



ANNUAL REPORT
FY 24



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The pages within highlight NKFI's efforts between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, our fiscal year 2024.



01

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



TAKING ACTION

During FY 2024 the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) focused on elevating our strategies and impact to fight kidney disease through prevention, screening, education, supporting research and empowering persons with lived experience. Our impact as outlined in the annual report would not have been possible without the engagement of our board, committed donors, advocates, health professionals, elected officials, community partners, volunteers and staff. We thank you for making a difference.

Our “Why” - The Data and the Personal Stories

We know 1 in 3 persons in Illinois are at risk for kidney disease. Of the 3.4 million people at risk, nearly 90% are not aware of they have kidney disease. Within Illinois, approximately 3.4 million people are at risk for chronic kidney disease. 34,000 people are in kidney failure, requiring dialysis or living with the life-saving gift of a kidney transplant. Nearly 3,400 persons diagnosed with end stage renal disease are on the kidney transplant wait list. The health equity challenges in kidney disease are amplified in Illinois and present an opportunity to activate and elevate strategies launched last year and new initiatives.

Within the report, a “**What’s New**” section highlights our expanded initiatives. NKFI continued to influence change at the policy and systems level. Collaborative partnerships served as a foundation for activating the NKF-Illinois based national strategy for population health through the collective impact model. NKFI hosted the CKDintercept Leadership Summit, “Ending Disparities in Kidney Disease,” in June 2023 and the Summit update, in March 2024 to report our progress. We expanded

our partnerships with community-based organizations throughout the State to provide screenings for kidney disease in at risk, under resourced communities, and heard directly from persons with lived experience and other key stakeholders through participating in community town hall sessions with the Illinois Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force. Our research funding continues our commitment to the science and innovation.

Throughout the State of Illinois, the personal stories of individuals and families with lived experience span the continuum from kidney disease prevention, through early and later diagnosis, highlight the value of information on treatment options and identifying living donors. The stories and the data serve as our motivation and generate our request to you join us in moving forward to change the trajectory of kidney disease and to advance support of persons living with the diagnosis. Across the State and with a lens of health equity, we work to achieve our campaign of “Kidney Health for Life”

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NKFI Board President

Jacqueline Burgess-Bishop, FACHE
CEO- NKFI

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KIDNEY DISEASE AT-A-GLANCE

1 IN 3 ADULTS

in the U.S. are at
risk for CKD.

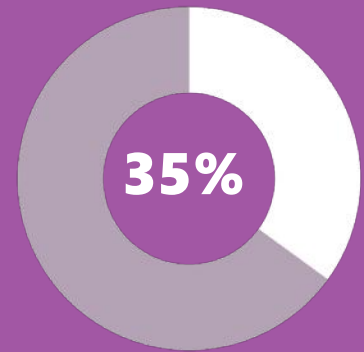


37 MILLION

adults in the U.S. have CKD.

35% OF ALL PATIENTS

with kidney failure are Black/African
American, even though this group is
13% of the U.S. population.



BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

people suffer from kidney failure
nearly **4 times** the rate of white
people.

HISPANIC/LATINO AMERICANS

are **1.3 times** more likely to develop
kidney failure than non-Hispanic
Americans.

**ABOUT
3,400
PEOPLE**

in Illinois are on the waitlist for a kidney donation.



**1,408
PEOPLE**

in Illinois received kidney transplants in 2023.

**282
PEOPLE**

in Illinois received a kidney from a living donor in 2023.



**1 IN 5
KIDNEYS**

donated by deceased donors are discarded*



**12
PEOPLE**

die each day while waiting for a kidney transplant*

62% OF ALL ORGAN
transplants were kidneys in 2023*



Source: UNOS
*National data

NKFI IMPACT FY2024

AT-A-GLANCE

216 PARTICIPANTS
attended patient programs

18 CHILDREN
attended kidney camp

**480 RENAL
PROFESSIONALS**
attended continuing
education events

2 TOWN HALL
meetings held as
part of the kidney
disease prevention and
education task force

1.6K WALKERS
attended the Walk for
Kidneys

51



KIDNEYMOBILE
screenings held state-wide

1,930 PARTICIPANTS
screened for kidney
disease, diabetes &
hypertension

53%
had at least one
abnormal result

\$63,000 AWARDED
in research grants



NKFI.ORG IN FY 24



41K

users on nkfi.org

90K

page views on nkfi.org

TOP 3 PAGES:

- NKFI Home Page
- Middle Market Open
- Find a Free KidneyMobile® Screening

29K

unique page visitors on nkfi.org



11.8K LISTENERS

reached with valuable information about kidney health through The Journey Continues podcast

9.5K PEOPLE reached through **95** community partner outreach events

13 community health talks held



6,552
FACEBOOK
followers



1,488
TWITTER
followers



2,405
INSTAGRAM
followers



1,687
YOUTUBE
subscribers



1,364
LINKEDIN
subscribers

A man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue pinstriped suit jacket, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie, is speaking at a podium. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The image has a teal gradient overlay at the bottom.

03

ACTION FOR PATIENTS

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) is setting a new standard in both kidney care and healthcare (more broadly), by leading a movement focused squarely on addressing disparities in kidney health - across the continuum of care. We are passionate about kidney health for ALL and bold in our approach to achieving it. Here are highlights from FY24 of our newest efforts on behalf of patients:

ENDING DISPARITIES IN CKD - ILLINOIS SUMMIT

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) hosted an Ending Disparities in Kidney Disease Leadership Summit in June 2023 as part of a national strategy to advance health equity in the identification, diagnosis, and intervention of kidney disease in populations that have a disproportionate burden of disease, specifically communities of color. We developed 11 recommendations (below) to improve public awareness and understanding of chronic kidney disease, provide clinician and health system opportunities, build the case and change the conversation, and leverage policy, payment, and quality measures.

IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF CKD

- Expand engagement with diverse stakeholders in the community to develop awareness messages and CKD educational content
- Utilize the Collective Impact model to engage a wide group of partners in the implementation of a CKD awareness campaign strategy
- Partner with community organizations to develop a cadre of trusted CKD ambassadors to disseminate CKD information and resources

LEVERAGING POLICY, PAYMENT AND QUALITY MEASURES

- Increase awareness and prioritization of quality measures that encourage CKD testing and early diagnosis
- Advance funding and reimbursement models to support primary care capacity

CLINICIAN AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop and deploy tools to optimize the EMR for CKD testing, diagnosis, and management
- Increase primary care team knowledge and capacity to support CKD testing, diagnosis and management
- Expand engagement with “non-traditional” community-based care providers to support CKD testing and management
- Build capacity and opportunities to integrate community health workers into primary care settings

BUILDING THE CASE AND CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

- Develop a workgroup to create a CKD data story/dashboard for Illinois
- Demonstrate return-on-investment for earlier detection and management of CKD

NAVIGATING THE ROADMAP IN ILLINOIS - PROGRESS REPORT

In March 2024, we hosted an update, in celebration of National Kidney Month and World Kidney Day, on several of our recommendations, including the importance of implementing a data strategy and development of a kidney-specific curriculum to educate and empower our community health workers.

IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF CKD

- Illinois Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force Open Forums held in Chicago and Rockford - November 2023
- Collaboration - the American Diabetes Association meeting in November 2023

BUILDING THE CASE AND CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

- Launching the CKD Data Strategy - January 2023

CLINICIAN AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OPPORTUNITIES

- Educating and engaging community health workers - launched development of the Kidney Focused Curriculum in partnership with Illinois Kidney Care Association, National Kidney Foundation, and Baxter Black K.A.R.E. Initiative
- Exploring opportunities to pilot engagement with the cardiovascular 2304 program

KidneyMobile®

Body
Mass
Index

Índice de
masa
corporal

Wskaźnik
Masy Ciała
KidneyMobile®

NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION

04 AWARENESS AND EARLY DETECTION

An estimated 33 million U.S. adults have undiagnosed kidney disease. To put that into perspective, that's almost triple the entire population of the State of Illinois. NKFI is tackling this public health crisis with an unparalleled series of awareness and detection initiatives. We're driving detection of kidney disease, ensuring access to high quality, patient-centered healthcare, expanding access to transplantation, and aggressively tackling health disparities. Here are some highlights of our efforts in FY24:

WHAT'S NEW

GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION

For a second year in a row, NKFI held not one but two World Kidney Day celebrations - in Chicago and East Saint Louis, Illinois.

World Kidney Day is a day to celebrate kidney health and promote awareness of kidney disease across the globe. Here are a few kidney disease facts:

- In the U.S., 37 million adults are estimated to have chronic kidney disease, but the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois believes hundreds of thousands of people are not aware of their condition.
- Kidney disease is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. In Illinois, it is the ninth.
- The current wait time in Illinois for a deceased donor kidney is between five and eight years.

The event in Chicago was held on Tuesday, March 12 (*more on that program on page 13.*)

On Thursday, March 14, 2024, NKFI hosted a World Kidney Day event to kick off the KidneyMobile® screening season at the Clyde C Jordan Senior Citizens Center in East St. Louis, IL from 12–5 PM. The event was presented by Mid-America Transplant and demonstrated NKFI's commitment to serving the entire state of Illinois.

The event included:

- A health fair
- KidneyMobile® screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, and chronic kidney disease
- Cholesterol, hearing and vision screenings
- Produce boxes, reading glasses and colorectal cancer screening kit giveaways
- Chair yoga

"We are committed to educating the public on how important kidney health is to overall good health, and World Kidney Day provides the perfect opportunity to spread that message," said Jacqueline Burgess-Bishop, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer of the National Kidney Foundation of

Illinois. "While our KidneyMobile® allows us to - in one day - easily screen a number of people for kidney disease, other health screenings and medical professionals on hand for the celebration add to the wealth of information designed to improve the community's health and quality of life."

"We are constantly working toward health equity for our Black and Brown communities, which are disproportionately impacted by kidney disease," said Burgess-Bishop. "These events help us meet these communities where they are by providing much-needed prevention, education and empowerment to reverse the trajectory of kidney disease across the entire state of Illinois. We know kidney equity is health equity."

OUTREACH

In addition to our large-scale educational, fundraising, and community outreach efforts we establish partnerships with local neighborhood leaders in order to engage with patients, families, and at-risk populations across the state. In FY24, we received a grant from the Illinois Public Health Association that allowed us to hire Community Health Workers (CHWs) in different areas of the state. These CHWs were trained and mobilized to attend community outreach events, reaching the public and building relationships with other community based organizations.

We also received a grant from Cook County Health Building Health Communities. This grant introduced us to many community based organizations within Cook County which helped us magnify our reach.

The Black K.A.R.E. program, which we developed in partnership with Baxter, Inc., continued to grow - expanding from a regional project to a national one. We created training materials and a website to empower The Links, Incorporated who take the message of kidney health for Black Americans into their communities.



05

INNOVATION IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) works closely with professionals across the kidney care spectrum to stay connected with advances in nephrology to help improve patient outcomes. We support researchers publishing cutting-edge researching, provide innovative continuing education resources, and bring hundreds of professionals together each year. Here's a sample of how NKFI ensured professionals have the information they need to advance their work in FY24:

WHAT'S NEW

MEDICAL STUDENT AWARD

Northwestern University Medical Student Cosimo Cianfarini was awarded the FY24 Medical Student Award to help fund his project entitled “Ex-vivo machine perfusion of mouse kidneys with soluble ACE2 to protect against delayed graft function.”

Delayed Graft Function (DGF) is a serious complication of kidney transplantation affecting up to 50% of deceased-donor kidney-transplant recipients and leading to increased risk for allograft rejection and death. There are no FDA approved treatments available, representing an important unmet clinical need. There is also an unmet need for a safe and more physiological approach. Hypothermic machine perfusion of donor kidneys has emerged as a preferred approach to prevent organ damage during cold ischemia and is associated with reduced risk for DGF and graft loss in deceased donor kidney transplantation. The goal of this project is to explore potential effects of machine perfusion with sACE2, since these approaches could be preemptively used to reduce DGF in kidney transplantation. Reducing the risk for DGF is highly relevant for improving the outcome of kidney transplantation in general and a possible way of expanding the pool of donor kidneys by making marginal kidneys at higher risk for DGF available.

Cianfarini presented his findings at Citywide Grand Rounds in September 2023 (pictured.)

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR GRANT

Michael Donnan, MD, FASN of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine was awarded the 2022 Young Investigator Grant for his research project entitled “Protective mechanisms of lymphangiogenesis in kidney injury.”

Nearly 37 million people in the United States have kidney disease, which impairs quality of life and represents an area where new effective treatments are urgently needed. Recent evidence suggests lymphatic vessels within the kidney are protective against kidney injury, representing a potential new target for treating kidney disease. However, the mechanisms why which lymphatic vessels protect the kidney from injury remains poorly understood. Dr. Donnan’s central hypothesis is that lymphatic vessels help protect the kidney from injury through direct communication between the endothelial cells of lymphatic vessels and the surrounding kidney tissue.

His research studies the impact of modulating lymphatic vessels on the progression of kidney injury while interrogating for protective signaling through a transcriptional profile of lymphatic endothelial cells and surrounding kidney niches. Together, his goal is to address current knowledge gaps in our understanding of how targeting kidney lymphatic vessels could be leveraged to treat kidney disease.

Funding for this award spans a two-year period.



06 EMPOWERING PATIENTS

For many patients and families, managing a diagnosis of kidney disease and finding useful healthcare information can seem daunting. The NKFI stands with patients, and ensures they are not alone. We work to connect them to resources, physicians, and treatment options, and empower them to be advocates for their own health. Here's a sample of how NKFI empowered patients to take control of their health in FY24:

WHAT'S NEW

In our effort to empower patients and families affected by kidney disease, NKFI organizes a calendar of free, educational seminars focused on connecting patients and caregivers with resources and information. Each program is developed in close collaboration with healthcare providers, researchers, and clinicians, designed with the utmost care, and constructed with the needs of patients and families in mind. It is our goal to make it as easy as possible for patients to find answers to their questions, connect directly with medical experts, and get the information they need when they need it.

APOL1 GENE WEBINAR

Scientists have learned that the APOL1 gene, which everyone has, mutated to protect Sub-Saharan West African people against African sleeping sickness. However, over time the risk of kidney disease in African Americans has significantly increased when two copies of the mutated APOL1 gene are inherited - one from each parent. In February 2024, NKFI hosted a webinar in which nephrologist Dr. Suneel Udani and panelists Monica Fox and Joann Howard discussed how new research is changing how certain kidney diseases are diagnosed and treated - particularly for those with Sub-Saharan African heritage.



VIVIENDO CON ENFERMEDAD RENAL Y TRASPLANTE EXPANDS TO ROCKFORD

Hispanic and Latinx people are at higher risk for chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. By offering the program entirely in Spanish, we

are meeting patients in a more accessible way. In FY2024, around 200 patients and family members attended this program in Chicago and Rockford.

Offered twice per year, each *Viviendo con Enfermedad Renal y Trasplante* workshop is presented **entirely in Spanish** and consists of one or two presentations, a series of intimate conversations led by experts rooted in kidney health, and a round table. This program is offered free of charge to patients and their families.



FAMILY PROGRAM IN A NEW LOCATION

Forming bonds of emotional support are so critical for families and children facing kidney disease which is why our program *Living with Kidney Disease and Transplantation: Families* affords families the opportunity to network with one another.

Living with Kidney Disease and Transplantation: Families is a very special free event is focused on helping young patients live healthy, fun-filled lives. It is still the only program of its kind in the country! Children, teens, and their families, and caregivers have the opportunity to meet with physicians, dietitians, nephrologists, and other relevant healthcare professionals for a day of empowering education. The event features speakers for parents and fun, engaging activities for kids. In FY2024, 18 families from three states attended the program at the Museum of Science & Industry.



07 OUR FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Thousands of people like you across the state have given their time, talents, and treasures all year to raise millions to fund important work led by NKFI. Our mission is now even more important and critical than ever before, which is why we are so thankful for our many patrons who have continued to support kidney patients.

AUDITED FINANCIALS FOR NKFI - FY24

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE



- **25.9%** Other Income \$795,495*
 - **25.9%** Special Events \$794,076
 - **22%** Program Sponsorships \$675,447
 - **16.7%** Government Grants \$511,354
 - **9.6%** Contributions \$294,448
- 100% Total Income \$3,070,763**

*Includes net investment income of \$710,103

EXPENSES



- **80.1%** Program Services \$2,596,509
 - **12.5%** Fundraising \$405,636
 - **7.4%** Management and General \$241,136
- 100% Total Expenses \$3,243,281**

Assets

Cash.....	\$332,927
Investments	\$5,833,425
Grants and Contributions Receivable	\$570,530
Prepaid Expenses	\$201,226
Property and Equipment..	\$174,319
Other Assets.....	\$71,345

Total Assets \$7,183,772

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$282,845
Deferred Revenue	\$282,532
Net Assets w/o Donor Restrictions	\$363,967
Net Assets w/ Donor Retrictions... ..	\$6,254,428

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$7,183,772

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

\$20,000+

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\$200,000+

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\$25,000-\$99,999

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BMO Harris Bank
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Inc.
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\$2,500-\$6,999

Akebia Therapeutics

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Metropolitan Chicago
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La-Co Industries, Inc.
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211
Trinity Health



The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois improves the health and well-being of people at risk for or affected by kidney disease through prevention, education and empowerment.

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