

## #GivingTuesday Story: MEDTRONIC



### Live On. Give On.

Medtronic's Bakken Invitation Celebrates Patients who Give Back

## Medtronic

*Medtronic Philanthropy devotes the majority of its resources to expand access to quality chronic disease care, helping address unmet health needs in underserved communities worldwide.*

*By aligning our philanthropy around Medtronic's health-focused mission and vision, we believe we can multiply our social impact around the world, especially in the area of chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.*

PHOTOS: (Left) Krystal Boyea, Bridgetown, Barbados (Right) Earl Bakken with the 2014 Bakken Invitation Honorees.

Krystal Boyea was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was 10...only the 66th person from Barbados ever documented with the condition. For Krystal and her family, medical resources and support for patients were lacking on the small Caribbean island.

"It was the worst day of my life," says Krystal, now 28. "Growing up with type 1 diabetes was never easy. As a child, I always felt different when taking multiple insulin injections every day, or testing my blood sugar, or having to pay close attention to my diet. It affected my personal life. I struggled throughout school and in my hobbies. I wondered 'why me?'"

"For years I struggled to find myself. In 2010, 13 years after I was diagnosed, I got an insulin pump. It changed the way I viewed my life. It gave me confidence."

Krystal says that when diseases such as diabetes are stigmatized and hidden, they

can be even more deadly. She has devoted much of her life to sharing how she has lived a healthy, full life with diabetes and encouraging others.

"After I was diagnosed, I made a decision to start volunteering, to give all of my extra time to a cause that changed my life – diabetes," says Krystal.

From online outreach campaigns to talks at the United Nations and TEDx, Krystal has become the face of diabetes in Barbados and the Caribbean. She also co-founded a groundbreaking diabetes clinic in Barbados that caters to the needs of her country.

Worldwide, millions of people are living with chronic and degenerative diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Each day, more than 100,000 people die from one of these diseases...with limited access to the healthcare they need.



PHOTO: Krystal Boyea meets Medtronic co-founder Earl Bakken

For Medtronic, the global leader in medical technology, services and solutions, there is a core belief that access to quality healthcare is fundamental for all people around the world. And a belief that people living with chronic diseases play a crucial role in improving access by sharing their stories and experiences with others, and advocating for change.

### **“WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR EXTRA LIFE?”**

Inspired by that question asked by Medtronic co-founder Earl Bakken, the Bakken Invitation celebrates and connects people who, with the help of medical technology, have overcome health challenges and are now making a difference in their communities.

Earl acknowledges that his pacemaker, insulin pump and heart stents have given him “extra life”—time he uses to support causes he cares about. And while each person chooses how to use their extra time, it is Earl’s enduring hope they consider how to give back, in big or small ways.

People like Krystal Boyea, who was named a Bakken Invitation Award Honoree in 2014. The Award recognizes med-tech patients for outstanding contributions of service, volunteerism and leadership. Each year, selected Bakken Invitation Award honorees will earn a \$20,000 grant from Medtronic Philanthropy to direct to a charity of their choice, and a trip to Hawaii for a celebration event to meet Earl.

“As a person living with diabetes, I understand the emotional burden it can bring,” she says. “Eventually, the worst day of my life, my diagnosis, became the reason for my life. And while an insulin pump may not be a cure for diabetes, it has allowed me to live the best possible life with diabetes. For me, that means working tirelessly every day to change the lives of others.”

[View Krystal’s Bakken Invitation Profile](#)

### **SHARE YOUR STORY, APPLY FOR THE BAKKEN INVITATION AWARD**

Med-tech patients all over the world are encouraged to share what they are doing in their communities with their “Extra Life.” For every story placed on the Bakken Invitation global impact map, Medtronic Philanthropy will donate \$10 to Project HOPE to help make medical technology available in underserved communities around the world.

Once you share a story, you also have an opportunity to apply for the Bakken Invitation Award. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2016 Award.. All applicants with eligible medical technology are welcome to apply, regardless of device manufacturer.