



*the new
name of*

**NATIONAL
JEWISH**
Medical and Research Center

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Dear Friend,

Andrew Valentine wanted to die.

That is how he felt, as he lay on the cool tiles of his bathroom floor, exhausted from a night of struggling to breathe.

Andrew had been battling asthma for 10 years (“without much success,” he says). The day before, at his job at a Tucson muffler shop, he had inhaled a huge cloud of exhaust fumes. That night, he recalls, “I had muscle cramps and my lungs shut down.”

“When I am suffocating with asthma, I don’t think about anything,” he continues. “My body takes over and tries to get air. There is panic, perspiration, heart racing, chest heaving ... at some point, my exhausted body just wants to give in to its fate.

“I wished I could stop breathing, die and get it over with.”

Meanwhile, over at the muffler shop, something remarkable was happening.

I will tell you what it was in just a moment. But first I want to ask you to accept the enclosed mailing labels as a sign of your partnership with National Jewish Health®.

In return, I hope you will choose to send a gift today. As Andrew Valentine would tell you, your generosity can make a life-or-death difference for children and adults struggling to breathe.

Steve Meyers, an electrician who owned the place next door, stopped by the shop and casually asked where Andrew was that day. When he heard Andrew was home struggling to survive a severe asthma attack, Steve knew he had to get to him right away.

You see, Steve is also an asthma sufferer, and a former patient at National Jewish

(over, please)

Health. As soon as he could, Steve shared with Andrew the things National Jewish had taught him about coping with severe asthma. He encouraged Andrew to come see us as soon as he could.

Andrew was not sure he could come; after all, he did not have health insurance. But when he contacted us, we assured him that did not matter. For 110 years, National Jewish has been helping those who need us, regardless of their ability to pay.

“I flew to Denver, and was taken into an environment that empowers patients,” Andrew recalls. “They treated me as an individual and tailored my treatment to fit my own unique characteristics.” One of those characteristics, we found, was that Andrew’s body absorbs his medicine too rapidly — making even high doses of asthma medication ineffective. None of Andrew’s other doctors had uncovered that fact.

Over the next two-and-a-half weeks, we gave Andrew the knowledge, the tools and the confidence he needed to manage his condition and begin living the active, vibrant life he had dreamed of for more than a decade.

That is the kind of impact you have every day. Please help more children and adults like Andrew live the healthy lives they dream of by supporting National Jewish again today.

Sincerely,



Michael Salem, M.D., FACS
President and CEO

P.S. Today, Andrew Valentine and his wife, like you, are generous supporters of National Jewish Health. As he says, “God blessed me with a wonderful group of doctors and staff I won’t forget. How can I forget, since they gave me the means to stay healthy?” Your generosity is part of his success story, so please send another gift today. Thank you again.