Save the Date for Promoting Healthy Ideas: PHI’s 11th International Conference
Saturday, May 31, 2014 – Tuesday, June 3, 2014

PHI and International Ventilator Users Network (IVUN) look forward to greeting old and new friends in St. Louis, Missouri, in late spring of 2014. For the 11th time since 1981, we are gathering the survivors of polio and users of home mechanical ventilation, their families, health professionals, researchers, service providers and related organizations to collectively assist polio survivors worldwide to live a better life by Promoting Healthy Ideas.

Health in its broadest definition includes not only the physical, but also the emotional, social, psychological and spiritual. Featuring “health” in our name when we changed it in 2003 was deliberate. People who had polio are much more than their untypical body, and “to enhance life and independence” we need to pay attention to all aspects of health.

First things first: To build a program with a theme of “Promoting Healthy Ideas,” we need to know specific issues you want addressed. For example, are you aging solo? Have special concerns as you age alone? Special issues related to using home mechanical ventilation? Did you have polio in another country, but now live in the United States? Are there cultural issues to discuss? Have you found a healthy solution that you want others to know about and try? Are you a health professional with expertise to share with your colleagues and polio survivors?

We will offer sessions that are educational, interactive, exploratory and fun. You are invited to send your ideas for the program to director@post-polio.org (or via the mail) for consideration by the Planning Committee. We will use all the ideas that we can because we want you help us be relevant to you as a Member.

Others ways to help: We welcome partners to support Promoting Healthy Ideas: PHI’s 11th International Conference. Do you manufacture products that contribute to the health and independence of survivors and ventilators? Can you host a lunch, exhibit your products or sponsor the attendance of a polio survivor? Could you donate printing or videotaping services so PHI can distribute the information to our Members and to the larger post-polio community? Do you have others ways you can help? Give me a call.

I am guessing that you have learned over the years that if you don’t educate yourself and make your own decisions, someone will make them for you.

Here is your chance. Help us decide what topics are the most pertinent, so we can gather or create the information.

Our International Conferences are always described as a life-changing experience. So mark your 2014 calendar and plan to attend!