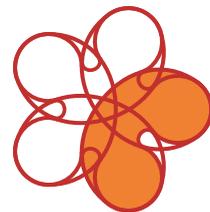


2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Mark La Rose, a kidney transplant recipient, and his son Stephen.

Patient Services | Public Education | Professional Education | Organ and Tissue Donation | Research | Advocacy



**National Kidney
Foundation™**

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About our Cover Single dad Mark La Rose is full of gratitude. He’s thankful for the unwavering devotion of his 16-year-old son Stephen who cared for him when he was ill, and for the generosity of a stranger who donated her organs to save his life. After suffering from diabetes for 31 years, Mark’s kidneys began to fail and he was placed on the national waiting list for both a kidney and pancreas transplant. Since receiving his combined transplant in 2005, he and Stephen have begun pursuing their passions for photography and world travel in earnest. But besides their upcoming trip to Tokyo, the two are on a mission to spread the word about organ donation and the importance of early detection, especially for people like Mark whose diabetes put him in the high risk category for kidney disease. They are working together with the National Kidney Foundation to accomplish that goal, and have even rallied Mark’s coworkers at AIG Insurance Company to team up in support of the Kidney Walk for the last few years. **Cover photo:** Erica Berger

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Dear Friends,

It became apparent in 2007 that the need for our programs and services has never been greater. We already knew that the increased incidence of diabetes and hypertension in the U.S. would impact the rates of kidney disease. What we didn't know was how dramatically the number of Americans living with chronic kidney disease (CKD) had increased. A major study released this year estimates that the number of American adults living with CKD is 26 million—a dramatic 30 percent increase over the last decade.

One of the most disturbing aspects of these findings is the number of people—literally millions of Americans—who are completely unaware of their condition. Because kidney disease can go unnoticed for so long, patients are often facing kidney failure by the time it is discovered. Early detection—absolutely essential in treating CKD—can slow the progression of the disease.

Expanding Our Efforts

In 2007, we initiated many activities that reflected the urgency and magnitude of this discovery. We've stepped up our efforts to promote early detection for those at risk for kidney disease—people with diabetes, high blood pressure or a family history. Our public outreach efforts urged people to take the simple tests to determine kidney function. We worked aggressively to reach primary care physicians to ensure that blood and urine tests to check the kidneys are part of regular medical checkups.

Most significantly, we continued to expand our Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP)[™], which, in its 10th year, achieved a major milestone by screening the 100,000th participant. As KEEP grows, it also continues to evolve with new components and scientific elements that allow us to learn more about valuable patient outcomes over time.

In the area of kidney disease research, where we already spend \$3 million annually, the Board of Directors voted to double the research budget over the next five years. This is the 40th year of our esteemed research program, and over the decades we have provided more than \$73 million in grants to nephrologists, kidney researchers and scientists.

An increase in the number of patients also calls for appropriate advocacy efforts. We continued to vigorously defend kidney and dialysis patients and transplant recipients in Washington, D.C., through a number of channels. Perhaps most visibly this year, we established the NKF Take Action Network, an e-advocacy system that allows people to immediately e-mail their representatives in Congress when urgent legislative and policy issues arise. Over 7,600 messages urging action were directly delivered to Congress through the network in 2007.

Staying a Step Ahead

Finally, in order to more effectively serve all of our constituents, we are undergoing a major reorganization. In 2007, we began the transition from an affiliate-based structure to a division-based, centralized organization. This paradigm shift enables the local offices to focus more on critical activities like delivering programs and fund raising, while the National headquarters assumes most administrative responsibilities, including finance, information technology and human resources. So far, the transition is progressing smoothly and we will continue to move the process forward over the next few years.

This annual report showcases the skills, talents and passion of the health care professionals, volunteers and advocates who helped us serve the needs of kidney patients and their families in 2007. We urge you to read on to see how we are preparing to meet the needs of the increased number of people facing kidney disease while working to accomplish our mission: preventing kidney and urinary tract diseases, improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation.

We are proud of the National Kidney Foundation, which is making important strides and progress towards preventing kidney disease and its consequences. Keep reading to learn more about these efforts, the people who benefit from them and how you can help.

We thank you for your interest, participation and support.



Allan J. Collins, MD, President



Chuck Fruit, FACHE, Past Chairman



John Davis, CEO



(left to right) Allan J. Collins, Chuck Fruit and John Davis.

2007 by the numbers

8,000	health care professionals benefitted from NKF membership
10,000	golfers participated in local NKF Golf Classics
12,800	clinicians received CME/CE credits through NKF
14,000	NKF program volunteers nationwide
36,000	calls to NKF's kidney information hotline
40,000	kidney patients, families and friends participated in 88 Kidney Walks nationwide
40,000	donations to NKF Kidney Cars
50,000	members of NKF's "People Like Us" patient empowerment group participated in advocacy and education activities
100,000	people at risk for kidney disease have received free early evaluation screening from NKF
345,000	patients, family members and professionals benefitted from the quarterly newspaper <i>Family Focus</i>
\$3,367,933	awarded from NKF and its affiliates in grants to 100+ researchers and scientists
\$3,998,462	in direct financial assistance to kidney patients
4,085,100	visitors to www.kidney.org
185,000,000	media impressions helped tell the NKF story

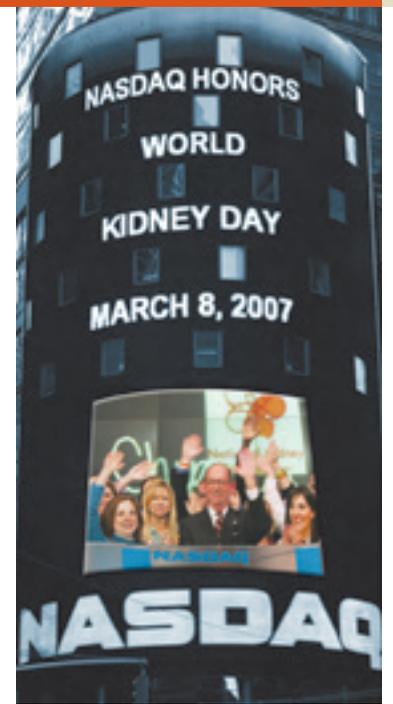
World Kidney Day

NKF used the fast-growing global awareness day to spread the word about early evaluation for kidney disease.

The National Kidney Foundation did more than just talk about risk factors on World Kidney Day, an international event observed in more than 40 nations worldwide. On March 8, NKF issued a call to action for all those at risk to get screened, and provided free screenings in 23 cities across the U.S. to those at risk—anyone with diabetes, high blood pressure or a family history of kidney disease.

The foundation was honored to ring the NASDAQ Closing Bell on World Kidney Day. Our message, NKF logo and 30-second TV spot were given prominence on the NASDAQ screen in New York City's Times Square throughout the day. Across the nation, dozens of communities recognized the foundation and the importance of early detection and treatment with World Kidney Day proclamations.

NKF Board Member, Jeanne Phillips, aka Dear Abby, carried a call for early evaluation in her popular column. Additional media coverage shone the spotlight on this growing national health issue, with features in major print and broadcast outlets around the country. The news reports generated 7,000 calls for information and 105,000 Web page views.



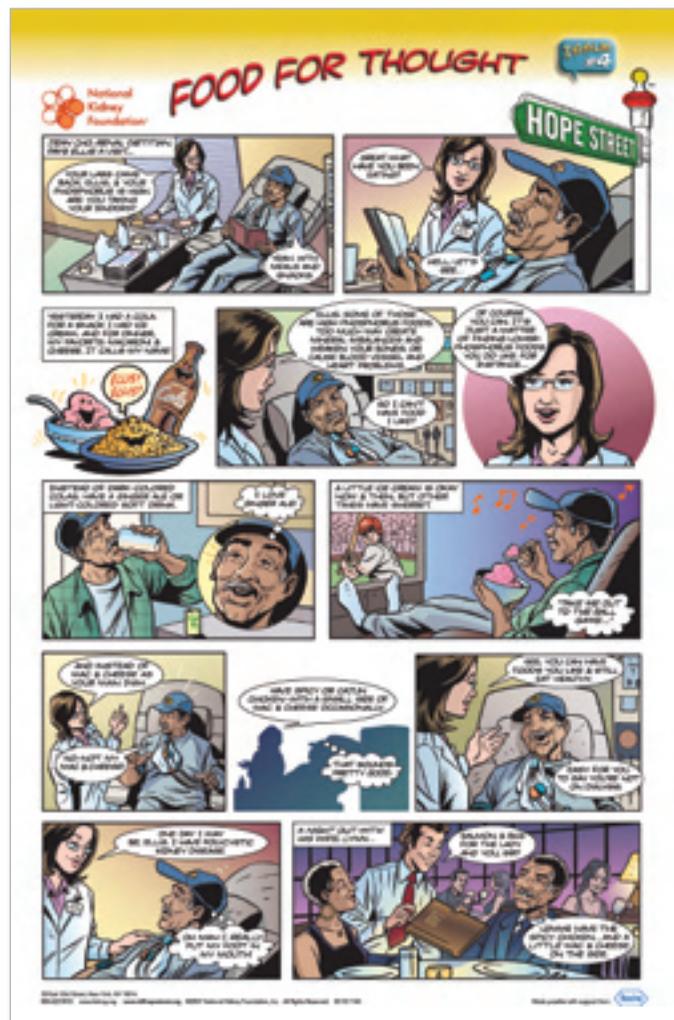
Dear Abby



Can You Tell Me How to Get to *Hope Street*?

While Hollywood's superheroes drew crowds to theaters, NKF unveiled its own original cast of cartoon characters as part of a major new educational initiative called *Hope Street*SM.

Hope Street delivers CKD education in an emotional and engaging way, using a "graphic novella," or cartoon series format. It tells the story of a group of patients and their health care team in a dialysis unit that is similar to hundreds of centers across the country. The novella journeys through the lives of the fictional characters and spotlights key milestones along the way, including the shock of being diagnosed, role-reversals in family relationships, work-related stress and coping with underlying medical conditions. NKF also offers educational tools for professionals and patients that coincide with the themes in each issue. *Hope Street* motivates professionals and people on dialysis to talk about their experiences and feelings concerning dialysis. More than 25,000 copies of *Hope Street*, complete with posters and educational tools for both patients and their health care team, were delivered to dialysis units across the U.S. this year.



"*Hope Street* is a terrific way to capture the attention of those who would otherwise not seek out patient information. Education always empowers and the cartoon series helps patients be self-advocates in managing their own kidney disease."

Laura Weber, Kidney Recipient
San Jose, CA

"*Hope Street* is eye-catching and I know patients will respond very positively to the program. The more hands-on material we have, the better it is for the patient. Our patients will definitely relate to the characters and their struggles."

Carol Stephens, Dietitian
Ozarks Dialysis Services
Springfield, MO

Learn more about *Hope Street* at www.nkfhopestreet.org



STUART BOWERS | Generosity is in His Genes

Stuart Bowers, a senior executive at the Baltimore-based investment leader Legg Mason, believes it's no big deal that he gives an abundance of time and money to the National Kidney Foundation, and he isn't shy about asking those around him to do the same. "Most people think it's hard to ask for money," says Bowers, 48. "I don't find it difficult. Not if it benefits the NKF."

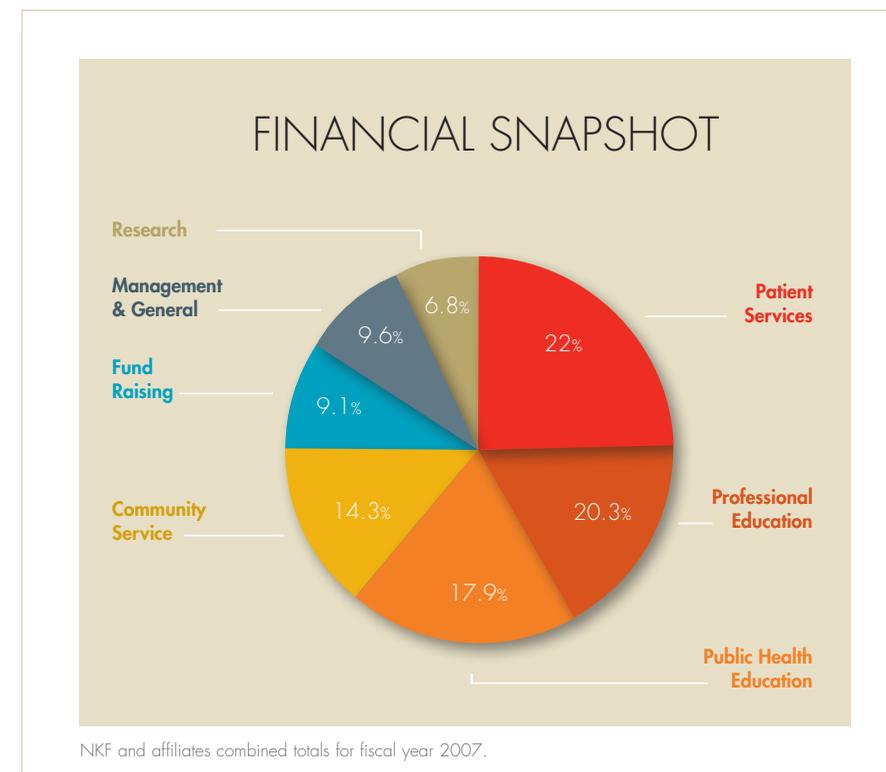
Fund raising for the Maryland affiliate of the NKF is a Bowers' family tradition. Stuart's father, David, a litigation attorney, was a polycystic

kidney disease patient who was on dialysis for 18 years. "He just worked court dates around dialysis," says Stuart. Dialysis didn't keep David from serving as local board president or from fund raising either. In 2006, the Maryland affiliate established the Bowers Family Research Award for Polycystic Kidney Disease, which offers an annual \$10,000 grant for research into polycystic kidney disease.

Stuart inherited the disease, along with the family commitment to the foundation. He, too, has served as board president and has been active

on dozens of committees, from the Gift of Life Gala to the Golf Classic. Stuart was diagnosed at 18, but, unlike his father, he never needed to go on dialysis. In 1998, he underwent a pre-emptive transplant with a kidney donated by his sister, Julie. "It was the scariest day of my father's life," Bowers recalls. "He had a daughter donating a kidney and a son receiving one."

Though their father died in 2000, his commitment to the NKF lives on through his children. "I can't imagine not being involved," says Stuart. "What can I say? It's a family thing."



Your Donation Dollar at Work

Your Donation Dollar is well spent with the National Kidney Foundation.

More than 81 cents of every dollar goes directly to programs and services supporting patients and their families.



Patient Services | Public Education | Professional Education | Organ and Tissue Donation | Research | Advocacy

Listening to the experts—those affected by chronic kidney disease (CKD)—helped NKF develop its patient services this year. Through a needs assessment survey, patients from around the country and their family members weighed in on issues that they confront every day, from emotional isolation to financial worries and choosing long-term care. NKF responded by offering support services, educational initiatives and materials to the more than 26 million American adults with CKD and the 341,000 on dialysis. NKF also reached out to those at risk with free screenings to promote early detection.

Above: Kidney patients enjoy a boat ride at Kidney Camp, run by NKF of North Carolina.



Patient Support and Assistance

People with CKD often feel isolated from friends, co-workers and even family members. To help minimize the loneliness, NKF presented programs that fostered communication among those who share the kidney disease experience. Summer camps for children with kidney disease, patient picnics and support groups were organized all over the U.S.

NKF affiliates and divisions also helped alleviate the financial burdens CKD imposes on families by providing nearly \$4 million in direct patient assistance. When paying the rent, getting a ride to dialysis or buying essential nutritional supplements was simply impossible, NKF stepped in with much-needed financial assistance.

Helping Families Choose Long-Term Care

Finding a long-term care residence for a loved one can be a daunting task, especially for those whose family members are on dialysis. To help families select the choice that is right for them, NKF developed the "People Like Us": Long-Term Care Residence Chronic Kidney Disease Checklist. The checklist guides families by identifying important issues when looking for a residence, including specialized staff training, proximity to treatment and dialysis-friendly diet.

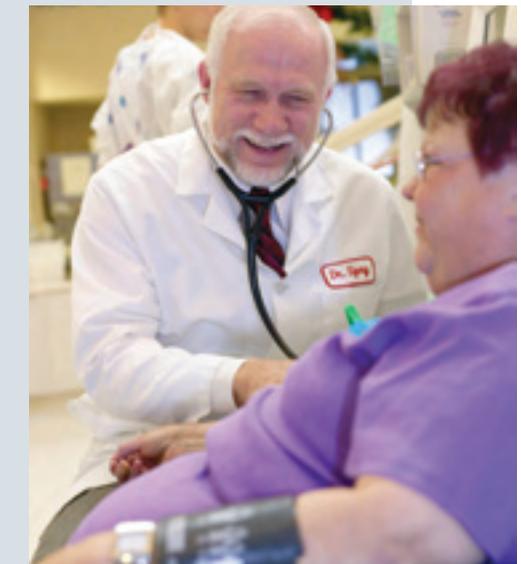


Free Screenings for Those At Risk

The foundation's Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP)TM offers free screening for those at risk—anyone with high blood pressure, diabetes or a family history of kidney disease. The program, which screened its 100,000th participant in 2007, is finding kidney disease at the earliest stage when prevention of kidney failure is still possible. This year, KEEP provided three simple tests that determine kidney function to tens of thousands across the U.S.

Insights on Dialysis Written by Patients Themselves

A two-part NKF book series on dialysis made its debut this year. *Getting Ready for a New Normal* and *A New Normal: Life on Dialysis—The First 90 Days* broke new ground by exploring the emotional and physical adjustment to dialysis. Written by people who have experienced the treatment themselves, the series provides a unique, first-hand look at the myriad of concerns facing people who are new to dialysis.



*“Pure and simple,
KEEP saved my life
and I tell everybody
about it.”*

—Rosalie Swick,
Findlay, OH



ROSALIE SWICK | KEEPing Healthy Through Early Detection

Rosalie Swick (above, left) thought her heart would break when she had to give up riding her motorcycle after an accident left her with a back injury a few years ago. “I felt such freedom on my motorcycle,” the 66-year-old retiree says wistfully of traveling in and around her hometown hamlet of Findlay, Ohio. “But that was nothing next to what happened to me this year when I was feeling so weak I could barely walk.”

Doctors at the local hospital told Swick there was “absolutely nothing wrong,” despite three EKGs and her reports of frightening fatigue and unusual lower back pain. That’s when her dear friend Marcia Nye (above, right) read in the local newspaper about NKF’s free health screening being done in Columbus through the Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP)™. She took Swick on a 100-mile trip that saved her life. When Swick saw the line of people waiting for the free examination, she wanted to turn around and go home. “I thought it would take forever, but the KEEP people were organized and handled us all,”

Swick says. “I’m not easily impressed, but the KEEP people were fantastic, and smart too.”

Swick is also grateful to her physician, Dr. John Biery, who sent her right to a cardiologist when he received the KEEP test results that showed high blood pressure, among other ailments. The KEEP screening also found that Swick had protein in her urine, an early marker of kidney disease. The cardiologist told Swick she needed immediate heart surgery or she would die. The kidney disease she never noticed had been silently contributing to her heart disease.

Unlike so many others who discover that they have the disease only when their kidney function has deteriorated so badly that the only recourse is dialysis, Swick got the information early enough to manage her kidney disease and also underwent a successful triple bypass surgery. She has resumed going to church and doing all the other activities big and small that give her pleasure. “I don’t shuffle anymore,” she reports, “I stride!”



Patient Services | Public Education | Professional Education | Organ and Tissue Donation | Research | Advocacy

Most Americans know that monitoring cholesterol is critical to their well-being. Too few realize, however, that measuring their level of kidney function can also provide an important barometer of overall health. As a result, chronic kidney disease (CKD) often goes undetected. A major study published this year indicated that the prevalence of CKD has risen by 30 percent, increasing the number of those living with CKD from 20 to 26 million. NKF rose to this challenge by accelerating its public education efforts about risk factors for kidney disease and the lifesaving benefits of early detection. Through free nationwide screenings, high profile public service campaigns and community outreach, our message reached millions.

Above: NKF volunteer conducts health risk appraisal as part of Kidney Early Evaluation Program.

Early Detection Saves Lives

The increased prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in the U.S. is attributed to a rise in hypertension and diabetes. Those two conditions are major risk factors for CKD, yet so many are unaware of the connection.

NKF addressed this link with its Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP)[™] that identified and offered free screening through blood, blood pressure and urine tests to those at risk for CKD—anyone with hypertension, diabetes or a family history of kidney disease.

KEEP is designed to find kidney disease at the earliest stage when prevention of kidney failure is still possible. Tens of thousands in communities across the U.S. took the opportunity to benefit from early detection by participating in KEEP, bringing the total number of Americans screened since the inception of KEEP a decade ago to 100,000.

News reports based on KEEP data published in NKF's official journal, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, informed the public about the impact of uncontrolled high blood pressure on the progression of kidney disease and identified minority groups that need to be most vigilant.

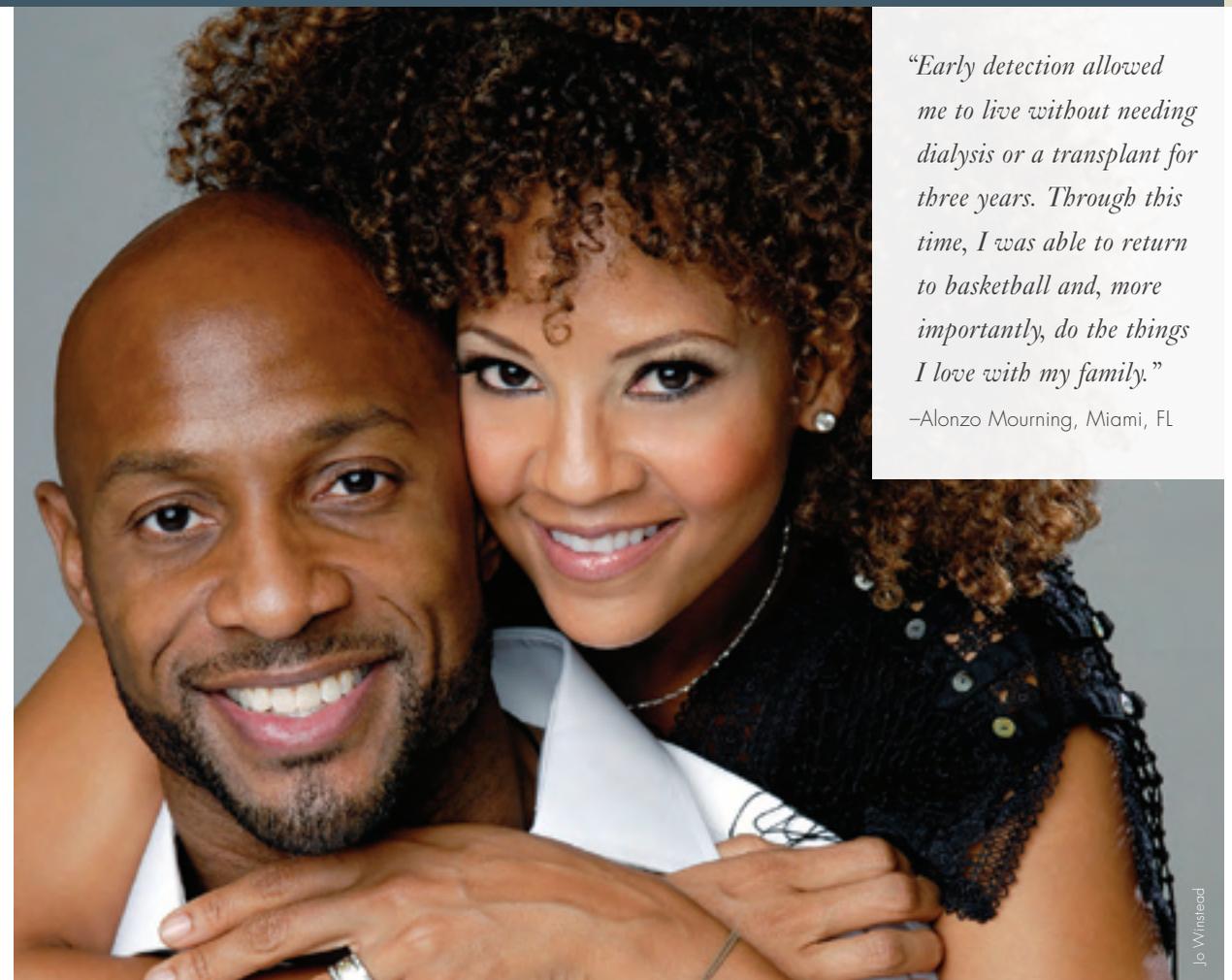
Early detection is credited by NBA All Star Alonzo Mourning for his victory over kidney disease. Alonzo and his wife, Tracy Wilson Mourning, teamed up with NKF this year in a public service campaign that spotlighted KEEP and encouraged Americans to learn about risk factors for CKD and the lifesaving power of early detection.

News stories and public service announcements that appeared in *Dear Abby's* nationally syndicated column, *Woman's Day*, *USA Today* and on *The CBS Early Show*, CNN and numerous other media, drew hundreds of thousands of visitors to NKF's Web site, www.kidney.org, to learn the basics about CKD and to find out about local KEEP screenings. Additionally, NKF distributed more than 400,000 educational brochures highlighting risk factors, high blood pressure as a silent killer, the kidneys as master chemists of the body and more.

Thousands of Americans also had their risk for CKD assessed as part of a joint NKF/Amgen initiative that spread the word at NBC TV Health and Fitness Expos held in four major U.S. cities. Participants had blood pressure checked, body mass index calculated and were armed with key questions to ask their doctors.



KEEP participant receives free literature and information from an NKF volunteer.



“Early detection allowed me to live without needing dialysis or a transplant for three years. Through this time, I was able to return to basketball and, more importantly, do the things I love with my family.”

—Alonzo Mourning, Miami, FL

Jo Winstead

TRACY AND ALONZO MOURNING | Speaking Out About Early Detection and Organ Donation

Every basketball fan knows that on the court Alonzo Mourning, the all-star center with the commanding presence, is a consummate team player. But that's a mere pick-up game next to the off-the-court teamwork between Alonzo and his beloved wife, Tracy, when it comes to winning the fight against kidney disease. Beyond time, talent and money, the Mornings present a healthy and hopeful public portrait of kidney disease.

Alonzo was just 33 in 2000 when he was diagnosed with focal glomerulosclerosis, which was causing his kidneys to deteriorate quickly and without symptoms. For three years, with careful monitoring and proper diet and medication, Alonzo managed his disease without having to go on dialysis. Then, when his kidneys failed completely, a cousin gamely offered an assist in the form of a donated kidney.

The Mornings' gratitude is twofold, as are their twin passions on behalf of the National Kidney Foundation: early

detection and organ donation. Alonzo and Tracy stress early detection by going for regular check-ups. Tracy even made a public service announcement for the NKF about the importance of getting loved ones, particularly husbands, to see a doctor regularly. "It's hard to get family members to visit the doctor when they are feeling healthy and active; however, if people wait until they feel that something is wrong it might be too late!"

Alonzo and Tracy urge everyone to sign a donor card, and if they can find it in their hearts like his cousin Jason did, donate an organ to a family member, friend or stranger. "Everyone in need of a transplant is somebody's father, mother, son, daughter or friend, and that is more important than the game that I play," says Alonzo. "I only wish that all of the individuals who came forward for me would come forward with the same selfless act of kindness for others who are in desperate need of a transplant!"



Patient Services | Public Education | Professional Education | Organ and Tissue Donation | Research | Advocacy

Since our patients' needs can only be met by well-informed professionals, the NKF ensures that kidney care specialists never stop learning. By creating and offering an array of internationally recognized Continuing Medical Education (CME) opportunities, as well as clinical practice guidelines and companion learning tools, NKF is enabling kidney patients to benefit from the latest research and science.

Above: More than 3,000 health care professionals attended educational sessions at the NKF's 2007 Spring Clinical Meetings in Orlando, FL.

Defining Best Practices

NKF's Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI)[®] continued to improve kidney care through the development of cutting edge practice guidelines. This year, the KDOQI anemia work group was reconvened to review new evidence about anemia management in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). Their recommendations that hemoglobin levels be in the range of 11–12 grams per deciliter were published and are being adopted by nephrologists around the U.S.

In response to the spiraling epidemic of diabetes—the number one cause of kidney failure—KDOQI also released the first comprehensive *Guidelines on Diabetes and CKD*. These guidelines emphasize the prevention of progressive disease through the regular screening and aggressive management of kidney complications in diabetic patients, and they will undoubtedly improve the health of the estimated 10 million Americans with diabetic kidney disease. The *Guidelines on Diabetes and CKD* were presented to an audience of nearly 3,000 kidney specialists and allied health professionals at the NKF's premier medical conference—the 2007 Spring Clinical Meetings.

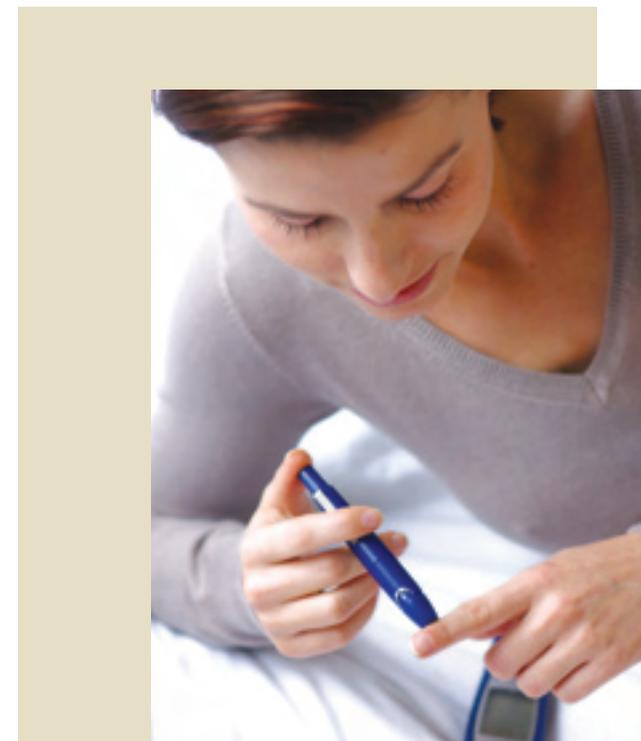
The Kidney-Heart-Diabetes Connection

The connection between kidney disease, diabetes and heart disease was also the focus of NKF's Kidney Learning System (KLS)[™] initiatives this year. In addition to creating and distributing a collection of 13 professional education and patient teaching tools based on the KDOQI *Guidelines on Diabetes and CKD*, KLS educated professionals working outside of the kidney community on the links between CKD, heart disease and diabetes.

KLS presented a number of CME activities for primary care physicians and heart specialists. "Kidney Disease and Primary Care: Screening and Early Intervention to Reduce Morbidity and Mortality" was a symposium for primary care physicians that focused on the detection and evaluation of CKD. The symposium included recent data from NKF's Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP)[™] that shows how screening can help delay disease progression and prolong life, most specifically in patients with diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. A "Grand Rounds" symposia series was offered to cardiologists, endocrinologists and primary care physicians throughout New York State, addressing the growing epidemic of diabetes as it relates to CKD. This program is serving as a model for diabetes and CKD awareness for other states as well.

The fight against kidney disease continued on the global stage through a call to action at NKF's Annual Spring Clinical Meetings and a Cardio-Kidney-Diabetes Global Consensus Conference. At a special session held at the Clinical Meetings, experts warned of the growing problem of CKD around the world and presented steps governments should take to address this public health crisis. The Global Consensus Conference drew nephrologists, cardiologists, endocrinologists and primary care physicians who identified practical approaches to early identification and collaborative management of risk factors in CKD, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

A patient checking blood sugar levels.



“The primary care physician is the obvious first contact for patients.

If the primary care doctor and the nephrologist work together, they can manage the patient’s care so much better. It’s about getting this crucial information out there.

That’s what I love to do.”

—Cynda Ann Johnson, MD, Roanoke, VA



DR. CYNDA ANN JOHNSON | Reaching and Teaching Primary Care Doctors

Cynda Ann Johnson thinks nephrologists are “a great group of doctors.” Furthermore, Johnson says she is “jazzed” over having been a member of NKF’s Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI)® Advisory Board, a committee of nephrologists who defined chronic kidney disease (CKD) and classified its stages.

Her work on that committee is what the 56-year-old primary care doctor calls “a real lovefest” between her and the National Kidney Foundation. This is a woman who chooses her love interests carefully, as she has many suitors vying for her time. One of the leading family practice physicians in the nation, Johnson is also a top educator, academician and researcher who has just become Founding Dean of the country’s newest medical school, a partnership between the Carillon Clinic and Virginia Tech. Creating a medical school from scratch is a great excuse to keep her off of committees, but she always

says yes to the NKF. She is also on the editorial board of NKF’s *Chronic Kidney Disease Update* online newsletter. “I dropped out of a lot of things, but the real truth is that this group of kidney doctors and the NKF listened to me and really responded to my opinion,” says Johnson, who is getting settled in Roanoke, Virginia, with her physician husband of 35 years. “And if I didn’t give my opinion, which is rare, they would ask me. Even more, what they did and what they are doing is making such a difference in people’s lives!”

The same can be said for Johnson, who is tireless in her efforts to reach and teach primary care physicians about kidney disease. This means everything from speaking engagements to educational seminars to, yes, committee appointments. “Kidney disease is under diagnosed and under treated,” says Johnson of the complex disease, which often isn’t discovered until the kidneys are failing.



Patient Services | Public Education | Professional Education | Organ and Tissue Donation | Research | Advocacy

Nearly 100,000 Americans are currently awaiting transplants of lifesaving organs. Every single hour, five new names are added to the organ transplant waiting list, and every day 17 people die while waiting. Through awareness campaigns, education and support, the NKF is working to change those numbers.

Above: Kim Burdakin (far right) looks on as her mom hugs Gene Toth, the father of Kim’s liver donor, 17-year old Steven Toth who died in a tragic accident. Burdakin and her mom met the Toths for the first time at the NKF U.S. Transplant Games.

Donor Awareness Campaigns

The organ and tissue donor message was broadcast through NKF's Donate Life Month Campaign in April and the Holiday Gift of Life initiative at year-end. Both promotions pointed out the impact of the number 97,000—the number of Americans on the waiting list for lifesaving organs.

The holiday campaign urged consumers to take a break from typical gift-giving with a new tradition that wouldn't break the bank: signing up for organ donation. "Share your spare" was encouraged as the true spirit of personalized, holiday giving that doesn't cost a cent. Working with print and TV media outlets, the foundation put the spotlight on those who actually gave the gift of life. NKF reminded Americans that one such gift could ultimately fulfill many wish lists, since one organ and tissue donor has the potential to save more than 50 lives.

Improving Transplant Care

Research has shown that those who receive transplants without ever going on dialysis are more likely to keep the transplanted kidney for a longer period of time and to stay healthier overall. This year, NKF took a two-pronged approach to increase access to early transplantation for those with chronic kidney disease. Through a consensus conference with top leaders in the field and a comprehensive survey of those most closely involved in the kidney transplant process, NKF identified barriers to early transplantation and has begun putting plans in place to address this issue.

Lack of adequate financial resources, not enough education and difficulty finding living donors were cited as key roadblocks. NKF is working to remove these barriers through patient empowerment, education, advocacy and action on the legislative front.

Two valuable NKF publications are For Those Who Give and Grieve, which offers help and hope to donor families, and Transplant Chronicles, an online source for information and support for transplant recipients.

Living Donor Web Site Rated #1

Most people who are considering becoming living donors turn to the Internet first when seeking information about the issue. NKF's efforts to educate potential living donors were recognized in a 2007 report in *Kidney International*. The foundation's Web site, www.livingdonors.org, was ranked #1 in terms of coverage, accuracy and quality. The report identified this site as being both the most comprehensive and most visited living kidney donation site on the Web.

Support for Transplant Recipients

Sharing ideas and experiences with those who are in the same situation is invaluable when coping with any health issue, and NKF's Coffee House Conversations™ program offered transplant recipients a venue for this support. Hundreds participated in group-style sessions around the country where they addressed hot topics such as coping with depression, reducing the risk of cancer post-transplant and learning how to advocate for one's own health care.



"Donor families are the kind of people you can only hope to know because they're so magnanimously generous."

—Rose D'Acquisto
St. Paul, Minnesota

Erica Berger

ROSE D'ACQUISTO | Tireless Donor Advocate

Rose D'Acquisto suffered a loss so sudden, so painful and so permanent that she believed she could not bear it. A writer, Rose was 34 and wildly in love with Tony, her artist husband, when on Sept. 23, 1996, an undiagnosed brain tumor hemorrhaged and plunged him into an irreversible coma. He was just 35. "Then, I met an angel in the form of Tony's intensive care nurse," Rose says. "She asked if he wanted to be an organ and tissue donor." From the depths of her grief, Rose knew immediately what her gentle husband would have wanted. "I'm not going to pretend it wasn't an excruciatingly painful decision," recalls Rose. "We were Romeo and Juliet—if Tony died, I was supposed to have died too. The donation allowed me to walk out of that hospital holding onto a little piece of something that in time opened up and has become more than I ever could have imagined!" That something was hope, which Rose has been passing on to others in a myriad of ways ever since. Among her volunteer efforts, Rose is on NKF's National Donor Family Council (NDFC) Executive Committee, helping to shape public policy and improve the

care of and support for donor families. And despite working full time, Rose is the editor of NKF's *For Those Who Give and Grieve*, a quarterly newsletter of profiles, poems and other writings for donor families. She also shares her own story, promoting donation as the greatest gift of love.

"There's nothing I wouldn't do for the NKF," she says. "They understand that the stories of kidney patients, transplant recipients and donor families are all linked together." Rose has managed to go on, marrying a fellow writer. "When Tony died, my heart died with him," she says matter-of-factly. "But when I met my husband Paul, I grew a second heart." Sometimes Paul worries that her involvement with the NKF forces her to relive the trauma of Tony's death, but she says it's exactly the opposite.

"When I hear someone else's story, I'm amazed at their strength . . . donor families are the kind of people you can only hope to know because they're so magnanimously generous."

OVER 100 RESEARCH
PROJECTS ARE CURRENTLY
SUPPORTED BY THE NKF.
HERE ARE JUST A FEW . . .



Erica Berger

Patient Services | Public Education | Professional Education | Organ and Tissue Donation | Research | Advocacy

While funding of research is NKF's number one scientific priority, it is also an important patient service. It helps patients today and those who may not have to be patients tomorrow. To step up our efforts in preventing chronic kidney disease (CKD) and improving the health of those already affected, NKF announced plans to double its funding of research.

This year, NKF and its local affiliates spent \$3.3 million to fund the work of more than 100 promising young scientists through three categories of support—Research Fellowships, Young Investigator Grants and Clinical Scientist Awards. Top areas of study include the kidney/cardiovascular disease connection, dialysis and diabetes.

Above: An NKF grant recipient at work on kidney disease research.

Cardiovascular Disease

Patients receiving dialysis treatment for kidney failure have a much higher rate of cardiovascular disease (CVD) than non-dialysis patients, and an increased variability of their blood pressure. Steven M. Brunelli, MD, an NKF Research Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, is measuring blood pressure variability in hemodialysis patients and assessing whether this is associated with increased rates of CVD. His results may lead to new treatments for high blood pressure to reduce CVD in hemodialysis patients.

Inflammation and Kidney Disease

NKF Research Fellow Christopher Ryan Keller, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco, is studying the relationship between markers of inflammation in the body and declines in kidney function, as measured by a new marker called cystatin C. His findings could confirm the importance of detecting and treating inflammation in early kidney disease.

Diabetes and Kidney Disease

Diabetes is the leading cause of CKD in the U.S., accounting for about half of the new cases of kidney failure each year. Currently, there is no way to predict which diabetic patients will respond to treatments aimed at slowing the progression of CKD. Uzma Mehdi, MD, an NKF Research Fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, is working on "biomarkers" that will help predict who will respond to these interventions, thereby improving the safety and effectiveness of treatment.

Hemodialysis Access

Hemodialysis is the most common type of treatment used to replace kidney function. In hemodialysis, a dialysis machine and special filter called an artificial kidney, or dialyzer, are used to clean the blood. In order to receive hemodialysis treatment, patients must have an access, or entrance, to their bloodstream. Arteriovenous fistulas (AVFs), or entrance through the veins, are the preferred type of access because of lower rates of infections. However, only a third of U.S. dialysis patients have a functioning AVF, as many AVFs fail to mature enough to support the hemodialysis blood circuit.

Tal Kopel, MD, an NKF Research Fellow at Boston University School of Medicine, is currently evaluating blood vessel function before fistula creation and measuring fistula blood flow after surgery. Dr. Kopel hopes to elucidate the mechanisms underlying fistula maturation failure.



In addition, she hopes to determine whether fistula maturation failure can be identified much earlier. The ultimate goal is to increase the number of hemodialysis patients with functioning AVFs and improve the health of these patients.

*NKF Research Fellow,
Dr. Tal Kopel*

“For complex diseases such as kidney disease, finding ways to help patients take control of their own care can be quite challenging. If we can help patients not just simply stay alive, but enjoy a good quality of life, well, that’s extremely rewarding.”

—Kerri Cavanaugh, MD
Nashville, TN



DR. KERRI CAVANAUGH | Blending Logic, Hard Science and Human Behavior

Kerri Cavanaugh loves blending the comforting logic of hard science with the glorious messiness of human behavior. Cavanaugh, 34, got hooked on the human psyche while at Dartmouth, from which she graduated cum laude with a degree in chemistry and a minor in psychology. As part of a psych class assignment, she hit the streets with a questionnaire and asked strangers about “their sun care behavior.” Sound a shade on the light side of science? To Cavanaugh, it was invaluable training and it has served her well.

Now at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Cavanaugh is passionate about being a nephrologist. “It’s a fantastic subspecialty,” she says. “It involves a complex disease, multiple treatments, an ever-changing field . . . it’s very exciting! And, as a nephrologist, I can establish very deep relationships with patients.” Cavanaugh recently received a National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Award to study health literacy and numeracy. Translation: how

patients’ reading and math skills help or hinder their ability to manage a complex disease. She is using the NKF grant to understand how dialysis patients control the amount of fluid they drink between dialysis sessions.

“This is very important because patients who take in too many fluids and gain too much weight have a higher risk of dying than those who control their intake of fluids,” she says. The research will tell her where the breakdowns occur. For example, do patients understand clearly how much fluid they are allowed to drink, why the limits exist and what happens if they overdo it? Solutions might include an education class geared specifically to that one crucial aspect of health management.

Cavanaugh, who also sees patients and teaches, recently gave birth to her second son. His two-year-old brother was already keeping her and her surgeon husband well-occupied. Still, she remains tireless in seeking creative and effective ways for kidney patients to take control of their care.

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Empowering patients to speak up when it comes to their own health care and ensuring that their voices are heard in the halls of the U.S. Congress is the focus of NKF’s advocacy initiatives. This year, policymakers paid attention to kidney disease and organ donation issues as a result of these activities.

Throughout 2007, NKF’s “People Like Us” patient advocates gave voice to the millions of Americans living with chronic kidney disease (CKD). Patient “fly-ins” to Washington, D.C., and over 100 Congressional visits helped lawmakers hear firsthand what it means to live with CKD and how their support for specific legislation can change lives for the better.

Above, left to right: NKF President Dr. Allan Collins met with U.S. Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., on World Kidney Day 2007.

Taking Legislative Action Online

To mobilize concerned patient advocates, family members, health care professionals and other supporters, NKF launched the “People Like Us” Take Action Network, an electronic advocacy tool that educates and prompts its members to get involved in key legislative issues as the need arises.

The Take Action Network, with participants from all 50 states and 97 percent of U.S. Congressional Districts, mixes the Internet with old-fashioned pen and paper to place the kidney and organ donation communities at the doorstep of Capitol Hill.

Since the launch in April, over 7,600 letters were sent to Congress through 10 separate Take Action alerts. These communications resulted in the securing of additional co-sponsors for our key legislative priorities.

Shaping Public Policy

To help improve prevention and early detection, NKF requested that lawmakers expand funding for the Chronic Kidney Disease Control Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In response, Congress provided \$2 million—a 14 percent increase from last year.

These additional funds will help the CDC work together with state health departments to develop community-based approaches to improving early detection, treatment and education of health professionals.

NKF worked closely with Representative Dave Camp (R-MI) and Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) to help introduce a bill in Congress that would eliminate the time limitation of Medicare coverage for immunosuppressive drugs.

Under the current Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) program, kidney transplant recipients who are not disabled or over 65 are only eligible for benefits for the first 36 months following their transplants. These benefits include coverage of the anti-rejection drugs they must take daily for the rest of their lives.

The foundation’s advocacy efforts for this issue included a “fly-in” of “People Like Us” advocates from North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia who received training on how to present their issues to Members of Congress. The “People Like Us” group then used their newfound skills to visit 18 House and Senate offices. As a result of their efforts, six Representatives signed on as co-sponsors for the Medicare Immunosuppressive Bill.

“People Like Us” members Jesse Johnson (left) and Willie Smith (center) chat with their Congressman, Rep. Henry Brown (R-SC), on a “patient fly-in” to D.C.



“I’m in a really good position to communicate with all kinds of folks, from doctors and health care policy heads to aides on Capitol Hill. I feel passionate and obligated to be a voice of kidney patients who otherwise might not be heard.” —Celeste Lee, Durham, NC

CELESTE LEE | Patient Advocacy is Her Passion

Celeste Lee (above left with fellow dialysis patient, Tarnosha Burns) became a philanthropist and health care advocate at the ripe old age of eight. She was watching Saturday morning cartoons when an ad came on about hosting a community carnival for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). “I grabbed my crayon and wrote the phone number on a box of cereal. Actually, right on Cap ‘n’ Crunch’s head!” She proudly raised \$600 for the MDA.

At 42, Lee no longer writes in crayon, but her enthusiasm and effectiveness haven’t diminished. Despite a demanding career as Chief of Staff for the President and CEO of Duke University Health System and Chancellor for Health Affairs, as well as thrice-weekly dialysis treatments, Lee is a tireless powerhouse for the NKF.

As an editorial board member of *Hope Street*SM, the animated novella featuring characters dealing with the many ups and downs in kidney dialysis patients’ lives, Lee reached back into her childhood to help flesh out their issues. Her experience is firsthand, as Lee was just 17 when an autoimmune disease

destroyed her kidneys. She was on dialysis for three years before receiving a transplant. A decade later, the organ failed and she returned to dialysis.

Lee was one of the original 100 patient advocates chosen to participate in the launch of NKF’s “People Like Us” patient empowerment initiative on Capitol Hill. Since then, she has gone to Washington, D.C., several times, seeking support for kidney-related legislation and encouraging policymakers to join the Congressional Kidney Caucus.

She is also an ardent believer that dialysis patients deserve consistent and quality care, and has fought for systematic training and standardized licensing of employees in such facilities. “Dialysis is lifesaving, but it’s also time consuming and tough on patients. I want every kidney patient to have the care they deserve,” says Lee, who advocated for the passage of the 2007 Kidney Care Quality and Education Act.

“I love life,” shares Lee, who whips around town in a convertible, “and what makes me feel great is helping other patients. Call it a virtual hug. Sounds corny, but it’s true.”



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Whether they were employees, fitness buffs, family members of kidney patients or recreational golfers, NKF's 2007 donors experienced the lifesaving importance of the foundation's programs in a way that was up close and personal. New alliances were forged, grassroots fund raising initiatives grew and corporate partnerships were strengthened.

Above: Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY), (left) Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and New York State Senator Marty Golden (R-C Brooklyn) lead the 2007 Kidney Walk at New York City's South Street Seaport.

Kidney Walks

More than 40,000 walkers stepped out in support of the millions of Americans with CKD at 88 Kidney Walks held across the country, continuing the trend of growth for this popular and successful event. Kidney Walks were held in 16 new cities, raising awareness and more than \$3.5 million for patient services and research.

NKF Golf Classic

NKF's Golf Classic is one of the largest charity-based golf programs in the U.S. In 2007, this signature fund raising program attracted more than 10,000 golfers who hit the links at local tournaments throughout the country, raising over \$4 million. The program received support from national corporate partners, including PING, Golf Digest, Tourneau, Pebble Beach Resorts and AT&T.



NKF Golf Classic champions from Western New York at Pebble Beach, CA.

Kidney Cars Program

More than 40,000 people donated their vehicles to Kidney Cars in 2007, generating nearly \$12 million to support our lifesaving programs. Sixty-five percent of donations were made online, a practice that reduces costs, eliminates hassle and increases profit.

Employee Giving

As part of a corporate philanthropic partnership with CB Richard Ellis (CBRE), the leader in the commercial real estate services industry, CBRE's 17,000 employees raised \$400,000 to support the NKF. This Fortune 500 company encouraged employees to contribute financially and to become personally involved with its partner organizations. CBRE employees across the country reached into their wallets and then rolled up their sleeves to volunteer and participate in NKF local affiliate events serving families and patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Healthy Kidney 10K

More than 7,000 runners hit the pavement at the third annual Healthy Kidney 10K Race held in New York City's Central Park in May. The race, which spotlighted the importance of kidney health while raising more than \$280,000 for NKF, is supported by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in memory of Sheikh Zayed. The former UAE president benefited from American expertise and research when he received a kidney transplant in 2000.



Dathan Ritzenhein, an Olympic champion, broke the Central Park 10K record and pledged his \$7,500 winnings to the NKF.

*“I was quite startled.
I thought I was in
excellent health.”*

—Rich Stockinger
Franklin Lakes, NJ



Erica Berger

RICH STOCKINGER | Kidney Disease Caught Him Unaware

As president of the Patina Restaurant Group and longtime CFO for Restaurant Associates, Rich Stockinger spent lots of time crisscrossing the country and making big restaurant deals. Then, seven years ago, the peripatetic businessman came to a grinding halt. Scheduled for knee surgery, the Franklin Lakes, NJ, resident got an emergency cancellation call from the hospital just 24 hours before the operation. When he innocently asked, “Is the doctor okay?” Stockinger was floored by the answer: “The doctor’s okay, Rich, but you’re not.”

Routine blood work showed there was something seriously wrong with Stockinger’s kidneys, and he was urged to see a kidney specialist immediately. “I was quite startled,” recalls Stockinger, 49. “I thought I was in excellent health.” With a combination of support from his wife and three children, excellent medical care and lifestyle changes—including a low-sodium diet enforced by his youngest daughter, Christine (pictured above), now 13—Stockinger managed to stave off kidney failure for five years.

“Christine was quite vocal,” he says, laughing. “She would pick up every packaged item, even in the supermarket, read the sodium content and announce that I was not allowed to eat it!” He didn’t dare argue with his little expert. Stockinger’s sister, Susan, stepped in for the next chapter of his life, offering one of her own kidneys to her beloved brother. Since December 14, 2005, when he underwent the transplant, her kidney has been working just beautifully, Stockinger happily reports.

Once he knew he’d be okay, Stockinger decided it was time to make sure others got the chance he had. Though busy as ever, he made time to join the Board of the National Kidney Foundation Serving Greater New York. Talk about being a great sport: just 24 hours after having accepted the invitation to join the Board, Stockinger was asked to help raise \$500,000 for the 2007 Kidney Walk in New York City. Of course, he said yes and the mission was accomplished.

Our corporate and organizational partners are critical to our success in developing and implementing world class educational initiatives, programs and events. This year,* contributions from national corporate partners supported NKF in the development of patient and professional education programs and resources, as well as risk factor awareness and screening initiatives.



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602.840.1644
www.azkidney.org

ARKANSAS**

501.664.4343
www.kidney.org

CALIFORNIA

Northern California
415.543.3303
www.kidneyca.org

Southern California
818.783.8153
www.kidneysocal.org

COLORADO

720.748.9991
www.kidneycimw.org

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860.257.3770
www.kidneyct.org

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605.322.7025
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www.nkfdv.org

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HAWAII

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www.kidneyhi.org

IDAHO

801.226.5111
www.kidneyut.org

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312.321.1500
www.nkfi.org

INDIANA

317.722.5640
www.kidneyindiana.org

IOWA

319.369.4474
www.kidneyia.org

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(Includes Western Missouri)
913.262.1551
www.kidneyksmo.org

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www.nkfk.org

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www.kidneyme.org

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www.kidneymd.org

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781.278.0222
www.kidneyhealth.org

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734.222.9800
www.nkfm.org

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651.636.7300
www.nkfmn.org

MISSISSIPPI**

601.488.6930
www.kidney.org

MISSOURI*

(Eastern Missouri, Metro East)
314.961.2828
www.kidneyemo.org
(Includes Western Missouri and Kansas)
913.262.1551
www.kidneyksmo.org

MONTANA

720.748.9991
www.kidneycimw.org

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866.709.5704
www.kidneynebraska.org

NEVADA

Northern Nevada
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Southern Nevada**
702.735.9222
www.kidney.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE

781.278.0222
www.kidneyhealth.org

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Northern New Jersey*
212.889.2210
www.kidneygny.org

Southern New Jersey*
215.923.8611
www.nkfdv.org

NEW YORK

Central New York (Syracuse area)
315.476.0311
www.cnykidney.org

Greater New York*
212.889.2210
www.kidneygny.org

Northeast New York (Albany area)
518.458.9697
www.nkfny.org

Upstate New York (Rochester area)
585.697.0874
www.kidneyup.org

Western New York (Buffalo area)
716.835.1323
www.nkfofwny.org

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888.354.3639
www.kidney.org

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Alleghenies (Western Pennsylvania, including Pittsburgh area)
412.261.4115
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Delaware Valley* (Southeastern Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia area)
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www.nkfdv.org

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803.799.3870
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TENNESSEE

East Tennessee (Knoxville area)
865.688.5481
www.kidneytn.org

Middle Tennessee (Nashville area)
615.383.3887
www.nkfmtn.org

West Tennessee (Memphis area)
901.683.6185
www.nkfwtn.org

TEXAS

North Texas (Dallas area)
214.351.2393
www.nkft.org

South and Central Texas* (San Antonio area)
210.829.1299
www.kidneytx.org

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713.952.5499
www.nkfset.org

West Texas (Lubbock area)
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www.nkfwtx.org

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781.278.0222
www.kidneyhealth.org

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804.288.8342
www.kidneyva.org

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888.354.3639
www.kidney.org

WASHINGTON, D.C.

National Capital Area
202.244.7900
www.kidneywdc.org

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804.288.8342
www.kidneyva.org

WISCONSIN

262.821.0705
www.kidneywi.org

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720.748.9991
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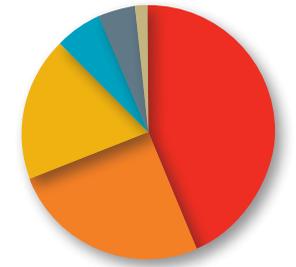
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The figures on this page depict the combined financial activities of the National Kidney Foundation and its affiliates for fiscal year 2007.

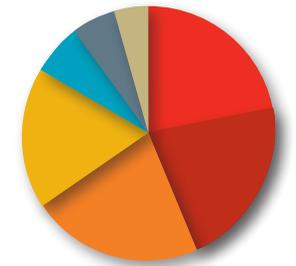
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE

Contributions	\$33,097,641	41.5%
Net Special Events	\$14,031,055	17.6%
Program Service Fees	\$21,222,918	26.6%
Government Grants	\$4,420,713	5.5%
Membership Dues	\$923,123	1.2%
Other Income	\$6,045,404	7.6%
Total Income	\$79,740,854	100%



EXPENSES

Patient Services	\$15,842,238	22.0%
Professional Education	\$14,600,921	20.3%
Public Health Education	\$12,821,347	17.9%
Community Services	\$10,302,194	14.3%
Research	\$4,920,257	6.8%
Management & General	\$6,854,310	9.6%
Fund Raising	\$6,567,867	9.1%
Total Expenses	\$71,909,134	100%



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$20,177,933
Investments	\$43,518,383
Accounts Receivable	\$12,506,424
Inventories of Educational & Campaign Materials	\$617,520
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,223,156
Property, Plant & Equipment, net	\$4,426,431
Other Assets	\$1,186,045
Total Assets	\$83,655,892

LIABILITIES

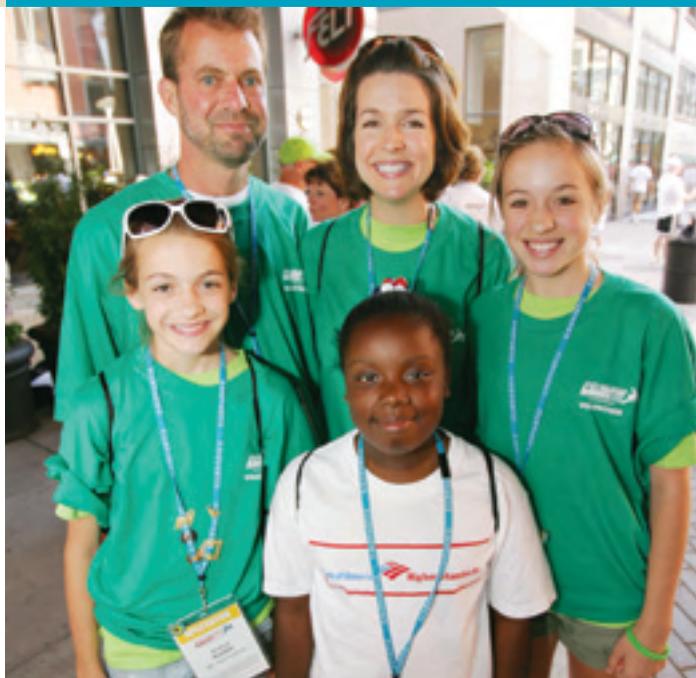
Loans Payable	\$573,042
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$6,433,418
Deferred Income	\$5,314,771
Other Liabilities	\$832,205
Total Liabilities	\$13,153,436

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$42,214,243
Temporarily Restricted	\$25,598,834
Permanently Restricted	\$2,689,379
Total Net Assets	\$70,502,456

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$83,655,892**

A complete copy of fiscal Year 2007 NKF financial statements audited by Ernst & Young, LLP and the combined statements for NKF and its affiliates as compiled by NKF staff are available on the NKF Web site at www.kidney.org or by request from the National Kidney Foundation, Marketing & Communications Department, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016.



Thousands of volunteers help the NKF at numerous events throughout the year.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

When you support the National Kidney Foundation, you become part of a network of people who are committed to improving the lives of those affected by kidney disease. You will help advance research, patient services, advocacy, and public and professional education programs that will lead to lifesaving results for kidney patients.

Become a Member

If you're a doctor, nurse, health care professional, patient, organ donor or family member, you can join the NKF. Membership benefits include subscriptions to peer-reviewed journals, information-packed newsletters, continuing medical education programs and numerous opportunities for networking and advocacy.

Donate

Make a donation in your own name, in memory of someone special or to commemorate a holiday, birthday, wedding or other special occasion. Invest in the future by planning a gift today that will help patients tomorrow. Support the NKF through your estate plan by making a bequest or donating a portion of your insurance policy.

Participate

Participate in a kidney walk, golf tournament or other special event across the country. Donate your used car or used golf clubs to the NKF and breathe new life into critical programs for patients and families with kidney disease.

Volunteer

Whether you want to volunteer on a regular basis or just occasionally, there are a number of opportunities available to you, including volunteering at fund raising events and kidney screenings, serving on boards or committees or donating your professional expertise to advance our mission.

Visit www.kidney.org to learn more about membership, donation opportunities and volunteering.

“Early detection—absolutely essential in treating chronic kidney disease—can slow the progression of the disease . . . We've stepped up our efforts to promote early detection for those at risk for kidney disease—people with diabetes, high blood pressure or a family history of kidney disease. Our outreach efforts urged people to take the simple tests necessary to determine kidney function and we worked aggressively to reach primary care physicians to ensure that these simple tests are part of regular medical checkups . . . We continued to expand our Kidney Early Evaluation Program, which offers free screenings to thousands in cities across the country . . .”

-John Davis, CEO, National Kidney Foundation

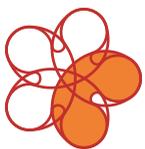
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT KIDNEY DISEASE, EARLY DETECTION OR TO SUPPORT OUR INITIATIVES VISIT WWW.KIDNEY.ORG



The National Kidney Foundation is committed to a Code of Ethics, which includes specific guidelines for seeking corporate financial support. NKF has established and adheres to a comprehensive program of policies and procedures regarding disclosure and conflicts of interest. Copies of the Code of Ethics, guidelines for corporate relationships and conflict of interest policy are available at www.kidney.org. The National Kidney Foundation meets the Standards of Excellence of the National Health Council and the comprehensive standards of the Wise Giving Alliance of the Better Business Bureau, America's most experienced charity evaluator.



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