

Reaching



Out

Contact: Dr. John Ivy
Tel. 208/255-1216
Email: reachingoutside@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO THOSE SUFFERING FROM
FIBROMYALGIA, CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME/ME

Chronically Ill People Now Have an Emergency Fund to
Draw on During Times of Financial Hardship

Chronically ill people generally have little to celebrate about, but that's all about to change. Members of Reaching Out, a website dedicated to helping those who suffer from Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME, now have an exciting program to rely on during financial emergencies. The program, called "Emergency Outtie Fund," began in March 08 and is the brainchild of Karen Clinton, Support Group Administrator, Carrie Nelson, Editor of Reaching Out's free monthly newsletter, and Sparrow Ivy, Website Administrator of Reaching Out's site at www.reaching-out.info. "We started the fund," commented Sparrow Ivy, "because we saw so many members having to choose between filling their monthly prescriptions or paying rent."

Of course, for many chronically ill, they are no strangers to having to choose between two necessary items. "You can practically watch someone go through the sad and unfortunate stages you went through earlier," commented Sparrow. "It starts off with losing your sources of income. Then there's the loss of health and life insurance, prescription and other work related benefits. Then we quickly deplete our savings and our friends' and families' ability to help. Finally, we start the process of deciding if we're going to fix our vehicle or buy that prescription. After watching our Member's go this bitter process over and over, it became unbearable, so we decided to start this fund."

Reaching Out was started in 2004 by a small group of people who were battling Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME and other associated illness. Their services, all free, includes a website which offers advocacy, small, email support groups, links, current updates on treatment and research, 24-hour chat and bulletin board, and stories of courage for all survivors. Also available is a terrific free monthly 18-page newsletter which can be seen in some of the best doctor's

offices in the U.S. and Canada or sent to an email address. They've won two web awards and were listed in the top five websites by Karen Richards on About.com in 2007.

If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Dr. John Ivy at 208/255-1216 or email reachingoutside@aol.com.