

Section:high2916.txt0

Context: Christopher Thomas, 27, was a writer by night and a teacher by day when he noticed he was always tired and was losing weight fast. Diagnosed with diabetes, Thomas would need to inject himself with insulin three times a day for the rest of his life or risk nerve damage, blindness, and even death. And if that weren't bad enough, he had no health insurance. After a month of feeling upset, Thomas decided he'd better find a way to fight back. He left Canton, Michigan for New York, got a job waiting tables, nicknamed himself the Diabetic Rockstar, and created diabeticrockstar.com, a free online community for diabetics and their loved ones—a place where over 1,100 people share personal stories, information, and resources. Jason Swencki's son, Kody, was diagnosed with type diabetes at six. Father and son visit the online children's forums together most evenings. "Kody gets so excited, writing to kids from all over," says Swencki, one of the site's volunteers. "They know what he's going through, so he doesn't feel alone." Kody is anything but alone: Diabetes is now the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, with 24 million diagnosed cases. And more people are being diagnosed at younger ages. These days, Thomas's main focus is his charity, Fight It, which provides medicines and supplies to people—225 to date—who can't afford a diabetic's huge expenses. Fight-it.org has raised about 23,000—in products and in cash. In May, Thomas will hold the first annual Diabetic Rockstar Festival in the Caribbean. Even with a staff of 22 volunteers, Thomas often devotes up to 50 hours a week to his cause, while still doing his full-time job waiting tables. "Of the diabetes charities out there, most are putting money into finding a cure," says Bentley Gubar one of Rockstar's original members. "But Christopher is the only person I know saying people need help now." CANNOTANSWER

STUDENT: **What was Christopher's day job?**

TEACHER: ↪ "teaching" (a)

STUDENT: **What disease was he diagnosed with?**

TEACHER: ↪ "diabetes" (diabetes)

STUDENT: **How often did he have to inject himself with insulin?**

TEACHER: ↪ "three" (three)

STUDENT: **How old was Kody when he was diagnosed with diabetes?**

TEACHER: ↪ "six" (six)

STUDENT: **How many diagnosed cases of diabetes are there?**

TEACHER: ↪ "24 million" (24 million)

STUDENT: **What website did Christopher start?**

TEACHER: ↪ "diabeticrockstar.com" (diabeticrockstar.com,)

STUDENT: **How many people use the site?**

TEACHER: ↪ "over 1,100" (over 1,100)

STUDENT: **What is the name of his charity?**

TEACHER: ↪ "Fight It," (Fight It,)

STUDENT: **How many people has the charity helped?**

TEACHER: ↪ "225" (to)

STUDENT: **How much money has the charity raised?**

TEACHER: ↪ "about 23,000—in products and in cash" (about 23,000—in products and in cash)