

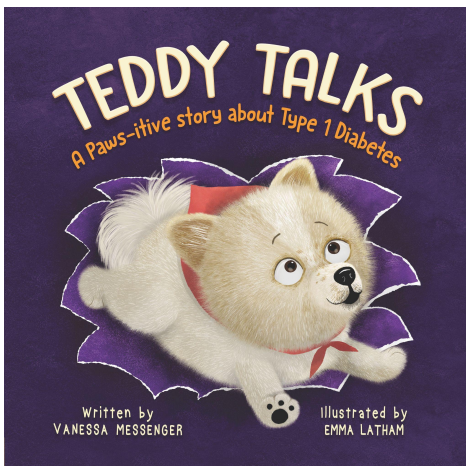


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Children's Book *Teddy Talks* Helps Create Optimism, Sense of Belonging for Kids Living with Type 1 Diabetes

DETROIT — Just in time for National Diabetes Awareness Month this November, Foreword Publicity announces the release of *Teddy Talks: A Paws-itive Story About Type 1 Diabetes*, written by Vanessa Messenger, with illustrations by Emma Latham.



Sit, stay, and come along as *Teddy Talks* about the *paws-itive* daily habits he and his human Emily make to fuel their fun adventures! This *fetching* tale about two best friends sheds an optimistic light on Type 1 diabetes, while engaging readers through Teddy's playful puppy antics and popping illustrations.

Messenger's inspiration for writing *Teddy Talks* came from her own experience as a Type 1 diabetic and the sense of empowerment she felt seeing others succeed in managing their condition.

"When first diagnosed, it was intimidating and isolating to think of the feasibility of daily injections, carb counting, and blood sugar testing," said Messenger. "It was encouraging to know there are

plenty of people everywhere living with Type 1 diabetes who are thriving. I wanted to create a positive story that kids can reference to feel as connected and inspired as I was by the possibility of living an active and healthy lifestyle."

Teddy Talks showcases Type 1 diabetes through the eyes of a loved one by explaining the condition and management through a Continuous Glucose Monitoring device in a fun and digestible way. The book also includes a glossary to consolidate common terms a child may hear in association with the condition, which Messenger hopes will help parents explain the diagnosis to kids in a way they can better understand.

"My goal is to normalize the condition for children who are diagnosed and help shed light on some of the misconceptions around Type 1 diabetes," said Messenger. "I hope kids who are Type 1 diabetics, or know someone who is a Type 1 diabetic, will gain confidence in their understanding of the condition and become inspired to lead a healthy lifestyle."

Teddy Talks already garnered a Gold Mom's Choice Award, which is recognized globally as the reliable symbol representing the best in family-friendly products. A Readers' Favorite 5-Star Review praised the book for its simple, but informative approach to teaching young readers about Type 1 diabetes.

"This story maintains an optimistic, positive (or paw-sitive) approach to understanding and dealing with T1D. Each part of the treatment, monitoring, and care that Emily must pursue constantly is shared by this charming puppy with a touch of humor and, at the same time, an educational approach." – Readers' Favorite

Messenger hopes the message of *Teddy Talks* will reach far and wide in the T1D community. She recently donated 100 books to the Children's Hospital of Michigan, which will be distributed to T1D families.

"Having educational resource books like *Teddy Talks*, which are targeted at helping kids understand their diagnosis, are so important to patient coping and adjustment," said Maureen Stys, manager for Child Life & Volunteer Services at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. "They help break concepts down to a kid's level, act as a great reference to keep looking back to as they continue to learn, and provide stories that kids can identify with and see themselves in."

Messenger has also partnered with Diabetes Youth Services (DYS). DYS is an independent non-profit organization that provides educational and supportive services for young people living with Type 1 diabetes, their families, schools, and communities throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

"DYS believes that *Teddy Talks* can help in our mission to broaden the understanding of the condition and its consequences to not only those directly affected, but also to the general public," said Dennis Jones, executive director of DYS. "DYS heartily endorses the lessons that can be learned from this beautifully written and illustrated book and we congratulate the author for her important work."

A portion of proceeds from *Teddy Talks* will benefit clinical trials underway at The Immunobiology Lab at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Faustman and her team are advancing the understanding of the role the human immune system plays in autoimmune diseases such as Type 1 diabetes and are currently conducting multiple clinical trials using Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), a generic vaccine, as a treatment for established Type 1 diabetes. More information can be found at www.faustmanlab.org.

"Living with Type 1 diabetes is a daily challenge that children need help navigating. We are excited to be part of the important work that Vanessa is doing and are honored that she has chosen to support the BCG clinical trial program at Massachusetts General Hospital," said Denise Faustman, MD Ph.D., Director of Immunobiology Massachusetts General Hospital.

Connect with Messenger on Instagram and Tik-Tok: @teddythet1dog, on Facebook at @messengerpublishing, or visit her website at www.messengerpublishingbooks.com.

Messenger is a mom, a Product Lead at Google, and considering she's been a Type 1 diabetic since 2010, she's also a full-time pancreas! With her background in Psychology and Broadcast Communications, she has always been impassioned by creating a connection with people through Storytelling. After receiving so much support and encouragement from the deep-rooted community of "diabuddies," she was determined to help create that same sense of belonging and connection for T1D kids through *Teddy Talks*.

To set up an interview, reading, signing, or for information regarding *Teddy Talks*, please contact teddytalks@messengerpublishingbooks.com.

Teddy Talks (Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-7369997-0-7; Paperback ISBN: 978-1-736-9997-1-4) is published through Messenger Publishing and is available on Amazon and wherever books are sold.

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