



Welcome to Friends for Life® Orlando 2018

Welcome to an Old Friend

On the morning of May 7th, just after Friends or Life Anaheim 2018 had ended, I received a text message from an old friend, which led to a very brief exchange:

"Jeff, this is Nick. Is this still your number?"

"Hi Nick - and yes, it's still me." ★

"Hey buddy, are you available for a voice call?" ★

"Sure."

The phone rang. I had a sense of what I was going to hear. Nick's 17-year-old daughter was just diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. They were heading to Children's National in Washington, DC, and he needed to hear something — anything — from me.

I imagined the seemingly insurmountable mountain of knowledge that stood before Nick, his wife, and his daughter. The summit — that point of seeing type 1 in all its totality — lay shrouded in storms and clouds. Nick didn't even know where to start his climb.

Gently, I assured him that everything would be fine. Nick was heading to a great hospital with wonderful staff who would guide him and his family in their new journey with type 1 diabetes. ★

Nick runs marathons, and has as long as I've known him, dating to the mid-1980s. He understands that this new journey is another marathon and that his training has just begun. But like me, and all of the other CWD moms and dads, he can see the finish line and he will make it there, with his wife and daughter by his side.

Welcome to **Friends for Life** my friend. We are with you every step of the way.



Jeff Hitchcock ★

Founder and President
Children with Diabetes
jeffh@childrenwithdiabetes.com