITZ

Meet Lukas and Victoria—two determined siblings whose love of hockey, swimming, biking, and being active shows that type 1 diabetes doesn't mean living with limits. Lukas was diagnosed suddenly and critically at age seven after a life-threatening DKA emergency, followed months later by open-heart surgery, while Victoria's diagnosis came through early detection, allowing her to avoid crisis and face diabetes with calm confidence. Now 9 and 12, they thrive side by side, supporting and encouraging one another through every challenge and victory. With strong family support, insulin pumps, and unshakable resilience, Lukas and Victoria continue to live full, joyful lives—proving that type 1 diabetes doesn't define them, it reveals their strength.

ALYSSA TANGERINE

Alyssa was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 16, just as she was stepping into independence, after months of unexplained symptoms that made the diagnosis both frightening and life-changing. Now a parent herself, she understands how deeply diabetes affects not only the person diagnosed but their entire family, every single day. Living with diabetes is a 24/7 reality, and Alyssa is passionate about raising awareness, challenging stigma, and highlighting how technology like insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors can transform lives. She is modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to support the diabetes community and help raise funds to send kids to D-Camp—so they can feel supported, understood, and never alone.



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LAURA MILLER

Laura was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 1987 while raising two young children, learning to manage the condition long before modern technology existed. Living with Type 1 is a constant, often invisible challenge that has required daily resilience and self-advocacy. Now a proud grandparent, Laura is grateful for advances that make life safer today and remains passionate about raising awareness, supporting others, and reminding newly diagnosed individuals that a full, hopeful life is possible.

HAILEY TOLENSKY

Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at just 17 months old, Hailey has never known life without it. Managing diabetes from a young age made her more responsible early on, even when it meant carrying a weight other kids didn't. While blood sugar swings can be exhausting, she continues to show up fully—especially on stage, where her love of theatre shines (with juice always waiting in the wings). Hailey encourages others to wear their devices proudly, speak up about their needs, and never feel embarrassed for taking care of themselves.



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JOHN WHITEHEAD

John was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age nine in 1974. After growing up with limiting beliefs about his future, he chose to reset his mindset and take control of his health. Managing diabetes in a physically demanding job remains challenging, but it led him into advocacy, from securing CGM coverage at work to supporting others and volunteering with diabetes clinics in Niagara. John believes in resetting and refocusing as many times as needed, as long as you do not quit.

LAURA SYRON

A decade ago, a routine check-up led to a diabetes diagnosis that initially filled me with shock and shame—feelings I later learned are shared by many and can stand in the way of care. Diabetes is a relentless, 24/7 condition that affects every part of life, which is why, as President & CEO of Diabetes Canada, I'm committed to challenging stigma and ensuring people with diabetes never face it alone. That commitment is what brings me back to the Toronto Pump Couture Fashion Show on June 15, 2026, proudly wearing my diabetes technology and standing with this incredible community. Together, we're raising awareness, building resilience, and supporting one another every step of the way.



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JOANNA JACKSON

Joanna was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age five and has lived with the condition for nearly five decades, learning early that diabetes is a constant, 24/7 presence woven into every part of life. Alongside her many roles—as a mom, teacher, and caregiver to others—she manages the daily, often invisible work of diabetes with honesty, resilience, and gratitude. Joanna believes deeply in celebrating small wins, allowing space for hard days, and recognizing the strength it takes to keep going. A lifelong supporter of D-Camps, she credits camp with giving her independence, confidence, and friendships that shaped her life, and she continues to advocate for compassion, presence, and pride in every step of the journey.

MACKENZIE PATTERSON

Mackenzie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 21, a life-changing moment that brought fear, uncertainty, and the need to quickly adapt to a new reality. While living with T1D comes with physical, emotional, and social challenges, the support of loved ones helped her move forward and find steadiness again. Diabetes has reshaped her perspective, deepening her focus on health, self-care, and meaningful time with family, while motivating her to live fully on her own terms. Today, she's embracing creativity by exploring acting, and she shares a hopeful message with others: it does get better, you don't have to face it alone, and hard moments will not last forever.



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CHEYENNE -JORDAN ANDRES

Cheyenne-Jordan was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 21 months old, after her Nana, a pediatric nurse, recognized the early signs and helped her family get answers quickly. Having lived with diabetes her entire life, Cheyenne-Jordan understands how blood sugar levels affect energy, focus, and emotions, with management always running quietly in the background of daily life. She is now studying to become an automotive mechanic at Centennial College, building a future grounded in independence and determination. Cheyenne-Jordan encourages others to access available supports and resources to lighten the load, and she values the sense of belonging she experienced attending diabetes camp as a child—knowing no one has to face diabetes alone.

LORRAINE O'QUINN

Lorraine lives with type 2 diabetes and is proud to share that she has been in remission for two and a half years—a journey focused on reclaiming her health, strength, and confidence. Through consistent lifestyle changes and strong support, she leads an active, balanced life that includes personal training, Pilates, pickleball, and hiking, proving that diabetes does not define or limit what's possible. Passionate about encouraging others and especially committed to supporting children living with type 1 diabetes, Lorraine believes deeply in the impact of D-Camps. She is modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and help more kids experience the confidence, connection, and support that camp provides.



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KRISTEN NUGENT

Kristen was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes the day before her eleventh birthday, and with the steady support of her family, she quickly learned how to manage injections, blood sugar checks, and insulin planning. Over more than thirty years with diabetes, she has faced serious challenges—especially dangerous low blood sugars—but is deeply grateful for modern diabetes technology that now keeps her safer and gives her greater freedom and stability. Camp Huronda played a pivotal role in building her confidence early on, and she remains especially proud of successfully managing three high-risk pregnancies and becoming the mother of three healthy children. Today, Kristen is modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and help more children experience the life-changing support and community of Diabetes Camps.

BROOKLYN ALLEN

Brooklyn was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on October 26, 2024, when she was just 18 months old. At an age when most toddlers are discovering the world, her family was learning about blood sugars, insulin, carb counting, and ketones. The diagnosis changed their lives overnight, bringing new routines, constant monitoring, and the responsibility of managing diabetes for their little girl.

Through it all, Brooklyn has remained a bright, determined, and strong-willed child. She wears technology that helps keep her safe and handles finger pokes and site changes with incredible bravery. Her strength has inspired those around her, reminding her family every day of the resilience and courage she carries.



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EMERSON TROTTIER

Emerson was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 14 months old, after his mom trusted her instincts and pushed for answers when she knew something more serious was wrong. Because he was diagnosed so young, diabetes is simply part of his everyday life—and it has never limited what he believes he can do. Surrounded by a strong, supportive community of family and friends, Emerson has grown up confident, joyful, and proud of who he is. A Pump Couture model for the past two years, he's excited to return to the runway to help raise awareness, support D-Camps, and show that living with T1D doesn't hold him back—it fuels his courage and confidence.

NATASHA STANFORD

Natasha was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in Grade 9, just as she was deeply immersed in sports and outdoor life, and while missing a long-anticipated camping trip was heartbreaking, it led her to D-Camps at Camp Huronda—where she gained confidence, skills, and lifelong friendships. Now a varsity athlete, Natasha carefully balances training, competition, and recovery with the behind-the-scenes work of diabetes management, supported by a strong network of family, friends, and teammates. Living with T1D has shaped her into a resilient, empathetic leader, both on and off the field, and she encourages others to be open, ask for help, and trust that the people who care will always show up.



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ALAIZA FEITOR PONTE

Alaiza was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 13 months old, and while she doesn't remember life without it, her family has learned firsthand how deeply diabetes reshapes daily life. Behind the scenes are constant planning, sleepless nights, advocacy, and countless invisible decisions, balanced with the importance of finding connection within the T1D community. Through it all, Alaiza has grown into a confident, brave, and loving little girl whose strength inspires everyone around her. She is modelling to raise awareness, build confidence, and show that diabetes is part of her story—but it does not define her.

MICHAEL AGUECI

Michael was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in Grade 7, just days before his birthday, a moment that quickly taught him insulin would be part of his life forever. While living with T1D has meant frequently correcting misconceptions, it has also shaped his empathy and understanding that everyone carries unseen challenges. Attending diabetes camp early on helped him feel normal and supported, and over time he reclaimed confidence and independence in managing his care. Today, Michael manages diabetes with optimism and purpose as a government and economic management student who dreams of one day becoming Premier of Ontario—proof that diabetes is part of his life, but never a limit on his ambitions.



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ETHAN PARIKH

Ethan was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) at age 12, during a time when he was already navigating changes in school, hobbies, and friendships. Learning how a chronic condition would fit into his daily life felt overwhelming at first, and he relied heavily on his close network of supports to help him adjust. Living with diabetes can be mentally, physically, and emotionally demanding. There are days when management feels effortless, and other days when, no matter what he does, things just do not seem to work. One of Ethan's biggest ongoing challenges is adapting his diabetes management to fit his lifestyle, interests, and goals. This means being creative, staying positive, learning through experience, and connecting with supportive communities. Through this journey, Ethan has become deeply grateful for his health and his ability to stay active and pursue what matters most to him. Living with a chronic condition has strengthened his resilience, courage, empathy, and self-advocacy.

CONNOR GILLESPIE

Connor was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11 after her parents noticed warning signs, a moment that marked the beginning of a life-changing journey she still associates with that time. One of her biggest challenges has been carbohydrate counting, especially because she dislikes math, but she has learned to see food as fuel rather than punishment. Over the years, Connor has gained confidence by learning to manage injections, site changes, and her continuous glucose monitor on her own. Now working full time and staying active in sports, she balances daily diabetes care with an independent lifestyle, supported by her family. Determined and proud of her progress, Connor believes diabetes is something she lives with—not something that defines her.





VANCOUVER MODEL SPOTLIGHT

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JUNE LEE

June's world changed at age 12 with her diabetes diagnosis, but with strong family support centered on nutrition and movement, she learned to adapt and build a healthy foundation for life. Living with diabetes requires constant awareness, there's no pause button, yet June has learned to navigate the highs and lows with resilience, balance, and determination. Today, she shows that diabetes is not a limitation but a motivation, embracing life fully through activities like skiing and celebrating everyday wins in health and wellness.

ANETTE OLIVA

Anette was diagnosed in 2019 after a routine check-up, and initially struggled with denial, sadness, and adjusting to a life she never expected to change. Despite improving her diet and increasing her activity level, fluctuating glucose levels continued to affect her energy and overall wellbeing, until she took a leap of faith and began using a Dexcom CGM with the support of her family. The CGM gave Anette her confidence back, empowering her to return to the activities she loves, working out, attending Cardio Zumba and church events, traveling, and spending quality time with her grandchildren, Alex and Ava.



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CAILYN SINCLAIR

Cailyn was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 4.5 years old, so managing it has always been part of her daily life. Balancing diabetes with sports, school, and friends takes planning and resilience, from handling devices to navigating highs and lows during busy days and games. Living with type 1 has made her strong, responsible, and a confident self-advocate. Passionate about soccer and volleyball, she proves that diabetes may challenge her, but it never defines her or limits her dreams.

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn was diagnosed on her 5th birthday, when she felt very tired and sick and didn't even want to eat birthday cake. Through her journey, Brooklyn has learned to listen to her body and understand what it needs, whether that's sugar or insulin, and she's discovered that she can do hard things. Only ten years old, Brooklyn is brave, responsible, loves trying new things, and wants others to know that everything will be okay and that it truly does get easier with time.



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CHARLOTTE MILLER

Charlotte was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was just 3 years old, and at first she was scared and confused, not understanding why everything was changing or why she needed pokes so often. Living with diabetes has made Charlotte more responsible and even better at math, as she's always counting and figuring things out. She loves flamingos, sports, and dancing most of all, and wants others to know that it's going to be okay, and sometimes you even get candy when no one else does!

SANDY STRUSS

Sandy was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 17 during her senior year of high school, and her life changed forever. The daily balance of food, insulin, and exercise remains a constant challenge, and despite her best efforts, navigating highs and lows is part of living with diabetes. After replacing the function of an organ for 37 years and surviving cancer, Sandy knows one thing for sure: she is resilient, she is a survivor, and she refuses to give up on herself. Her mission is to live by example, reminding others to give themselves grace, take life one day at a time, and live fully, with purpose, joy, and fun along the way.



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MIRA DE AUSEN

Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 7 months old, Mira has grown up knowing no other "normal," with her family learning to navigate diabetes together from the very beginning. Managing diabetes is part of her daily routine, from waiting before meals to using an insulin pump and CGM, which allow her to live freely and as independently as possible. She is passionate about breaking myths around diabetes, encouraging others to ask questions, seek support, and understand that diabetes is not caused by food.

AUBREE SELINGER

Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11, Aubree was a competitive gymnast training 30 hours a week and actively playing hockey when her diagnosis came as a complete shock. By age 12, she was independently managing her condition while balancing school and sports, learning to navigate the daily unpredictability of blood sugar levels. Despite challenges like feeling isolated and misunderstood among peers, she developed resilience, discipline, and a strong awareness of her health. Now an Omnipod Podvocate, Aubree creates content and has participated in international campaigns, using her platform to raise awareness and connect with others. Her message is simple: even when it feels isolating, no one is truly alone.



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COLE PRICE

Cole was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age two, and his family quickly learned to manage the constant challenges of blood sugar monitoring, nighttime checks, and balancing daily activities. Living with both type 1 diabetes and celiac disease adds extra complexity, but Cole has adapted with resilience and determination. Along the way, he discovered a passion for photo and video editing and has actively raised awareness and funds through events such as Pump Couture and D-Camp. Cole hopes to pursue a future in engineering or film production while continuing to advocate for advances in diabetes technology and greater support for those living with diabetes.

LEIA SCHAUB

Leia was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in April 2022 at just 4 years old and doesn't remember life before diabetes. After experiencing classic symptoms, she was admitted to BC Children's Hospital, where her family spent three days learning how to manage T1D. Leia showed incredible strength, quickly adapting to finger pokes, injections, and daily routines like carb counting, device changes, and managing highs and lows. Diabetes has made her resilient, brave with pain, and surprisingly strong in math from an early age. Passionate about dance and cheerleading, Leia continues to travel and enjoy everything she loves, proving that diabetes takes extra work, but it never stops you from living fully.



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TIHA ROBERGE

Tiha was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in 2016 at just two years old, and this year marks 10 years of surviving and thriving. Managing diabetes has become a natural part of her daily life, and with the support of her family and her own determination, she continues to live actively and confidently. She loves staying active through volleyball, basketball, soccer, badminton, dance, and swimming, proving that while diabetes requires extra effort, it never defines her or limits what she can achieve.

CHAMA BENCHEKROUN

Chama was diagnosed with diabetes at age seven, a moment that changed her family's life. What followed were new routines, constant adjustments, and ongoing battles to ensure her safety and inclusion, especially at school. Despite the challenges, Chama showed remarkable resilience from the start.
Outgoing, confident, and unafraid to talk about her diabetes, Chama owns her story. Creative, cheerful, and proudly nicknamed the "Salad Queen," she approaches life with strength and determination. Her journey is not defined by diabetes, but by courage.



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MARCELLE LYONS DOYON

Marcelle was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11 after becoming extremely weak and learning her blood sugar was dangerously high. The diagnosis was scary at first, with hospital visits and new words like insulin and ketones that she didn't understand. Over time, she learned how to manage diabetes and adjust to the changes it brought. At school, Marcelle sometimes finds it difficult when alarms go off or when she has to explain her Dexcom and the difference between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Living with diabetes has helped her grow stronger and braver. She loves sports, especially dance and wrestling, and is a black belt in taekwondo. Marcelle hopes others remember that even when it feels overwhelming, it will get better.

MINDY WONG ROY

Mindy was diagnosed with diabetes at 26, and her medical team describes her as a rockstar. Her diagnosis is unique, as it's still unclear whether she has type 1 or type 2 diabetes, but the experience has helped her build a healthier, more balanced lifestyle. She is grateful for advances in technology, including her continuous glucose monitor and insulin pump, and for the support of the diabetes community. Mindy wants people to know she can eat what others eat—just differently—and that while diabetes requires patience and planning, it is manageable. This year, she is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, celebrate medical devices, and help others better understand what life with diabetes really looks like.



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LEYLA LE BLANC

Leyla was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age seven after weeks of extreme thirst, beginning with an unexpected hospital visit on Christmas Eve 2023. Though it wasn't the holiday she imagined, small moments of comfort helped her through. Today, Leyla manages her diabetes with a continuous glucose monitor and insulin pump, balancing daily challenges with the loving support of her mom. A dedicated dancer training five days a week, she competes regularly and completes Royal Academy of Dance ballet exams, becoming deeply in tune with her body. D-Camp has given her a strong sense of belonging and inspired her dream of becoming a counselor. Leyla hopes to one day be a neurosurgeon, and diabetes has only made her more resilient, confident, and determined.

MADISON MCPHAIL

Madison was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just three years old, so managing it has always been part of her life. While the daily routines of monitoring blood sugars and making constant decisions can be exhausting, they have also shaped her resilience and independence. Attending D-Camp at age seven was a turning point, giving her confidence, community, and the courage to take on tasks she once found intimidating. Today, Madison sees diabetes not as a limitation but as a source of strength that inspires her interest in healthcare and her desire to support others living with T1D.



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FAITH BLOOMFIELD

Faith was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1973, a moment she remembers clearly, especially her mother's emotional response—her mother also lived with T1D. Recognizing the familiar symptoms herself, Faith faced early challenges with blood sugar management, particularly during exercise, but over time benefited from advances like insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors. Diabetes shaped some of her career choices, yet never limited her life. An active, adventurous person, Faith enjoys outdoor activities, travel, and new experiences, believing strongly in living fully with diabetes, not for it. Her years at Camp Carowanis were especially meaningful, building confidence and connection, and today she models to show that diabetes does not define what's possible.

TEAGAN SWEET

Teagan was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just three days before her 16th birthday, a shocking discovery that came from routine bloodwork while she was already managing celiac disease and hypothyroidism. Navigating insulin, finger pricks, and school life in grade 10 felt overwhelming, and she initially hid her diagnosis out of fear of being treated differently. Even after being hospitalized with DKA, Teagan returned to competitive volleyball within days and has never let diabetes hold her back. Today, she balances school, work, sports, and training for her first half-marathon with resilience, using diabetes technology to maintain her independence and confidence. Passionate about breaking stigma, Teagan proves that type 1 diabetes is invisible but powerful—and does not limit a full, meaningful life.



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HENNESSY ESCOBAR

Hennessy was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes over eight years ago, a life-changing moment that required her to grow up quickly and learn constant self-management. With the support of her family and care team, she chose early on not to let diabetes take away the activities she loved, returning to competitive dance and horseback riding within a week of her diagnosis. While diabetes remains relentless—affecting every meal, activity, and day—it has taught her resilience, discipline, and self-advocacy, especially through the emotional and physical challenges of adolescence and the increased demands of university life. Hennessy has turned her experience into purpose through advocacy, public speaking, and fundraising for organizations like BC Children's Hospital and Diabetes Canada, including completing a 100 km fundraising walk while monitoring her glucose levels. Now a first-year engineering student pursuing Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, she hopes to use her lived experience to create positive change, believing that diabetes is part of her story but does not define who she is.

AYLA BURRILL

Ayla was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on December 12, 2022, and while the first day was difficult, she quickly learned how to manage her new routine. Living with diabetes has made her more responsible, as she needs to remember her supplies, monitor her blood sugar, and sometimes wait to eat when her levels are high. One of her biggest challenges is having to step away from dance or gymnastics when she is low or high, but she doesn't let that stop her from doing what she loves. Ayla enjoys dance, gymnastics, and scuba diving, and she believes diabetes should not change your life. Attending D-Camp has been especially meaningful for her, as it gave her the chance to make friends who understand what living with diabetes is like and reminded her that she is not alone.



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ALEX CARRIERE

Alex was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the very beginning of his culinary career, a moment that challenged him both mentally and emotionally. What once felt overwhelming became a defining source of strength, teaching him discipline, resilience, and the importance of staying one step ahead. Living with diabetes requires constant awareness—planning, adapting, and listening to his body—but Alex carries those lessons into every part of his life, from the kitchen to his love of movement and the outdoors. Becoming a father further shifted his perspective, grounding him in what truly matters and inspiring him to lead by example. Diabetes is part of Alex's story, but it has never limited him; instead, it has shaped the way he moves through life with intention, purpose, and heart.

VICTORIA MCGILL

Victoria was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age five, an experience that shaped her life even as she grew into independence. While technology has helped her manage the condition, diabetes remains a constant mental balancing act—requiring planning, flexibility, and resilience as everyday plans can change with her blood sugar. Through challenges, diabetic camp gave her a sense of belonging and freedom, helping her feel normal and supported. Living with diabetes has strengthened her self-awareness and empathy, inspiring her to support others who feel overwhelmed. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Victoria shares her story to show that diabetes is complex, but a full, confident, and meaningful life is possible.



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SYDNEY FRANCIS-CARSON

Sydney was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age three and grew up learning that her life looked different, eventually accepting the condition as part of her normal. Despite facing emotional burnout and an episode of diabetic ketoacidosis, these challenges helped build her resilience and taught her the value of asking for support. She now works as a special needs assistant in an elementary school and believes that strong relationships make even hard days manageable. A meaningful experience at D-Camp, where she formed lasting connections with others who understood her journey, reinforced her sense of belonging. Sydney hopes her story inspires others to embrace challenges, persevere, and recognize the strength and compassion that can come from adversity.



WINNIPEG MODEL SPOTLIGHT

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HUNTER WILKINSON

Hunter was diagnosed at ten, and at first all we noticed was how thirsty he'd become, but he's faced everything with more strength than he ever knew he had. We're so grateful for the medical team for helping us learn and adjust as he finds his rhythm in this new lifestyle. Getting his diabetes device has truly changed everything, making the hard days a little easier as he keeps learning to manage his insulin. Through it all, he's still the same kid who loves music, video games, and playing the drums, proving every day that he can get through whatever comes his way.

ADALINE LUNDGREN

Adaline was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at two and a half during an overwhelming time for her family. With strong support, they learned to manage the challenges together. While school support can feel intense and emotions can be hard when blood sugars are out of range, diabetes has made Adaline stronger and more confident. She loves basketball and performing and has learned that asking for support makes a real difference.



Fashion provided by simons



HEIDI PETERS

Heidi was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 59 during a severe DKA episode just weeks before the COVID pandemic. Receiving insulin was life-changing and allowed her to recover and thrive. Managing diabetes is a constant, daily responsibility, but Heidi embraced it with determination and proved that living well as an active older adult with type 1 diabetes is possible. A lifelong music educator and fitness professional, she encourages others to stay active, believe in themselves, and not let fear define their lives.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

Jennifer lives with daily fatigue and the ongoing challenge of managing food, blood sugars, and medication, along with worries about how diabetes may affect her future. Over time, she has learned to embrace diabetes as part of who she is rather than something to resent. This outlook fuels her strong dedication to supporting and improving the lives of others, especially children, youth, and families.



Fashion provided by simons



SOPHIE BROOKS

Sophie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on June 1, 2024, at five years old, and initially didn't understand why her life changed so suddenly. It became real when she returned to kindergarten and had to explain her supplies and alarms to friends. School and activities can be challenging, especially when she has to sit out or miss treats. Diabetes has taught Sophie that her devices do not define her, and she proudly competes in dance and cheer while wearing them, learning strength and confidence from a mom who also lives with type 1 diabetes.

NOAH SILVAGGIO

Noah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age eleven, a major change for him and his family. Despite the challenges, he continues to enjoy hockey, snowboarding, mountain biking, and creating art. Stress can strongly affect his blood sugar, and he is open about the invisible daily work diabetes requires. Now pursuing a master's degree at the University of Manitoba, Noah is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and support D-Camps.



Fashion provided by simons



ATALEIGH TAKACS

Ataleigh was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on September 10, 2021, at three years old after being rushed to the children's hospital in DKA. She spent 24 hours in a coma, a moment that changed life for her family. Daily life now requires careful planning at school and activities, but diabetes has made Ataleigh strong, empathetic, and kind. A talented and creative artist, her story shows that while it is hard at first, a full and beautiful life is possible.

MAEVE HYNDMAN

Maeve was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on January 28, 2019, at age five and remembers little about life before it. Daily life includes monitoring blood sugars, managing lows during sports, and changing her pump and Dexcom. Diabetes has made her grow up faster but has never stopped her from living fully. Maeve excels in math, has memorized 75 digits of pi, plays hockey and soccer, and believes struggles build strength without defining who you are.



Fashion provided by simons



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.

MARIAN JONES

Marian was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes eight years ago, a moment that unexpectedly reshaped her life and introduced the daily emotional, mental, and physical demands of managing the condition. While the journey was challenging, it strengthened her resilience and deepened her commitment to health equity, fueling her work as a fundraiser and advocate. A proud grandmother to two energetic boys, Marian is determined to show them that challenges can build strength without defining who you are. By modeling in the event, she celebrates resilience, challenges stigma, and stands with everyone quietly carrying the weight of diabetes each day.



Fashion provided by simons



BRIAR HOGUE

Briar was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at one year old in the summer of 2022 after a critical hospitalization in Winnipeg for DKA. Her family quickly learned to manage a new way of life, including nighttime blood sugar drops, daycare challenges, and device issues. With strong support and a father who also lives with type 1 diabetes, Briar's resilience inspires hope that with time and community, life with diabetes does get easier.

ANNA MCKAGUE FROST

Anna was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at three years old, and the early days with needles and finger pricks were difficult. Using a CGM and insulin pump was a major turning point that made daily life easier. While low blood sugar can affect her focus, diabetes has made Anna strong and resilient. She stays active through Highland Scottish dancing, skating, swimming, and play, and believes diabetes doesn't stop you from doing what you love.



Fashion provided by simons



MACEY KASPRICK

Macey was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on October 14, 2017, and since then it's been a constant part of her everyday life, even while she's just trying to be a kid. She carries a heavy mental load, always thinking ahead about food, activity, and blood sugar, but she's grown incredibly resilient and strong because of it. Macey loves to dance and sing, and she brings that same confidence to the runway as a model in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, raising awareness, fighting stigma, and supporting D-Camps—places that gave her freedom, friendship, and a sense of belonging. Her message is simple and powerful: Don't give up. Ever.

DYLAN MACKAY

Dylan was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 13 after a Diabetes Canada ad about constant thirst caught his attention—an ordinary moment that changed his life instantly. While diabetes never pauses and much of the daily work remains invisible to others, it has shaped how Dylan sees the world. Today, his lived experience fuels his work as a health researcher in nutrition, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease, giving him a systems-level perspective and a deep sense of purpose. As Dylan says, diabetes is a tough club to join, but it's filled with the best people.



Fashion provided by simons



LILAH FLISFEDER

Lilah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just one year old, so it has always been part of her life. While overnight low blood sugars can be especially challenging and disruptive, she manages diabetes with steady confidence and refuses to let it limit her passions for music, dancing, and fashion. Through D-Camp, she's found a community of friends who truly understand her experience, and she's excited to continue growing more independent. Her advice is simple and reassuring: it won't be so bad after a while.

ANNALYNNE SMITH

Annalynne was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on October 27, 2019, and one of her biggest challenges has been managing unpredictable nighttime lows. Living with an invisible illness has made her stronger, more empathetic, and more confident in handling difficult moments, both physically and emotionally. Outside of diabetes, she finds pride and purpose in Air Cadets, where she's grown in confidence and community, carrying that same determination into her diabetes care. Her message is simple and hopeful: even when it's hard, don't give up—you can still do the things you love, and programs like D Camps are a powerful reminder that you're not alone.



Fashion provided by simons



DELILAH RAINE

Delilah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on August 15, 2023, and while the diagnosis was scary, it also brought relief after a long summer of being sick. Managing diabetes at school can be challenging and sometimes embarrassing, especially when her devices beep or her mom needs to come in, but Delilah handles it with strength and courage. Living with diabetes has made her more mature and responsible, helping her grow into someone who is self-aware and resilient. Outside of diabetes, she loves music—especially the K-pop group Stray Kids—and proudly shares her message: don't be embarrassed to speak up when you're low, and remember you can still enjoy all the foods you love.

TARA-LYNN REEVES

Tara-Lynn was just weeks from her seventeenth birthday when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, adding to life with cystic fibrosis and leaving her overwhelmed by the challenge of managing two serious conditions. Over time, diabetes helped shape her resilience, teaching her to listen to her body, find strength in routine, and appreciate life's quiet moments. After facing extraordinary challenges—including a double lung transplant and participation in a groundbreaking donor-lung trial—she now gives back through volunteer work and medical education. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Tara-Lynn raises awareness and shows that while diabetes is part of her story, it does not define her.



Fashion provided by simons



EVAN BANERA

Evan was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at about two and a half years old, which means he has no real memory of life without it. Diabetes has always been part of his daily routine, and he has grown up managing it every day. One of the biggest changes was not only for Evan, but for his parents, who had to completely adapt their lives to support him. From the very beginning, diabetes shaped how his family lived, planned, and navigated everyday life.
Evan is modeling to help raise awareness and show that living with type 1 diabetes does not limit potential. Diabetes may be part of his story, but it does not define who he is or what he can accomplish.

NOAH BANERA

Noah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before he turned seven years old. Being diagnosed at a young age meant learning early how diabetes would fit into his everyday life. One of the biggest challenges Noah faces is managing his diabetes while staying active, especially when playing sports. Balancing blood sugars with physical activity takes planning, awareness, and responsibility, but Noah continues to learn what works best for his body.
Living with diabetes has influenced Noah in positive ways. It has helped him stay focused and aware of what he needs to do each day to stay healthy. He has learned discipline and problem-solving skills that guide his choices and help him feel in control. Diabetes has become something he manages alongside his goals, not something that stops him from pursuing what he loves.



Fashion provided by simons



TETIANA PLASKONIS

Tetiana was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at eight years old just days before arriving in Canada, where she was immediately hospitalized. Living with diabetes has felt isolating and emotionally heavy, though she still holds hope for a future cure. Music and creativity bring her comfort through piano, flute, art, crafts, and choir. Through her story, Tetiana wants others to know they are not alone.

KAREN JURKOWSKI

Karen's diabetes journey began in 2017, when elevated blood sugar before her 40th birthday led to an initial type 2 diagnosis that left her devastated, though encouragement from an unexpected meeting helped her regain hope. After struggling with ineffective medications and severe side effects, further testing in 2019 revealed she was living with type 1 diabetes, allowing her to start insulin therapy and finally feel better. Alongside diabetes, Karen manages Raynaud's, eczema, autism, and chronic joint pain, challenges that shape her daily life but have made her more resilient and confident in advocating for herself. A proud auntie, baker, crafter, and community supporter, she has raised over $1,300 through advocacy and is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to show that diabetes is part of her story—but does not define her.



Fashion provided by simons



CIARA SHARPE

Ciara was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on July 7, 2015, just after finishing kindergarten, a moment that initially felt frightening and overwhelming. Over time, she learned how to manage her diabetes and not let it define her, even while facing ongoing challenges like constant monitoring and unexpected fluctuations. Living with diabetes has helped Ciara grow stronger, more resilient, and confident, opening doors she never imagined. Outside of diabetes, she loves sports, dreams of having a family one day, and believes that growth comes from showing up even when things are hard. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Ciara hopes to raise awareness and show that diabetes is part of her life, but it does not limit who she is or what she can achieve.

TAELYR DEWARLE

Taelyr was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 16 in August 2020 during an incredibly challenging time marked by the loss of her father and COVID-19 lockdowns, including a difficult overnight ambulance transfer to Winnipeg Children's Hospital alone. The early years of living with T1D were isolating and overwhelming, especially while coping with grief, leading to burnout and distress. Over the past year, finding a supportive T1D community has helped her feel less alone and more empowered. Though she remembers life before diabetes, Taelyr is grateful for the resilience, strength, and perspective T1D has given her. She loves being outdoors and traveling, is passionate about supporting others through the TEAM Trial, and hopes to show that while diabetes is part of her life, it does not define or limit what's possible.





CALGARY MODEL SPOTLIGHT

Fashion provided by simons



ASHLEY FULLER

Ashley was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes as a young adult after a sudden, life-changing hospitalization, forcing her to quickly learn how to manage a condition that requires constant care. Living with diabetes has shaped her into a disciplined, resilient, and self-aware individual who actively advocates for her health while navigating daily visible and invisible challenges. Confident in being publicly visible with diabetes, Ashley believes representation matters and that visibility helps break stigma, which is why she is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show—to raise awareness, normalize life with diabetes, and help ensure no one feels alone in their diagnosis.

MEGAN HART

Megan was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2005, and while it has been a constant part of her life, she has grown into a confident and resilient individual who balances daily management with independence and exploration. Despite the ongoing mental load diabetes requires, Megan has learned to adapt and care for herself in all situations, including while traveling and discovering new places. Inspired by the support and connection she found at D-Camp, she is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to help change the conversation around diabetes, promote visibility, and remind others that life with diabetes is nothing to hide.



Fashion provided by simons



JACI PETERSON

Jaci was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at five and a half, and it has been a constant part of her life ever since, woven into her daily routines at home and work. Managing diabetes has become second nature, even as it requires focus and flexibility during busy days. Living with diabetes has shaped Jaci into a resilient and adaptable person who believes strongly in visibility and representation. Having attended D-Camps throughout her childhood, she experienced the power of community firsthand, and she is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to help change perceptions and show that diabetes does not limit who she is or what she can do.

LILLY-ANNA LECLERCQ

Lilly-Anna remembers feeling overwhelmed and isolated after her diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, unsure of where she fit or if she would ever feel "normal" again. Everything changed when she attended her first diabetes youth camp, where finding community helped her embrace being different and feel less alone. While managing frequent low blood sugars remains a daily challenge, living with T1D has shaped Lilly-Anna into a resilient and adaptable person. Passionate about horses, nature, and writing, she is even working toward becoming a published children's author. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Lilly-Anna hopes to remind others that it does get better—and that finding community makes all the difference.



Fashion provided by simons



LARS STEVENSON

Lars was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 14 after confirmation at Starship Auckland Children's Hospital, learning early that the condition requires constant care and responsibility. Years later, he moved from New Zealand to Canada, becoming a Canadian citizen—an experience he considers a defining moment that represents belonging and a fresh start. Passionate about challenging misinformation and stigma around diabetes, Lars believes education and visibility are key to changing perceptions. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, he hopes to foster understanding and show that diabetes does not limit a person's worth or future.

AMELIA DINEL

Amelia was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just three years old and, now five, shows remarkable awareness and confidence as she navigates daily blood sugar checks, insulin routines, and the ups and downs that come with T1D. Despite challenges like frequent lows that can interrupt school and play, she stays calm and understands what her body needs, trusting her caregivers to support her. Curious and resilient, Amelia dreams of becoming a scientist to help find a cure for diabetes, loves spending sunny days in Palm Springs with her grandparents, and thrives outdoors. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she hopes to raise awareness and show that even the youngest children living with diabetes are brave, capable, and full of possibility.



Fashion provided by simons



NEVE BUCHANAN

Neve was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just two years old, a time she remembers as confusing and frightening for both herself and her family. Today, managing diabetes at school can be challenging, from needing her phone for insulin decisions to speaking up when she needs snacks or support. Living with diabetes has made Neve stronger and more resilient, and she has learned that while it is hard, it is manageable. With the support of her family, her love for rugby, acting, and singing, and the sense of belonging she found at D-Camps, Neve wants others to know they are not alone—and that it truly does get easier over time.

DAWNELLE SALANT

Dawnelle has lived with type 1 diabetes for many years and has learned that it is not just a medical condition, but a constant mental and emotional presence that shapes her daily life. Managing diabetes requires ongoing awareness, countless small decisions, and resilience in the face of unpredictability, teaching her to focus on progress rather than perfection. These experiences have fostered deep self-awareness and strength that carry into her work, relationships, and passions. A passionate traveler and award-winning wildlife photographer, Dawnelle balances adventure with careful preparation, always making room for joy and creativity. Through modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she hopes to raise awareness, validate the emotional realities of diabetes, and remind others that with support and compassion, life can still be full, meaningful, and adventurous.



Fashion provided by simons



ASHLEY ROBERTS

Ashley was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 18, just as she was stepping into independence, and the diagnosis brought both physical challenges and an emotional adjustment that made her feel she had to prove her capability. Living with T1D requires constant, unseen work—balancing blood sugars, food, energy, and mental fatigue—while navigating daily life, education, and relationships. Over time, diabetes has strengthened Ashley's resilience and focus on health, helping her complete both a bachelor's and master's degree, build a career as a teacher, and even run a half marathon. Passionate about education and advocacy, she is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and remind others that community, mental health support, and connection can make living with diabetes more manageable and less isolating.

EMERY BURGESS

Emery was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at four years old, a frightening and overwhelming experience for her and her family that led to a hospital stay and a fast adjustment to a life she never chose. She still finds daily management challenging, especially when diabetes interrupts play, favorite foods, or requires frequent device changes and extra finger pokes. Despite this, Emery believes diabetes has made her stronger and braver, and she continues to grow in confidence while living life with joy and energy. Curious and determined, she loves learning Spanish, staying active, spending time with loved ones, and attending diabetes camp, where she feels understood and supported. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Emery proudly raises awareness, challenges stigma, and shares her heartfelt message: it is okay to have diabetes, and it can make you stronger.



Fashion provided by simons



LISA HART

Lisa Hart was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) in 2005—just two days after her 8-year-old daughter—an overwhelming and surreal moment that changed their lives instantly. Becoming the first adult diagnosed at the pediatric diabetes clinic at Edmonton's Stollery Children's Hospital, Lisa and her daughter formed a rare and powerful bond, navigating fear, learning, and daily management together. Living with T1D affects every part of Lisa's routine, from sleep to simple errands, but she refuses to let it hold her back. Through careful planning, healthy habits, and resilience, she continues to thrive, travel, and live fully, even celebrating 20 years with T1D on a Caribbean cruise with her daughter. Her message is clear: finding support—from family, friends, and the diabetes community—makes the journey lighter and stronger.

RINA CORNELIUS

Rina was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) on June 30, 2015, a moment that initially left her confused and overwhelmed as she learned how deeply the condition would shape her daily life. What once felt spontaneous became more structured, with intentional routines around food, activity, and mental wellness. Diagnosed with a dangerously high blood glucose level of 99.5 mmol, Rina was told she could have slipped into a coma—a reality that became her motivation to prioritize health and balance. While managing the unpredictability of diabetes remains her biggest challenge, Rina's message is hopeful and reassuring: learn, lean on your community, trust the process, and know that the good days will outweigh the hard ones.



Fashion provided by simons



DAVID MOULDS

David was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) at just three years old and has spent nearly his entire life managing the condition. Growing up in the 1980s, he witnessed firsthand how advances in diabetes technology transformed care and improved daily management. Living with T1D has shaped his empathy and awareness, influencing both his personal life and his career as a Certified Financial Planner supporting individuals eligible for the Disability Tax Credit. Despite the constant demands of diabetes, David has never let it define him—he is a Shodan in Judo, a hockey referee, a parent, a business owner, and a committed community member. By participating in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, David proudly shows that people living with T1D are strong, capable, and far more than their diagnosis.

KENNA MORTON

Kenna was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10 in September 2024, a frightening and overwhelming time marked by painful finger pokes, insulin injections, and learning an entirely new routine in the hospital. Adjusting to daily blood sugar checks, food tracking, and the way others worry or ask questions hasn't been easy, especially when diabetes limits things like sleepovers. Still, Kenna is determined to stay true to herself —whether she's riding horses, playing hockey, or staying active doing what she loves. Attending D-Camp helped her feel understood and confident again, and by modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Kenna proudly shows that diabetes is only one part of her story, not what defines her.



Fashion provided by simons



ASHLYNN HULAN

Ashlynn was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on April 26, 2020, just days before her ninth birthday, and has since learned to manage daily blood sugar checks, insulin, and listening closely to her body. While diabetes can be challenging, it has taught her responsibility, patience, and strength at a young age. Ashlynn finds confidence and joy in competitive dance, where she balances long practices and competitions with careful planning and determination. Through both dance and diabetes, she has learned perseverance and self-belief, and she wants others to know that while the journey can feel overwhelming at first, it gets easier with time and support—diabetes is part of her life, but it does not define her.

ISHANA KOIRALA

Ishana was diagnosed in June 2021, and since then, she has shown incredible strength and resilience. She has faced challenges with social situations, adapting to change, and sometimes feeling different from her peers, but those experiences have helped her grow into someone mature, confident, and courageous. Ishana expresses who she is through art, dance, and music, and she loves bringing her creativity to life by dressing up as her favorite Disney and K-pop Demon Hunters characters. Her journey has shaped her into a young person who embraces her uniqueness and continues to face every challenge with determination and heart.



Fashion provided by simons



MARLO HAYDEN-LUCK

Marlo was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 23, a life-altering moment that forced her to quickly step into a role of daily responsibility and self-advocacy. What began as uncertainty and fear gradually became a source of strength, shaping how she sees herself and the world around her. Over time, wearing diabetes devices shifted from something that made her feel exposed to a symbol of resilience and connection, reminding her she is never alone. Diabetes deepened Marlo's empathy, strengthened her relationship with her body, and taught her balance, both in health and in life. Guided by her lifelong love of fashion, she pursued her dreams abroad, earning a Master's degree in Fashion Business in Italy and building a career in London. Marlo's journey reflects courage, visibility, and the belief that sharing your story can empower others to move forward with confidence.

GRACE FORD

Grace was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was five years old, a moment that was scary and emotional for her and her family. One of her biggest challenges is trying not to go low, which requires daily attention and care, but she has learned how to manage it with courage and confidence. Grace does not let diabetes stand in the way of living her life. She loves ribbon dancing, singing, and dancing, and these activities allow her to express herself and feel strong. Through her journey, Grace has learned that even though diabetes can be scary, it is going to be okay, and she hopes her story reminds others that they can still do what they love.



Fashion provided by simons



CLEMENTINE BUTLER

Clementine faces type 1 diabetes with courage, even on the days it feels hard. She doesn't always like waiting to eat, treating low blood sugars, or explaining her devices, but she knows these challenges have made her strong. Diabetes has taught her how to listen to her body, slow down, and believe in herself. When Clementine dances, she feels brave and powerful, and she carries that same confidence into every part of her life. She sees herself as a diabetic superhero who can overcome anything, especially with the love and support of the T1D community by her side.

KALEB DAHLGREN

Kaleb was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) on February 22, 2002. At the time, he felt frightened and unsure of what the future would hold. Learning to live with diabetes meant adjusting to constant monitoring, staying active safely, and taking responsibility for his health every day.

Kaleb's challenges are closely tied to his active and demanding lifestyle. Working with patients, traveling on the road as a speaker, and staying physically active all require careful planning and attention to diabetes management. Balancing these responsibilities has been challenging, but it has also taught him resilience, accountability, and self-awareness.



Fashion provided by simons



LILAH SZOKE

Lilah was just eight months old when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in August of 2022. At that age, she was too young to understand or talk about what was happening, but for her parents, especially as new parents, the diagnosis changed their entire world overnight. Navigating bottles, diapers, and blood sugar checks all at once brought a new level of complexity to everyday life.
Today, Lilah mostly does very well with her diabetes. The hardest moments for her are waiting for her blood sugar to come back up after a low and having to go through port changes. Even when those moments are tough, she does not let them slow her down. Lilah talks about her diabetes openly and proudly tries to be involved in her care. She has learned her numbers and likes helping with her insulin pump, showing determination and confidence far beyond her years.

MONA KAPOOR

Mona was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 16 during a family vacation in the summer of 1990, when she went into a diabetic coma and woke up in a hospital in Bozeman, Montana. Instead of celebrating her "Sweet 16," she was learning how to manage a life-altering diagnosis. Returning home to Canada, resources for young people with diabetes were extremely limited, and daily care in those early years was physically and emotionally exhausting.
Diabetes remains a constant part of Mona's life. Every day involves monitoring blood sugar, counting carbohydrates, adjusting insulin, and planning ahead for activity. While much of this work is invisible to others, it never pauses. Living with a chronic illness shaped her resilience and inspired her to become an advocate for others facing illness and unseen challenges.



Fashion provided by simons



INGRID NORMAN

Ingrid was diagnosed with diabetes at 58 after a routine doctor's visit unexpectedly revealed a dangerously high blood sugar level. With little explanation or support, she was sent home overwhelmed and confused. She quickly changed doctors and was referred to an endocrinologist and a diabetes nurse, where she finally received proper care. What was first believed to be type 2 diabetes was later confirmed as type 1, helping her understand the seriousness of her condition.

Her management has evolved from multiple daily injections to a pump, significantly improving how she feels and lives. Guided by the Girl Guide motto "Be Prepared," Ingrid openly manages her diabetes, speaks up about her needs, and encourages education and awareness.

ARSAIMA SULTAN

Arsaima was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just one year old, which means she does not remember life without it. What she does remember is growing up feeling different. She attended a private school where she was one of only three Black students and the only student living with diabetes. From a young age, she struggled to understand why she was treated differently, from being singled out by teachers during playtime to having carbohydrate counts written on her lunches when no one else did. These moments made diabetes feel incredibly isolating.
Today, Arsaima is proud of how far she has come. Diabetes has shaped her resilience and strength, but it does not define her. She hopes her story helps others feel seen, supported, and less alone.



Fashion provided by simons



BRIANNA ELLCHUK

Brianna was diagnosed with diabetes on October 30, 2011, right before Halloween. At the time, she was playing competitive soccer and remembers feeling constantly tired and run down without understanding why. After bloodwork at her doctor's office, she was rushed to the hospital, where everything changed. One moment that has stayed with her was sitting in the hospital during a blood draw and telling her mom she hoped she would never need needles again, just moments before the doctor walked in with her diagnosis.
Living with diabetes has also given Brianna resilience and perspective. She has learned that bad days are part of the journey and that perfection is not realistic. Outside of diabetes, she has always had a deep passion for animals, which led her to a career in animal rescue. She feels grateful to work alongside dedicated and inspiring team members and is proud to contribute to work that helps animals in need every day.

GWEN MCPHERSON

Gwen was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) when she was eight years old, on New Year's Day in 2026. Before her diagnosis, Gwen was extremely tired, something her mom noticed when Gwen struggled with simple daily tasks. Concerned, her mom took her to the hospital early that morning, where they were admitted almost immediately. Doctors discovered Gwen had lost nearly 15 pounds. Later that day, Gwen was transferred by ambulance from the Olds Hospital to the Alberta Children's Hospital during a major snowstorm, an experience she will never forget.
Diabetes has not stopped Gwen from doing what she loves. She plays hockey and proudly earned the Most Improved Player award after her diagnosis. She is also excited to attend overnight camp for the first time and travel to Brazil with her family later this year, proving that diabetes does not limit her adventures.



Fashion provided by simons



GURJIT MANN TOOR

Gurjit was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 25, shortly after getting married and starting her career, a sudden and overwhelming turning point after months of illness led to a hospital admission. Learning to live with T1D required constant planning and decision-making, which eventually became part of everyday life. For years she resisted wearable diabetes technology due to stigma and concerns while raising her children, but as diabetes fatigue increased, she embraced a continuous glucose monitor and later an insulin pump—resulting in immediate physical improvements and a significant reduction in mental burden. Guided by her husband's words, "You will manage it. It will not manage you," Gurjit has continued to live fully, building businesses, raising two supportive teenage sons, and pursuing her passions. Today, she gives back through Diabetes Canada and models in Pump Couture to challenge stigma and help children with T1D thrive.

TYLER MIDDLETON

Tyler was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 31 in August 2023 after months of worsening symptoms that led to a life-threatening episode of diabetic ketoacidosis. Although starting insulin stabilized his blood sugars, the rapid change caused treatment-induced neuropathy, resulting in months of chronic pain, disrupted work, and emotional strain. Over time, his symptoms improved and the experience reshaped his outlook on health and life. Today, Tyler feels stronger and more self-aware, is engaged to his longtime girlfriend, and uses his voice as a radio host and comedian to raise awareness, guided by empathy, patience, and self-kindness.



Fashion provided by simons



SARAI SALAZAR

Sarai was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on January 5, 2025, at age 26 after being hospitalized in diabetic ketoacidosis following days of severe illness. Months of unexplained symptoms—weight loss, extreme thirst, exhaustion, and pain—had been dismissed as stress or food intolerance before she learned her body was critically depleted and her blood sugars dangerously uncontrolled. After six days in hospital, she returned home to a permanently changed life defined by insulin management, medical care, and constant vigilance. Recovery has been both physically and emotionally demanding, with the mental load of diabetes and the concern of loved ones weighing heavily. Despite the challenges and social misunderstandings around T1D, Sarai has found strength through humor, community, and a renewed appreciation for life. She is now modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and show that diabetes does not diminish strength, beauty, or hope.

SANTHOSHRAJ THANGARAJ

Santhoshraj was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in his early 20s, a life-changing moment that required major adjustments to his daily routine and mindset. While the diagnosis was overwhelming at first, he gradually learned to manage his health with discipline, responsibility, and consistency. Daily life involves careful blood sugar monitoring, insulin management, and thoughtful planning, along with the mental demands that come with an often invisible condition. Despite these challenges, diabetes has taught him resilience and patience, motivating his strong commitment to fitness, personal growth, and maintaining balance in his life.





REGINA MODEL SPOTLIGHT



Fashion provided by simons



HARTLEY HALVORSON

Hartley is proudly living with type 1 diabetes and shares her story as a reflection of the confidence and strength built through community and connection. Through managing daily life with diabetes, attending D-Camps, and connecting with peers who understand her experience, she has grown in independence and self-belief. Hartley values the power of visibility and representation, and by modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she hopes to challenge stigma, inspire other kids living with diabetes, and show that confidence grows when you show up as your full self.

SARAH MARTIN

Sarah was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 28, a life-changing moment that required her to quickly adapt both physically and emotionally. While managing the daily demands of diabetes, she has built resilience, learned to advocate for her health, and found strength in her role as a single mother to her son, Malaki. Passionate about visibility and education, Sarah is proud to be publicly open about living with diabetes and is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to challenge stigma and show that diabetes is not a limitation. Her message to others is one of reassurance, strength, and community—you are capable and never alone.



Fashion provided by simons



GRACE ABOOD

Grace was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age, a life-changing moment that brought challenges but also built strength, resilience, and confidence as she learned to manage her care alongside her family. Despite the daily demands of diabetes, Grace embraces life with determination, fueled by her love of gymnastics, animals, and art, and her dream of becoming a veterinarian. Attending D-Camp helped her feel understood and less alone, and now, by modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Grace hopes to raise awareness and show that diabetes is only one part of who she is—not a limit on what she can achieve.

DELVEEN SLAEMAN

Delveen was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in August 2022, a life change that was initially overwhelming for both her and her mom, but one she has grown into with resilience and confidence. Creative, energetic, and passionate, Delveen loves music, art, reading, movies, and boxing, and she continues to navigate diabetes alongside ADHD and ODD with determination and support. With the help of diabetes technology and a strong community—including diabetes camp—she has gained independence and learned that living with diabetes does not limit joy or possibility. From confidently managing her blood sugar at a Taylor Swift concert to modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Delveen proudly shows that it does get easier and that life with diabetes can still be full, vibrant, and empowering.



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MAVERICK BAST

Maverick was just four years old when he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes after his mom recognized the warning signs and pushed for testing, leading to a hospital stay where his family quickly learned how to manage his care. Though he remembers little of the diagnosis itself, Maverick recalls moments of joy like making his Beads of Courage and riding his imaginary motorcycle through the halls. Living with diabetes is a constant, 24/7 responsibility that follows him everywhere, but it has also shaped him into a remarkably resilient and courageous child. Through daily blood sugar checks, pokes, and adjustments, Maverick has learned perseverance and confidence, supported by experiences like diabetes family camp. Now, he's proudly modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to show that even the smallest kids with diabetes can live with strength, joy, and hope.

JENESSA EXNER

Jenessa was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in March 2024 at eight years old, a shocking experience for her family that was caught early thanks to her dad recognizing the symptoms. With strong family support, Jenessa has learned to manage daily challenges at school, during activities, and in social situations, while also building confidence, responsibility, and independence. Through D-Camps, diabetes walks, and conferences, she has found community and connection, helping her feel less alone. A lover of singing, dancing, and acting, Jenessa continues to pursue her passions while proudly raising awareness by modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, showing other kids that life with diabetes can still be full, joyful, and empowering.



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CLARA LAYFIELD

Clara was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D), a moment that changed her world in an instant and set her on a journey of adaptation and growth. Living with diabetes means managing constant blood sugar monitoring and navigating busy environments, requiring careful planning and daily routines even when she would rather focus on school, friends, and the things she enjoys most. Over time, these challenges have helped Clara become more resilient and confident, teaching her how to advocate for herself and speak up for what she needs. Today, Clara is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, support D-Camps, and help change the conversation about what it means to live with diabetes.

KARLEE DOREY

Karlee was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age six, a life-changing moment for her and her family that required learning a new normal of constant care and adjustment. Growing up with diabetes taught her resilience, especially as she balanced sports, school, and daily blood sugar management, often facing frustration when diabetes interrupted what she loved most. Supported by advancing diabetes technology, D-Camps, and a strong advocacy community, Karlee has grown into a confident young adult, university education student, camp counsellor, and advocate. Through her work, studies, and modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she hopes to raise awareness, support D-Camps, and show that while diabetes is unpredictable, it does not limit the ability to live fully.



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LEEZA PICARD

Leeza was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 13 months old and grew up often feeling different and alone as the only person with T1D in her school. Over the years, she has faced the mental and physical challenges of diabetes, including lost sleep, daily blood sugar management, and concerns about long-term complications. Finding connection through D-Camps and the online diabetes community helped her realize she was not alone. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Leeza hopes to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and remind others that a diabetes diagnosis does not limit the possibility of living a full, meaningful life.

ELENA BEISEL

Elena was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at six years old, a moment that quickly changed her daily life and responsibilities. Managing diabetes can be tiring and frustrating, from counting food to handling low blood sugar, but it has also helped her grow more independent, mature, and in tune with her body. Beyond diabetes, Elena is creative and playful—she loves making origami and has a special fondness for monkeys. She enjoyed attending D-Camps, where she made friends and felt understood, and now proudly models in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, support D-Camps, and remind others that managing diabetes gets easier with time.



Fashion provided by simons



NATE GAWLEY

Nate was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age nine, and from the very beginning, he was surrounded by a strong, supportive family who helped him learn to manage his condition with confidence. Now an elementary phys-ed teacher and coach, Nate leads a busy, active life where staying on top of diabetes is part of his daily routine. Using an insulin pump and CGM has made management easier and given him greater freedom to focus on what he loves. Nate is modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support D-Camps, showing that with the right tools and support, people living with diabetes can live fully. He's also a devoted husband to his wife Shanis and a proud dad to their two sons, Wes and Rhodes, who inspire him every day.

CELESTE MATECHUK

Celeste lives with type 1 diabetes and is preparing for an important next step: starting an insulin pump after thoughtful consideration and careful planning. Her journey highlights how diabetes management can evolve and how the right technology can improve confidence and quality of life. Grounded by her loving family and proud of a 35-year career in customer service, Celeste looks ahead to a healthy, happy retirement. Her message is simple and hopeful—when better tools are available, embracing them can open the door to greater freedom.



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CARLI CAROLAN

Carli lives with type 1 diabetes, a condition she's learned to manage through constant planning and preparedness, always carrying backup supplies and relying on her phone to stay safe. While diabetes still catches her off guard at times, it hasn't stopped her from building a full life as a mom to Fintan and Kira, a wife to Ross, or from traveling with her family to places like Ireland and Greece. Her story shows that with extra planning and patience, life with T1D can still be full of adventure and possibility.

BLAKE WILBY

Blake was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 14 months old, so managing diabetes has always been part of his life. Through daily challenges like monitoring blood sugar, managing insulin, and staying active, he has grown into someone strong and determined. Refusing to let T1D slow him down, Blake is the captain of the Regina U13B Blues hockey team, leading a provincial run and ranking second in the league for goals and points. His story proves that diabetes does not define limits—his message is simple: don't let diabetes slow you down, and always chase your dreams.



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EMMA WEINBERGER

Emma was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 38 after a long and frustrating journey to receive the correct diagnosis. As a nurse, she advocated for herself, using her knowledge to push for proper testing and treatment, which brought relief and clarity after feeling unwell for so long. Living with diabetes is a daily challenge that affects her relationship with food and her emotional well-being, especially as a parent, but it has also deepened her commitment to living a healthy, balanced life. Inspired by her husband of nearly 25 years and their two children, Emma continues to navigate diabetes with strength and purpose, and she is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and support diabetes camps that empower children living with T1D.

NATALIE BELL

Natalie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just three days before her sixth birthday, a scary and overwhelming experience that required her to quickly adjust to needles, finger pokes, and daily care. Over time, she has grown stronger and more confident, learning how to manage her diabetes, make healthy choices, and even educate others in her school and community. Beyond diabetes, Natalie is a talented artist who finds joy and confidence through her creativity. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she is proudly raising awareness and showing that while diabetes is part of her life, it does not define who she is.



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AMY MOORE

Amy was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in June 2015, a moment that brought both relief after months of feeling unwell and fear about what lay ahead. Managing diabetes each day has been challenging, from giving insulin in public to handling the emotional weight of judgment and constant decision-making around food and doses. Despite this, Amy has become a strong advocate, openly sharing her story to educate others, challenge stigma, and show that diabetes does not limit the things she loves. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she is raising awareness and proving that while diabetes is part of her life, it does not define her.

CASEY ZIEG

Casey was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 10 months old after a life-threatening episode of DKA that required an emergency airlift and time in the ICU, a day his family will never forget. Because he is still so young, his family must carefully monitor his blood sugars and manage insulin as he grows, even when he doesn't understand why playtime has to pause. Despite these challenges, Casey shows remarkable strength and joy—he's a farm boy at heart who loves being outdoors and is an incredible big brother. His journey is a powerful reminder that while diabetes changes life, families grow stronger, more confident, and find a new normal together.



Fashion provided by simons



CLAIRE WUSHKE

Claire was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at six years old, a life-changing experience that was initially scary and overwhelming, but one that taught her resilience and responsibility from a young age. Today, she manages her diabetes daily through careful monitoring, problem-solving, and self-advocacy, skills that have strengthened her confidence and independence. Beyond diabetes, Claire is a passionate musician and lead singer of a rock cover band, using music as a powerful outlet for self-expression. She has also found strong support and lasting friendships through the diabetes community, including her time at LDP. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Claire hopes to raise awareness and show that while diabetes is part of her story, it does not define or limit who she is.

TAZMYN BANADYGA

Tazmyn has lived with type 1 diabetes for nearly her entire life, and it has shaped her into a confident, resilient, and determined young woman. Diagnosed at just 15 months old, she doesn't remember life without diabetes, but she has never allowed it to define or limit her. With the support of her diabetes devices—what she proudly calls her "pancreatic brain"—Tazmyn is able to train hard, spend countless hours at the skating rink, and pursue her passion for figure skating safely. Diabetes has taught her patience, responsibility, and the importance of advocating for herself in every setting. Whether she's at school, coaching young skaters, or mentoring campers at D-Camps, Tazmyn leads by example, showing others that with confidence, preparation, and self-belief, anything is possible.



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SIERRA ANTOSH

Sierra is someone who meets life with resilience and heart. Since her diabetes diagnosis in April 2019, she has faced misunderstandings, constant alarms, and moments where low blood sugars meant sitting out—but she has never let those challenges define her. Instead, they have shaped her into a deeply empathetic person who understands that everyone carries unseen struggles. Sierra's creativity shines through her love of piano, where she plays with both skill and emotion, and through her dream of pursuing SFX makeup for film. An animal lover with a special fondness for foxes, she finds joy in simple, freeing moments like tubing with friends, laughing and flying across the water. Sierra's story is one of strength, creativity, and hope, reminding others that even on hard days, brighter ones are always ahead.

JASON DEAN

Jason was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) at just two years old in 1976. At the time, awareness and understanding of T1D were limited, and his diagnosis journey was anything but straightforward. His parents knew something was wrong as he became extremely thirsty, sick, and unwell, but initial concerns were dismissed. When Jason lost consciousness, he was rushed back to the hospital and placed in a coma, with doctors warning his family to prepare for the worst. Living with T1D for decades has come with many challenges. In his 40s, Jason experienced what felt like a complete reset, where his body changed and he had to relearn how to manage his blood sugars, understand his highs and lows, and listen to his body all over again. Despite this, he adapted once more, proving that resilience is built over time and through experience.

Jason has always been open about his diabetes. He believes in sharing both the highs and the lows, knowing that honesty helps others feel less alone. His journey has shown him the importance of advocating for yourself, listening to your body, and continuing to learn no matter how long you have lived with T1D.



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MATHEW VOSS

Mathew lives with type 1 diabetes and faces daily challenges managing his blood sugar at school, during exams, and while staying active. When his levels are out of range, even simple tasks require extra planning and effort. Despite this, Mathew is determined to succeed and views diabetes as a challenge he can overcome. He works hard to maintain his health, especially during exams, and wants others with diabetes to know that it becomes manageable with time and support. Mathew is passionate about raising awareness, fundraising, and connecting with others in the type 1 diabetes community. Camp was a meaningful experience for Mathew and his family, providing understanding, connection, and support. Please help Mathew reach his fundraising goal and share this page for updates.

EMILY ROWEIN

Emily remembers feeling scared and unsure when she was first diagnosed with diabetes. The diagnosis brought many worries about what the future would look like, and now it is hard for her to remember life without diabetes. It quickly became part of her everyday routine and shaped how she takes care of herself.
Living with diabetes has taught Emily responsibility and has helped her prioritize her health. She has learned to listen to her body and advocate for herself. She wants anyone who is newly diagnosed to know that even though it feels overwhelming at first, it does get better, and you will learn so much in a short amount of time.

Emily attended D-Camp and loved seeing so many people with diabetes in one place. It made her feel understood and supported. She is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and show that diabetes is part of her life, but it does not define her.



Fashion provided by simons



ELYSSA STEPAN

Elyssa was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2004 when she was eight years old. She spent just under a week in the hospital and remembers feeling confused, though she was likely too young to fully understand the impact the diagnosis would have on her life. Interestingly, her memories of that time are mostly positive.

Despite these challenges, Elyssa truly believes diabetes has shaped her into an exceptionally strong person. Living with diabetes has brought trauma and difficulty, but it has also built resilience and perspective. It has reinforced a strength that extends beyond diabetes management and into every part of life.

Elyssa is a registered nurse and now works as a diabetes nurse educator. Through her professional role, she has found community, connection, and purpose. She is able to combine clinical knowledge with lived experience, supporting others in ways that are compassionate, informed, and deeply personal.

CRUZ LANGFORD

Cruz was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 15 years old after going into diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), an experience that instantly changed her life. The diagnosis was overwhelming, bringing fear, confusion, and a sudden loss of control as Cruz learned to navigate needles, blood sugar checks, and constant new information.

Outside of diabetes, Cruz is creative and driven. She has owned an online custom jewelry business called Born Pretty since age 12, paints in multiple mediums, and has worked in fashion for three years. Her experience has inspired interest in nursing or dietetics, with the goal of helping others see that chronic illness does not mean a limited life.

Cruz believes diabetes is a pivot, not a period. Perfection is not the goal—highs and lows happen, and they are not failures.



Fashion provided by simons



KINSLEY SIMMONS

At just seven years old, Kinsley is showing extraordinary courage and resilience. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in November 2025, she faces each day with strength, joy, and a bright spirit. While learning to manage the constant care T1D requires—at school, during play, and even while sleeping—Kinsley continues to grow more confident and determined. Her experience highlights the need for strong, consistent diabetes support for children and families, especially at school, as she has been able to attend only five days in the past five months. Surrounded by love, including three aunties who also live with T1D, Kinsley is reminded she is never alone. As she walks the Pump Couture runway, she represents courage, hope, and the powerful message that children with type 1 diabetes can shine exactly as they are.

ASHTON NAKRAYKO-GOWING

Ashton was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age, an experience that was frightening and isolating as he learned to manage a condition he knew little about. Managing diabetes has been physically and mentally demanding, from relying on medical devices to coping with being misunderstood while living with an invisible illness. A serious low blood sugar incident at age seven or eight showed him how quickly diabetes can become dangerous and shaped his determination to live life fully, including his goal of becoming the first doctor in his family. Through D-Camps and now modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Ashton raises awareness, challenges misconceptions, and shows that diabetes does not define limits.



Fashion provided by simons



MASON RAEEN

Mason was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) at sixteen in the summer of 2022 while working as a camp counsellor, after being initially misdiagnosed with heat stroke and later hospitalized with severe diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA). Life with T1D has since required constant management and resilience, with daily monitoring, device alarms, and difficult setbacks. Through this journey, Mason has become passionate about challenging misconceptions around diabetes and has developed greater empathy for those living with chronic and invisible illnesses. Outside of diabetes, Mason has worked as a lifeguard for three years, enjoys teaching children how to swim, and plans to pursue an education in primary care next spring, believing that while T1D is challenging, it becomes more manageable with time, support, and determination.

ERINN PAIK

Erinn was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just 14 months old in June of 1986 and has never known life without it. Growing up with a mother who also lived with type 1 diabetes, she was raised in a knowledgeable and supportive home where the condition was part of daily life. Her journey became more complex when her own child was diagnosed, adding emotional weight as she manages her health while supporting her daughter. Despite these challenges, Erinn has raised four children, volunteers in her community, and refuses to let diabetes define her. A former D-Camp attendee, she values the connection and understanding it provided and now models in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness and show that diabetes does not limit strength, resilience, or possibility.





HALIFAX MODEL SPOTLIGHT

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DEBBIE SAVARD

Debbie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes 19 years ago, and while the diagnosis initially brought fear, sadness, and constant responsibility, she learned through education and daily management how to live fully alongside it. Diabetes remains a 24/7 reality, with both visible challenges like insulin and devices and invisible ones like exhaustion, stress, and emotional weight, but Debbie carries no shame and is proud of the resilience it has built in her. Becoming a mother deepened her purpose and inspired her to support children living with diabetes by helping create community, belonging, and joy. By modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Debbie hopes to celebrate these young heroes, raise funds for D-Camps, and remind others newly diagnosed that they are not alone and can still live full, meaningful lives.

JANIE BOGARDUS

Janie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 15, a life-changing moment that left her feeling overwhelmed, isolated, and unsure of her future. For years, stigma and misunderstanding led her to hide her diagnosis, but over time she learned to manage diabetes with confidence and see it as a motivator rather than a limitation. A natural community builder and classically trained chef, Janie brings people together through food, creativity, and activism. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she hopes to challenge stigma and remind others that a diagnosis may feel overwhelming at first, but it never takes away possibility or the power of connection.



Fashion provided by simons



MARK CHIASSON

Mark was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just two years old, meaning it has been part of his life for as long as he can remember. Diabetes affects every part of his daily routine, often requiring him to pause activities like school, sports, or time with friends to manage his blood glucose. Being diagnosed so young also shaped his social experiences, as participating in activities often required extra planning and supervision. Living with T1D has made Mark responsible, health-conscious, and resilient, and he balances managing his condition with staying active, playing competitive dodgeball, stage managing his school play, and enjoying concerts. He believes diabetes does not define who you are, and with the right support, it does not limit what you can achieve.

ROSE SPICER MOORE

Rose is someone who meets life's challenges with honesty, strength, and grace. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 17, she stepped into a new reality with resilience shaped by her experience living with celiac disease and a deep understanding of her own body. She navigated the emotional and social challenges of diabetes with maturity beyond her years, finding confidence through learning, community, and eventually the freedom her insulin pump gave her. Rose's journey has made her more empathetic, self-aware, and determined, and she continues to show that diabetes does not limit her dreams. Whether she's managing her health, supporting others, or pursuing her passion for singing and performing, Rose leads with courage and heart, inspiring those around her to believe in their own strength.



Fashion provided by simons



ANTHONY CRAIG

Anthony was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before his 10th birthday, a life-changing moment that challenged both him and his family. Now an active teenager, he balances school, sports, and daily diabetes management while navigating public misunderstandings and the need to always plan ahead. Over time, what once felt overwhelming has become part of his routine, helping him build resilience, responsibility, and awareness of his health. Despite setbacks like a recent ACL injury, Anthony remains passionate about staying active and finds joy and confidence at D-Camp, where he feels understood and supported. By modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Anthony proudly shows that diabetes is part of his life—but it does not define who he is.

COURTNEY MACKAY

Courtney was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on June 24, 2011, at age 21 while traveling in Italy, after becoming severely ill and losing 34 pounds in two weeks. Though frightening, the diagnosis brought relief, and adjusting later in life required learning an entirely new way of living. Early challenges included daily injections and carrying supplies, and in 2025 she transitioned to an insulin pump, gaining freedom alongside new concerns like low blood sugars and device alarms. In 2019, at 33 weeks pregnant, Courtney experienced life-threatening DKA with normal blood sugar levels, leading to hospitalization and the premature birth of her daughter; both recovered, though the fear remains. Now a proud mom to a six-year-old who understands diabetes and how to help, Courtney continues to enjoy life fully and believes that while diabetes is challenging, it becomes easier with time and does not define her.



Fashion provided by simons



LILY MACLEAN

Lily was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) on June 5, 2023, and at first she worried about what she might lose—ringette, swimming, and sweet treats—but she quickly learned that diabetes would not stop her from being who she is. Managing T1D requires constant decision-making, and while she sometimes struggles with timing carb entries or coping with high blood sugars that affect her mood, Lily continues to push forward. With the support of kind peers, she confidently educates classmates, substitute teachers, and others when questions arise or devices alarm at school. Lily has grown into a passionate advocate, speaking at diabetes events and sharing her experience with medical students, all while staying active in the sport she loves. Camp has been a turning point, giving her a place where alarms are normal, "diabesties" are close, and Lily feels safe, supported, and proud of who she is.

NORA CLARK

Nora was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age seven in 2023, a life-changing moment that initially shook her confidence and forced her to learn how to manage her health almost overnight. At first, she tried to hide her medical devices, not wanting to feel different, but finding community through Pump Couture and D Camps helped her feel seen, supported, and confident again. Despite managing blood sugar highs and lows, migraines, and occasional unkind comments, Nora continues to thrive with the support of her friends, family, and teachers. A passionate athlete, she competes in hockey, flag football, and track, proudly proving that diabetes does not define or limit her. Her message to others is simple and hopeful: it gets easier, and you can still do big things.



Fashion provided by simons



SILVIE MAHONEY

Silvie's life changed when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at seven, but finding D-Camp helped her feel accepted, understood, and never alone. While managing diabetes comes with daily challenges—from navigating medical devices to counting carbohydrates—Silvie faces them with resilience and growing independence. An active and determined hockey player, she proves that diabetes has never limited her passion or achievements. Through modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Silvie proudly raises awareness, supports D-Camps, and shows others that living with T1D does not define or hold her back—it strengthens her.

ELLIE RHYNO

Ellie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on February 9, 2023, a life-changing moment that initially left her feeling scared and withdrawn. Over time, attending D-Camps helped her regain confidence, feel understood, and connect with others who shared similar experiences. Living with T1D has taught Ellie self-compassion and resilience, even on challenging days, while she continues to enjoy volleyball and time with friends. Proud of how she manages her diabetes, Ellie dreams of becoming an endocrinologist and is modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and help send more kids to D-Camp.



Fashion provided by simons



HUNTER KEDDY

Hunter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just three years old and does not remember much about life before his diagnosis, only how sick he felt. Early social challenges became easier after he started using an insulin pump, which made daily management simpler and eliminated injections. Growing up with diabetes has helped Hunter become kind, happy, and understanding, with empathy for others facing illness. He loved attending diabetes camp and meeting others who shared similar experiences and would recommend camp to anyone living with diabetes. Hunter dreams of becoming a paramedic and believes in never giving up—what feels hard at first can become a source of strength, and you can achieve anything you set your mind to.

AIDEN WESSEL

Aiden is the kind of kid who doesn't let anything slow him down. Since being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, he has learned that diabetes is something he manages, not something that defines him. Even with devices attached and extra responsibilities most kids his age don't have, Aiden still shows up with determination and confidence. He believes that diabetes has made him stronger, teaching him resilience and independence at a young age. Whether he's on the baseball field playing catcher or taking on daily diabetes care, Aiden proves that challenges don't stop you from doing what you love—they help shape who you become.



Fashion provided by simons



CHARLEE BUTLER

Charlee was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just four years old, a life-changing moment that delayed her start at school and introduced daily needles and constant care. As she's grown, diabetes has brought challenges—waiting to eat, pausing playtime, and feeling like she sometimes misses out—but it has also helped her build resilience and compassion for others. With the support of an insulin pump and CGM, Charlee manages her diabetes confidently while pursuing the things she loves, like gymnastics and dreaming of becoming a teacher. By modelling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, she's helping raise awareness, celebrate kids living with diabetes, and support D-Camp, a place she loves. Her message is simple and powerful: it's very hard at first, but it does get easier.

MONSERRAT MORAN

Monserrat Moran was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in January 2022 at nine years old after being rushed to the emergency room in DKA and transported to the IWK by Lifeflight. Since then, she has learned that diabetes can look different every day—some days feel manageable, while others are unpredictable—but she continues to show resilience and do her best. Living with T1D has helped Monserrat become more responsible and aware of her body, teaching her how to manage diabetes at school, during sports, and with friends, as well as how to speak up for herself. She finds strength in her close bond with her dad, her "Diabestie," who was also diagnosed with type 1 diabetes as a teenager and showed her that diabetes does not limit what is possible. Diabetes camp has also been a meaningful part of her journey, giving her a community where she feels understood. By modeling in the Pump Couture Fashion Show, Monserrat hopes to remind other kids that they are not alone and that diabetes does not define them.



Fashion provided by simons





DALLAS AND BROOKLYN MURDOCH-HORNSBY

Dallas and Brooklyn have lived with celiac disease since age two, growing up deeply aware of their bodies—an awareness that helped them both catch type 1 diabetes (T1D) early, exactly one year apart. Dallas was diagnosed at age 10 in March 2025 after noticing increased thirst and speaking up when something felt wrong, and she quickly embraced learning injections and approaching her diagnosis with positivity and confidence. In March 2026, Brooklyn experienced similar symptoms and asked Dallas to check her blood sugar, allowing her to begin care calmly, attend a sleepover days later, and return to synchronized swimming with confidence. Together, the twins have become a strong, supportive team, resilient and self-assured, united in the belief that T1D is part of them—but does not define them.