



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®

of Illinois

ANNUAL REPORT
FY 23



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The pages within highlight NKFI's efforts between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, our fiscal year 2023.



01

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



to
sionill | no

TAKING ACTION

During FY 2023, the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) activated and elevated our strategies 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. Over 3300 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 newly launched and expanded initiatives. Influencing change at the policy and systems level, launching the plans for the NKF-Illinois based national strategy for population health through the collective impact model, expanding our partnerships with community-based organizations to provide screenings for kidney disease in at risk, under resourced communities, hosting the launch and participating on the Illinois Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force, providing counseling on nutrition at no cost reflect our commitment to change the narrative and the data on kidney disease. Our research funding continues our commitment to the science and innovation. Our continuing partnerships with IPHA, Black K.A.R.E and new partnerships established with the Cook County Department of Public Health,

Northwestern Medicine’s AATAP and the BCBSIL Blue Care Van help us to engage

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”.

Sincerely,



Jill Schaaf
NKFI Board President



Jacqueline Burgess-Bishop, FACHE
CEO- NKFI

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Development Manager, Corporate
and Foundation Relations

Jocelyn Cervantes
Office & Finance Administrator

Gerardo Huerta
Senior Outreach Coordinator

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Marketing & Communications
Coordinator

Quin Taylor
Community Outreach Coordinator

Regina White, CNA, CPT
Senior KidneyMobile Manager

Allie Widmer
Special Events Manager

KIDNEY DISEASE AT-A-GLANCE

1 IN 3 ADULTS

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

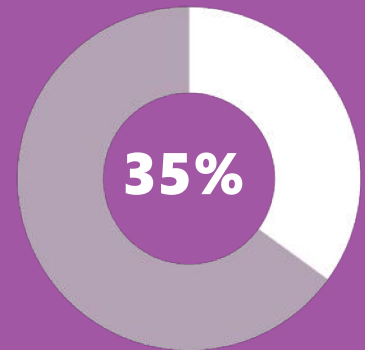


37 MILLION

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.



HISPANIC/LATINO AMERICANS

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

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

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

**ABOUT
3,300
PEOPLE**

in Illinois are on the waitlist for a kidney donation.

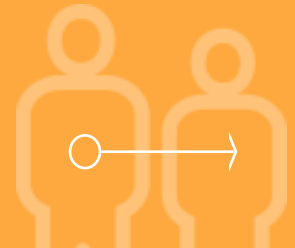


**1,263
PEOPLE**

in Illinois received kidney transplants in 2022.

**267
PEOPLE**

in Illinois received a kidney from a living donor in 2022.



**1 IN 5
KIDNEYS**

donated by deceased donors are discarded



**12
PEOPLE**

die each day while waiting for a kidney transplant.

60% OF ALL ORGAN
transplants were kidneys in 2022.



NKFI STATS FY2023

AT-A-GLANCE

241 PARTICIPANTS
attended patient programs

17 CHILDREN
attended kidney camp

**473 RENAL
PROFESSIONALS**
attended continuing
education events

17 MEMBERS
of the kidney disease
prevention and
education task force

1.5K WALKERS
attended the Walk for
Kidneys

65



KIDNEYMOBILE
screenings held state-wide

2,025 PARTICIPANTS
screened for kidney
disease, diabetes &
hypertension

54.3%
had at least one
abnormal result

\$189,000 AWARDED
in research grants



NKFI.ORG IN FY 23



47K

users on
nkfi.org

66K

page views on
nkfi.org

TOP 3 PAGES:

- Find a KidneyMobile Screening
- Diet and Nutrition
- NKFI Programs and Events

46K

unique page
views on
nkfi.org

9.8K LISTENERS



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

8.2K PEOPLE reached through
76 community partner outreach
events

14
community health talks held



6,341
FACEBOOK
followers



1,442
TWITTER
followers



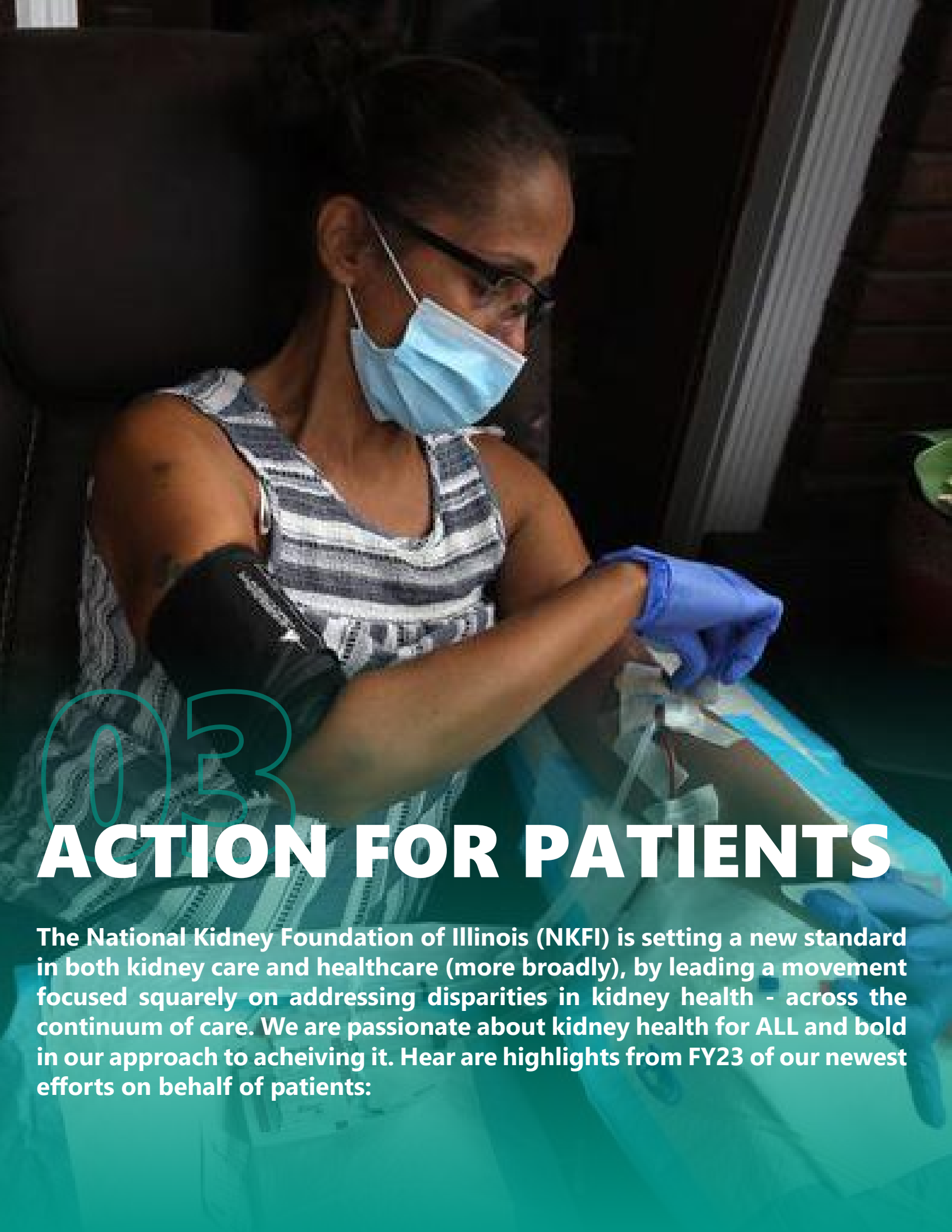
2,139
INSTAGRAM
followers



1,592
YOUTUBE
subscribers



1,191
LINKEDIN
subscribers



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. Hear are highlights from FY23 of our newest efforts on behalf of patients:

KIDNEY DISEASE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Members of the Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force convened in December 2022 to increase awareness around prevention and treatment of the disease that affects 37 million Americans.

“Kidney disease is of the utmost importance here in Illinois. An estimated 1.4 million Illinoisans are affected and only around 177,000 of them are aware of it,” said National Kidney Foundation of Illinois CEO Jacqueline Burgess-Bishop. “Raised awareness and early detection of chronic kidney disease and its risk factors — including diabetes and hypertension — can help prevent the disease from developing or progressing.”

Kidney disease is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, with uncontrolled diabetes and high blood pressure as the leading causes. Black Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney disease.

“It means the world to me to be co-chair of this task force, as I have been working with the National Kidney Foundation on this issue for a long time,” said State Senator Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago). “My mother was diagnosed with kidney disease when I was a teenager, and I struggled watching her suffer. I want to work towards prevention and treatment so that no one has to watch their loved ones die from this disease.”

The task force will work with leading educational institutions in Illinois to create health education programs to increase awareness of and examine chronic kidney disease, early detection, transplants and kidney donations, and the greater rates of diagnosis in minority groups.

According to the National Kidney Foundation, 33% of adults in the U.S. are at risk for developing kidney disease. Preventative measures include regular checkups, managing blood pressure

and blood sugar, eating healthy and exercising. If chronic kidney disease is detected early and managed correctly, swift treatment can slow and even stop kidney deterioration.

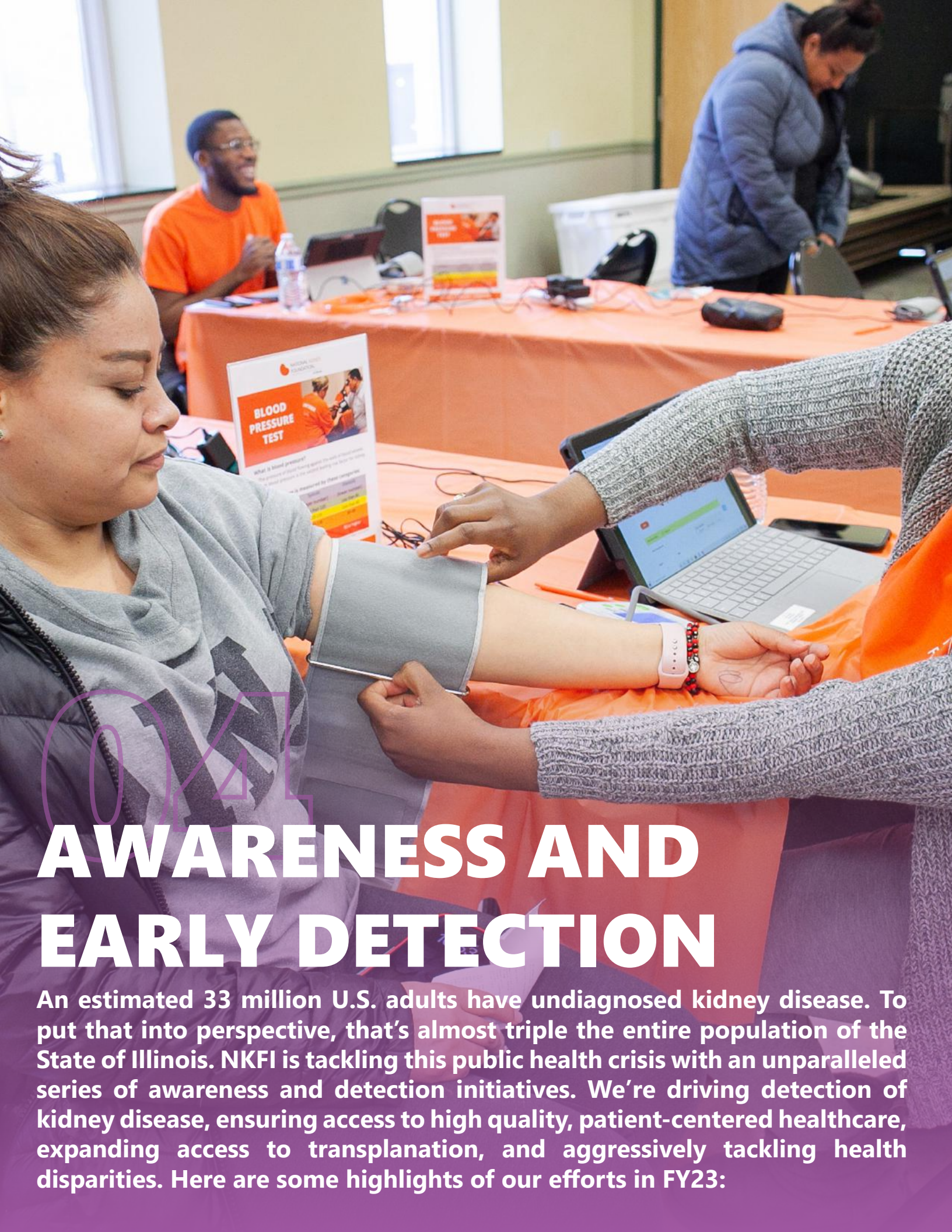
“I am so proud to be part of the Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force and to be working with such knowledgeable experts in this arena,” said State Representative Maurice West (D-Rockford). “I firmly believe that we have an opportunity not only to improve treatment and accessibility, but also to build awareness and take a proactive approach to preventing kidney disease for many in our communities.”

Task force members are dedicated to bringing awareness to this cause, and are developing a plan for raising public awareness and presenting solutions to reduce the prevalence of kidney disease and racial disparities in diagnoses and outcomes.

Despite there being over 3,000 people in Illinois waiting for a kidney, the current wait for a deceased donor kidney is between five and eight years in Illinois, with Black adults often waiting the longest. An increase in living donations can significantly cut that wait.

There are free KidneyMobile screenings across the state. Get screened for diabetes, high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease. Visit kidneymobile.org for date and location information.

Visit www.nkfi.org for more information other free patient programs offered by the NKFI.



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 FY23:

WHAT'S NEW

COMMUNITY HEALTH TALKS

As part of the Kidney Health for LifeSM public Awareness campaign, NKFI held community health talks in partnership with places of worship and community groups. These talks served to reach populations at-risk for developing CKD and give them easy-to-understand education about how to care for their kidneys prior to a CKD diagnosis.

The talks were comprised of a brief patient story, an introduction to NKFI, and a 20-30 minute presentation led by a medical professional about kidney disease and the basics of kidney health. Participants have the opportunity to ask questions and are given information about free screenings, dietary consultations, programs, and more.

WORLD KIDNEY DAY TIMES TWO

For the first time ever, NKFI held not one but two World Kidney Day celebrations - in Melrose Park and Anna, 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.

"We are so committed to our community's health and quality of life that we knew we had to go bigger this year - with two events statewide - to educate the public on just how crucial kidney health is to overall good health," said Jacqueline Burgess-Bishop, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer of the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois. "We want people in and around Melrose Park and Anna

to come out and take advantage of free health screenings, other health services, and we want them to have direct connections with medical professionals who will be able to speak with them about their health screenings that same day."

"It's about health equity. Our Black and Brown communities are disproportionately impacted by kidney disease, and these events help us meet these communities where they are," said Burgess-Bishop. "By providing much-needed prevention, education and empowerment, we are one step closer to changing the trajectory of kidney disease across all of Illinois."

The celebration in Anna was a partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Shawnee Community College and Mid-America Transplant Services to host a community health fair at the Shawnee College Extension Center.

Participants received kidney health risk assessments, produce boxes from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, and valuable information about health and health care access in Southern Illinois.

Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, the Melrose Park event included: the KidneyMobile[®] providing screenings that include urinalysis, blood sugar/A1C, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) evaluation, a blood draw (if necessary), nutritional counseling, and one-on-one counseling and referrals; BlueCare Van, produce box giveaways; Lion's Club, hearing and vision screenings; Cook County, HIV testing; Illinois Secretary of State, organ donation information; and many more. Additional sponsors include UI Health, Fresenius Kidney Care, and Nephrology Associates of Northern Indiana and Illinois.



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION
of Illinois

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 FY23:

WHAT'S NEW

INNOVATIONS GRANT

Researchers Andiara Schwingel, PhD, Minakshi Raj, PhD, and PhD candidates Sadia Anjum Ashrafi, MPH, Laura M. Quintero Silva, MS, Rafat Binte Alam, MCH, and Alice A Oloo, MPH, from University of Illinois were awarded the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) 2022-2024 Innovations Grant for their project entitled, "Community Health Workers supporting chronic kidney disease patients from African American and Latinx backgrounds."

The project examines the implementation of culturally sensitive solutions to improve health outcomes among African American and Latinx patients living with chronic kidney disease (CKD.) The focus is to understand the feasibility of engaging community health workers (CHWs) in the care of African American and Latinx CKD patients. Based on the perceptions of patients, family members, healthcare providers, and representatives of health organizations, researchers are examining how CHWs can contribute to CKD care, and better understand the barriers and opportunities associated with engaging CHWs in the care of African American and Latinx CKD patients.

To date, researchers recruited more than 300 healthcare providers, patients, and caregivers to participate in the study via recruitment through social media, targeted emails, attending the 2022 American Society of Nephrology Conferences in Orlando, the 2022 NKFI Living with Kidney Disease and Transplantation (English) in Peoria, 2022 NKFI Living with Kidney Disease and Transplantation (Spanish) in Chicago; and 2023 Spring Clinical Meetings of the National Kidney Foundation in Austin. Their abstract has been accepted for presentation at the America Public Health Association Annual meeting in Atlanta, in November (2023).

Future work under the project includes recruitment of 30 CKD patients and caregivers from African American and Latinx backgrounds; additional data collection and analysis; continued article writing, and presentations; and a final report to NKFI, submission of articles, and press release.

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.



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 FY23:

WHAT'S NEW

TAKE CHARGE

Take Charge: Chronic Disease Self Management Program is an eight-week, 2.5 hour-long workshop for participants who are in various stages of Chronic Kidney Disease. The first six weeks focus on overall healthy living, with two additional sessions that cover kidney specific content. The workshops are led by trained and certified volunteers who guide participants through the materials.

Participants include those living with kidney disease, kidney failure, or kidney transplants, caregivers, and those at risk for developing chronic kidney disease. Those who complete the program learn to manage everyday activities, control symptoms and decrease stress, improve communication skills, avoid complications, improve overall health and increase energy levels, become an advocate for themselves, and better understand fluid restrictions and dialysis.

NKFI offered four virtual sessions of Take Charge in FY2023 to participants across the state.

FAMILY PROGRAM

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 the only program of its kind in the country!

Children, teens, and their families, and caregivers will 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. Children gain a better understanding of their bodies that enables them to gain confidence in their health.

Educational topics cover information about new medicine, managing a kidney transplant, emotional support and family wellness, dialysis options, breakthroughs in technology, healthy

snacks and nutrition, and more.

Perhaps most importantly, families are afforded the opportunity to network with one another - forming bonds of emotional support that are so critical for families and children facing kidney disease.

In FY2023, 13 families from five states attended the program at the Brookfield Zoo.

DIETARY CONSULTATIONS

Eating a good diet and getting enough exercise are important for every person's physical health and well-being, but they are even more important for people who need to actively monitor their kidney health.

One of the most commonly asked questions we receive from patients is, "what do I eat?" For many patients looking to take control of their nutrition, it can be useful to work with a dietitian. Dietitians will help plan meals; identify food that is easy on the kidneys; and build individualized eating plans that address specific health concerns, and make eating an enjoyable and nutritious experience.

If you're not on dialysis or attending regular transplant clinic appointments, access to a dietitian is harder to find. That's why we offer free one-on-one nutritional consults with our Foundation Dietitian Dr. Melissa Prest.

In addition to free consultations, we offer an "ask the dietitian" monthly blog series, and short informational nutrition-based informational videos on social media.

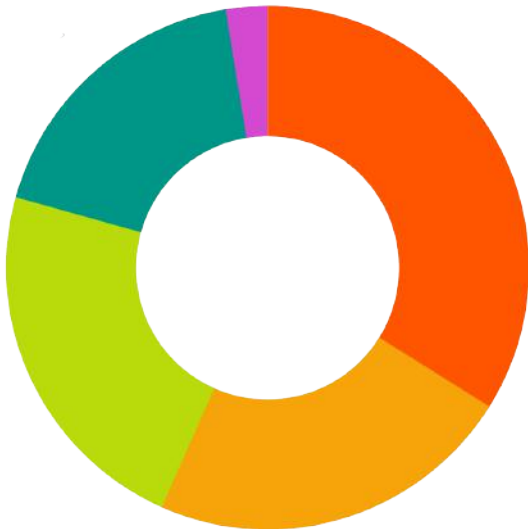


07 OUR FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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.

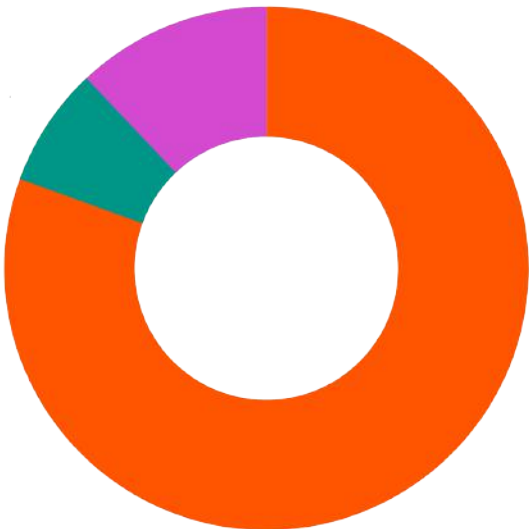
AUDITED FINANCIALS FOR NKFI - FY23

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE



- **33.9%** Contributions \$991,371
 - **22.7%** Special Events (net) \$665,494
 - **22.7%** Program Sponsorships \$664,733
 - **18.1%** Government Grants \$529,081
 - **2.6%** Other Income \$75,135
- 100% Total Income \$2,735,596***
*Reflects net investment loss of (\$190,218)

EXPENSES



- **80.6%** Program Services \$2,562,438
 - **12%** Fundraising \$383,210
 - **7.4%** Management and General \$235,413
- 100% Total Expenses \$3,181,061**

Assets

Cash.....	\$610,606
Investments.....	\$5,683,320
Grants and Contributions Receivable.....	\$646,797
Prepaid Expenses.....	\$214,725
Property and Equipment..	\$212,312
Other Assets.....	\$106,198

Total Assets \$7,473,958

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses.....	\$493,821
Deferred Revenue.....	\$189,224
Net Assets w/o Donor Restrictions.....	\$1,205,228
Net Assets w/ Donor Retrictions.....	\$5,585,685

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$7,473,958

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

\$20,000+

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Mr. Dean Lundquist
Mr. Richard Noel
The Paul & Joan Rubschlager Foundation
Mr. Frank Trilla

\$10,000- \$19,999

Mr. Christopher Killackey
Dr. Holly Kramer
Mr. and Ms. Steve and Christa Leyendecker
Ms. Jill Schaaf
Mr. and Mrs. Mark L. Schwartz

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Mr. Christopher McClure
Dr. Arthur Morris
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\$2,500-\$4,999

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Dr. Ronald Hamburger
Mr. and Mrs. John and Jeanne Kett
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Dr. Andres Serrano
Mr. Barry Trilla, Jr.
Ms. Kathleen Veach
Mr. Andrew Weil

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Ms. Tamara Dawn Alairys
Ms. and Mr. Kristine and Bruce Amborn
Mr. and Ms. Curt and Dana Anliker
Drs. Andrew and Iris Aronson
Mr. Robert A Bartell
Mr. Bruce Bennin
Ms. Cheryl Boeke
Mr. Duncan Bourne
Mr. Gavin Campbell
Mr. Tim Cummins
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Dr. John Friedewald
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Ms. Pamela McElvane
Dr. Deepak Mital
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Mr. William Pintas
Mr. William Pullia
Dr. Tipu Puri
Mr. Jeremy Rosenau
Mr. and Mrs. Jerold Sider
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Jan Sider
Dr. Kareen Simpson
Mr. David Smalstig
Mr. Russell P. Smith
Ms. Susan Sullivan
Mr. Jeremy Watson
Mr. Kirk Williams
Mr. Ben Winger

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION PARTNERS

\$100,000+

Baxter Healthcare Inc.
Illinois Public Health
Association

\$25,000-\$99,999

Associates in Nephrology
DaVita/Total Renal Care
Fresenius Medical Care
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue
Donor Network
Health Care Service Corporation
Jones Day
Katten, Muchin, Rosenman
Foundation
Nephrology Associates of
Northern Illinois and Indiana
UI Health

\$10,000-\$24,999

Aileen S. Andrew Foundation
Alexion Pharmaceuticals
AlixPartners LLP
Ankura Consulting
AstraZeneca
Chapman & Cutler LLP
Crowe LLP
Dialysis Care Center
Foley & Lardner LLC
Goldberg Kohn LTD
Huron Consulting Group
Marsh & McLennan Companies
Mesirow Financial
Noel Foundation
Northwestern Medicine
Northwestern University
NxStage Medical
Paul Hastings LLP
PNC Business
Prairie Capital
Proskauer Rose LLP

RSM US LLP
Sidley Austin Foundation
SRS Acquiom
Travere Therapeutics
The Vistria Group
Wells Fargo Commercial
Banking
Westlake Health Foundation
Winston & Strawn LLP
Wintrust Financial Corp.
Zell Family Foundation

\$7,000-\$9,999

Amgen
BDO
Belmont Bank & Trust
BMO Harris Bank
CareDx
DLA Piper LLP
Enterprise Fleet Management
Horton Group
Kroll Corporate Finance
Latham & Watkins LLP
Livingstone Partners
Much Shelist
Neuberger Berman LLC
Newmark Knight Frank
Northern Trust Company
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical
Perkins Coie
Reed Smith LLP
Riveron Consulting LLC
Robert W. Baird and Co.
Sanofi Genzyme
Sikich LLP
Stretto
University of Chicago
Wynnchurch Capital

\$2,500-\$6,999

Abbvie
Alvarez & Marsal Holdings LLC

Arbor Investments
Baxter International
Foundation Gift Matching
Program
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan
& Aronoff LLP
Chiesi Global Rare Diseases
Loyola University Medical
Center
Richard James McCann
Foundation
Morgan Stanley
Pentec Health
Rush University Medical
Center
Vedder Price
Samuel Weinstein Family
Foundation

\$1,000-\$2,499

Akebia Therapeutics
Burr Ridge Community Church
Chicago Access Care
Concerto Renal Services
Dialyze Direct
Enterprise Holdings
Financial Solutions LLC
Hoffman Estates High School
Huntington National Bank
Kovler Family Foundation
La-Co Industries
Patriot Capital
Valuation Research Corporation



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The NKFI mission brings together a diverse range of advocates, passionate volunteers, local health leaders, and community service organizations, all focused on a common goal of improving kidney health. Here's a look at how we're better together.

WHAT'S NEW

COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Building Healthy Communities is a public health initiative coordinated by the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) in partnership with community organizations serving suburban Cook County aimed at advancing community solutions for racial and health equity.

Through our work in Building Healthy Communities, we contracted with two Community Health Workers to conduct outreach in Melrose Park, Maywood, Dolton, and Chicago Heights. Deliverables include hosting KidneyMobile™ screenings and Take Charge sessions in each community.

ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

In partnership with the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA), the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) and OSF Healthcare System, NKFI continues to participate in the Pandemic Health Navigator program. The program integrates community health centers, community-based organizations, and public health partners to coordinate available resources for Illinois regions that have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pandemic Health Navigator Program operates throughout all of Illinois outside of Cook County, also known as Regions 1-9. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) granted \$60 million in funding to Regional Coordinators to ensure resources are available for residents in need either through direct services and/or sub-awarding to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and other community-based agencies. NKFI is represented in Southern Illinois by a contracted Community Health Worker.

ENDELEO INSTITUTE AND AATAP

Northwestern Medicine's African American

Transplant Access Program (AATAP) and the Endeleo Institute invited NKFI to participate in a project focused on mitigating food deserts. The project aims to improve outcomes for patients with kidney disease in predominately Black communities in Chicago.

The project expanded on Endeleo's existing food pantry in Chicago's Washington Heights neighborhood by adding healthy food access and nutritional programming, support groups and educational resources to help guide community members in making better food choices that can improve disease, with a specific focus on kidney disease.

NKFI provided diet and nutrition information, as well as valuable resources and screening services at a large community expo.

BLUE CARE VAN

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) Care Van® program partnered with NKFI to provide local kidney screenings in areas across the state based on population health data.

NKFI provides testing stations for A1C and screenings for urinalysis, glucose, body mass index, and blood pressure. BCBSIL provides health literature and food boxes to support a healthy lifestyle focused on reducing hypertension and diabetes.

Kidney damage caused by diabetes usually happens slowly, so early detection can prevent or delay further damage. The Care Van and the NKFI KidneyMobile™ unit team up to bring more services to rural areas of Illinois.



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LOOKING AHEAD TO FY24

Our mission to save lives continues to move forward with some of our most innovative and impactful work to come. Here are a few highlights of what you will see in next year's report.



ENDING DISPARITIES IN CKD - ILLINOIS SUMMIT

On June 27, 2023, NKFI hosted a hybrid summit to present the recommendations and engage partners in joining the Collective Impact Approach. The goal of the Ending Disparities in CKD Leadership Summit is to drive a cultural shift in primary care toward increasing the early diagnosis and management of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). Using the Collective Impact model as a framework, NKFI convened a series of Learning and Action Workgroup discussions in which stakeholders identified barriers and solutions to improve CKD awareness, detection, and management in Illinois.

RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS:

Barriers to CKD testing, diagnosis, and management

Knowledge and Awareness: There is a general lack of CKD knowledge and awareness across multiple stakeholders. Among the general public and patients, the precursors of CKD are unknown. Therefore, patients are not knowledgeable when to get tested, and even if patients are tested, they are not equipped with the chronic disease self-management tools needed to handle their diagnosis. Patients are in need of better access to information or tools to help manage medications, navigate referrals to specialists, and make diet or lifestyle changes to manage CKD. Challenges with health literacy and navigating a complex health system compound this issue.

The lack of knowledge and awareness does not only apply to patients but also clinicians. Within a community context, there is often a cultural disconnect between patients and providers. This spans across different communities as well, as they have different barriers to access to care. In a clinical context, primary care clinicians identified lack of awareness for CKD care guidelines as a barrier as well as a disconnect between quality metrics and patient care goals pertaining to CKD.

Health Care Systems and Structures:

Participating group members agreed that providing the best care to patients is done

most effectively with an interdisciplinary team. Stakeholders identified fragmentation in the care team as a barrier. Staffing limitations in different parts of the care team affect this issue, as well as the baseline knowledge of CKD amongst each of these roles.

Clinicians identified specific barriers in their role being low utilization of the eGFR (estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate) equation – a tool used to estimate kidney function, as well as lack of data or benchmarking on CKD testing rates among at risk individuals. This affects the utilization of proper testing needed to diagnosis CKD. The challenges of implementing a value-based care or other payment model were also discussed within the workgroups.

Lack of Resources for CKD Patients: During the workgroups, a lack of resources for CKD patients was identified as a major barrier to care. Social determinants of health, such as economic stability, transportation, and others, prevent patients from seeking adequate care or managing their health conditions, but clinicians don't always have the resources or bandwidth to provide referrals. Additionally, it was identified that resources, treatment, and care options are not discussed in depth with patients. Therefore, there is a general lack of awareness of available resources or information for patients with a CKD diagnosis.

SOLUTIONS:

- Increasing public awareness and Understanding of CKD
- Clinician and health care system opportunities
- Building a case and changing the conversation
- Leveraging policy, payment and quality measures

Learn more about the summit at nkfi.org/il-ckdintercept



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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