Evolution of Kidney Care

The formation of the National Kidney Foundation of Indiana came at a time when the technology was there to prevent death of people with ESRD (End Stage Renal disease), but there were not enough dialysis machines to meet the growing number of dialysis patients. Committees, referred to as “Death Committees,” were charged with choosing who would dialyze. In reality, the committees were choosing who would live and who would die.

In this time of crisis, The National Kidney Foundation of Indiana formed in 1970 and was incorporated in the state of Indiana in 1971. The very next year, Indiana Senator Vance Hartke introduced life-saving legislation that was approved by the senate and signed into law by President Richard Nixon. This law, which was passed in 10 minutes by the senate, had a monumental impact on the history of nephrology in the United States. The new law disbanded the “Death Committees” by giving every American, including prisoners, the right to dialyze or at least the option to discuss the possibility. It also allowed people to keep their jobs, independence, and sense of self-worth while on dialysis.

While this legislation was impactful, Transplantation emerged as the treatment of choice for ESRD and dialysis simply became the bridge to transplantation. In this century, patients with stage 4 Chronic Kidney Disease are challenged to find a living-donor for pre-emptive kidney transplantation. Further advancements in simultaneous transplants and multi-visceral transplants has improved life-longevity and quality of life for those who suffer from multiple organ failures.
Various methods of dialysis have continued to develop. More people found dialyzing at home with peritoneal dialysis to be cost effective and allows even greater independence. With instruction, the number of patients using home dialysis and Nocturnal dialysis at night, has increased.

Beyond advancements in technology and treatment, NKF has supported and developed screening programs for early identification of kidney diseases and its main causes: diabetes and hypertension. With increased treatments of these main causes, dialysis treatments have also continued to advance. In the realm of transplantation, the development of antirejection medicines, better laboratory testing and preparation for transplant makes sudden Acute Rejection a thing of the past. Transplants are lasting an average 20-30 years rather than 5-10 years. Even greater, treatment Acute Kidney Injury can be treated with a gentler, 24-hour a day continuous renal replacement therapy. In the future, the development of artificial kidneys for patients will happen.

The NKFI has provided endless research funds over the years and convened meetings that promote medical advancements and patient advocacy in the field of nephrology. The NKFI continues to strive to be part of the continued progress of kidney health and the health of our neighbors right here in Indiana. Your continued support of this triumphant organization is greatly appreciated.

Dennis Mishler, MD
Immediate Past President

45 Years of NKFI Board Presidents

1970-72 Henrietta Kaplan
1972-74 Victor Graves
1974-76 Robert Darymple
1976-78 G. Richard Mac Donald
1978-80 James T. Waite
1981-83 Bob Hindley
1983-84 Patricia Hormann
1984-85 William Dick, MD
1986-87 David N. Fizzell
1987-88 Jack Whalen
1988-89 Jeffrey Terp
1989-91 Phillip A. Schermerhorn, Jr.
1992-93 Lawrence Ley
1993-95 Mary Kay Hensley, RD
1995-96 Kurt Kuppler
1996-98 David Ashbach, MD
1998-00 Roy Shea
2000-03 Tim Taber, MD
2003-05 Brian Long
2005-08 Dennis Cantrell, Esq.
2008-10 Michael Kraus, MD
2010-12 Annette Roy
2012-15 Dennis Mishler, MD
2015- Denice Damerau
The Indiana Kidney Check, NKFI’s free kidney screening is for anyone 18 and older. The program is offered throughout the state and participants receive results at the screening. Grants, sponsors, donations and volunteers (nurses, nephrologists, technicians, students, and others) make it possible for the NKFI to offer free screenings. In 2015, NKFI screened 965 participants at 11 screenings throughout the state.

The screening is recommended for those with one of the risks for kidney disease:
- Diabetes or pre-diabetes
- High blood pressure or pre-hypertension
- 60 years and older
- Family history of kidney disease
- Certain ethnic groups (including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians & Pacific Islanders)

Kidney Assessment

The NKFI is dedicated to prevention. The KHRA (Kidney Risk Health Assessment) is a free check-up held at all Kidney Walks and some health fairs. Participants answer a brief health risk survey, check their blood pressure, and have their height and weight measured. A medical professional is on-site to review results.

Kidney Health Education Program

Your Kidneys and You was developed to raise awareness of kidney disease. The NKFI collaborated with nursing students and trained volunteers to host 16 presentations to a variety of groups in the program’s inaugural year.

Topics Discussed:
- What the kidneys do
- What is kidney disease
- Who is at risk
- Why your kidneys are so important to your health
- Actions you can take to protect your kidneys
The eleventh annual *Kidney Camp* hosted 34 happy campers in June at the YMCA Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana. The camp is for children, ages 8-18 who are on dialysis, have a kidney transplant or chronic kidney disease.

Camp activities were themed around “*Kidney Camp’s Got Talent*,” including a Kidney Camp Talent Show, swimming, zip-lining, canoeing, gaga, archery and tennis. Camp relies on donations from the public to provide campers to be in a safe camp setting with fellow kidney campers and volunteers who understand what they live with daily.

**Team Indiana**

*Team Indiana* consists of transplant recipients, donor families, living donors and supporters who educate the public about organ and tissue donation. The Team competes in a festival style event, *Donate Life Transplant Games of America* which will be held in June 2016 in Cleveland, OH.

**Patient Advocacy**

The NKFI advocates for patients in Indiana. The NKFI attended an award ceremony for *Senator Dan Coats* for the *Medicare Part D Patient Access Champion Award* which promotes access to drug coverage for all patients.
Dear Friends of the Foundation,

The National Kidney Foundation of Indiana, Inc. (NKFI) is celebrating 45 years of serving the people of Indiana. During these 45 years there have been medical breakthroughs, patient progress, dialysis, transplantation, and more. I could go on and on with all that has happened in 45 years that impacts people who are affected by kidney disease.

During the lifespan of NKFI, the foundation has strived to make changes to meet the needs of the people through awareness, prevention and treatment of CKD. As the nephrology world continues to evolve, how do we continue to address CKD prevention and educate the public about the risk factors? How do we keep updated information of treatment modalities and coping mechanisms in front of the patients and their families? How do we encourage and assist medical professionals to stay on top of, or even a step ahead of, improvements to patient care and research?

NKFI played a major role in developing screening programs, beginning with taking blood pressures in dialysis units. The goal was to educate family members, who transported their loved ones to dialysis, about the risk factors of kidney disease. The program grew tremendously and developed into “CARE.” The CARE program included blood pressures, urine and blood testing. The State of Indiana Health Department noticed the impact of CARE and as a result, a partnership developed to implement statewide screening. The NKF national office in New York took notice of CARE and adapted the program into an international program—KEEP (Kidney Early Evaluation Program). Indiana adopted KEEP which has evolved into the present day screening program, the “Indiana Kidney Check.”

NKFI has adopted and developed many programs over the years to increase the patient’s knowledge about treatment options. The most dramatic of those programs was “People Like Us” and “People Like Us Live!” This program involved patients teaching new patients about treatment options. Programs come and go as needs change. Others have continued to grow such as the Kidney Camp, Team Indiana, and the Scholarship Program.
As an organization, we are prepared to educate and help people to cope with Chronic Kidney Disease. Our *onsite library* has extensive CKD information and brochures that are free and provide people with knowledge to take control of their lives and manage the disease process.

**In 2016, NKFI will celebrate 25 years of the Stuart A. Kleit Symposium.** The Symposium educates medical professionals and keeps them abreast of medical breakthroughs and patient quality of care issues. Reviewing the list of topics at the symposium over the 25 year life of this event is exhilarating. The growth and ever changing field of nephrology is amazing. The NKFI strives to stay in stride to meet our mission for the sake of the people of Indiana. Reviewing the last 45 years of the NKFI leaves you wondering, “how did we do all that?”

**Margie Evans Fort**  
NKFI Chief Executive Officer

---

**NKFI Staff**

Margie Evans Fort, *Chief Executive Officer*  
Erica Amans, *Development Specialist*  
Tricia Behringer, *Program Director*  
Teneé Bingham, *Office Manager*  
Heather Gallagher, *Communications Director*  
Nicki Howard, *Public Health Coordinator*  
Shadreck Kamwendo, *Program Director*  
Abby Moore, *Development Specialist*  
Janine Moore, *Director of Development*  
Patricia Ogbonna, *Accountant*
The Scholarship Program awards scholarships to patients in Indiana who are on dialysis, have a kidney transplant, or are diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease to assist with the cost of their post-secondary education.

The 2015 scholarship winners:

- Marchell Alexander, Indianapolis
- Demetria Butler, Marion
- Isadore Sparks II, Gary
- Nolan Rammel, Plainfield
- Bryanna Barnes, Indianapolis
- Kelly Fletcher, Muncie
- Gabriela Olguin-Flores, Portage
- Christopher Weatherwax, Evansville

Too Sweet Diabetes Conference

The Indiana Coalition for Diabetes hosted the annual “Too Sweet for Your Own Good-Managing Diabetes” Conference on November 14th at Fairbanks Hall in Indianapolis. The free conference is designed to help individuals manage their diabetes. For the first time at the conference, the NKFI held an Indiana Kidney Check Screening for the participants.

Gold Sponsor: Astellas

NKFI Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship Program awards scholarships to patients in Indiana who are on dialysis, have a kidney transplant, or are diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease to assist with the cost of their post-secondary education.

The 2015 scholarship winners:

- Marchell Alexander, Indianapolis
- Demetria Butler, Marion
- Isadore Sparks II, Gary
- Nolan Rammel, Plainfield
- Bryanna Barnes, Indianapolis
- Kelly Fletcher, Muncie
- Gabriela Olguin-Flores, Portage
- Christopher Weatherwax, Evansville

Honoring and Remembering

The NKFI honors and remembers all those afflicted with kidney disease and in the organ donation community. We believe in our mission statement and are dedicated to eradicating kidney disease and supporting all organ donation.

The NKFI remembers, Jeri Jones, long-time committed volunteer.

The NKFI remembers, Steve Copsey, long-time committed volunteer and member of Team Indiana.
Revenue and Support

Support from the public:
Received directly – Contributions, Memorials, and Bequests $70,687
Net Support from Special Events $489,342
Received Indirectly – Allocated by Federated Fundraising Organizations $9,214
Total Support from the public $569,243

Grants from Foundations and Government Agencies $8,029

Other Revenue
Interest and Dividends $58,713
Unrealized gain (loss) on Investments $(60,317)
In-kind income $227,888

Assets
Cash $ 217,863
Grants Receivable $750
Other Receivables $69,240
Prepayments $3,299
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust $945,143
Property and Equipment $3,523
Total Assets $1,239,818

Liabilities and Net Assets
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses $76,536
Due to NKF, Inc. $195,729
Total Liabilities $272,265
Net Assets $967,556
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $1,239,821

Program and Supporting Expenses
Program Services:
Research $2,913
Public Health Education $153,604
Professional Education $51,326
Patient Services $132,707
Prevention Services $116,030
Community Services $129,210
Total Program Services $585,790

Supporting Services:
Fund Raising $98,760
Management and General $143,593
Total Supporting Services $142,353
Total Expenses $728,143

Change in Net Assets $(143,104)
Net Assets
Beginning of Year $1,110,660
Net Assets, End of Year $967,556
The **Indianapolis Kidney Walk** was held on Saturday, June 13th downtown Indianapolis at the Indiana Historical Society and the Canal Walk. The walk included a KHRA screening and raised over $120,000.

**Presenting Sponsors:**
- Fresenius Medical Care
- Indiana University
- Satellite Healthcare

**Top Fundraising Teams:**
- Keystone at the Crossing
- MCP/Equus Capital Partners
- Team Mason

The **Northeast Indiana Kidney Walk** was held Saturday, June 20th, at Headwater Parks West in Fort Wayne. The walk raised over $52,000. The walk included a KHRA screening.

**Presenting Sponsor:**
- Jersey Mike’s Subs
- Lutheran Health Network
- Raymond James

**Top Fundraising Teams:**
- Kidney Rice
- Team NANI

The **Evansville Indiana Kidney Walk** took place on Saturday, May 23rd at the Downtown Old National Bank in Evansville. The walk held a KHRA and raised over $26,000 in its third year.

**Presenting Sponsors:**
- Evansville Courier & Press

**Top Fundraising Teams:**
- Keepin’ it Renal
- Team Courage

The **Northwest Indiana Kidney Walk** is an indoor mall walk and was held on Saturday, March 21st, at the Southlake Mall in Merrillville. The walk included the KHRA and raised over $35,000.

**Presenting Sponsor:**
- Fresenius Medical Care

**Top Fundraising Teams:**
- Ricky’s Kidney Krusaders
- Walk for Artie
The annual Celebrating Life Under the Stars Gala took place on Saturday, September 26th at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis. The black tie event featured silent and live auctions, dinner and live entertainment. The gala honored, Tim E. Taber, M.D., F.A.C.P. for his dedication in the field of nephrology, increasing awareness for kidney transplantation and his longtime support for the NKFI.

Dr. Taber, Professor of Clinical Medicine - Indiana University, IU Transplant Institute’s Medical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program, Medical Director of Living Donor Kidney Program, Director of Transplant Nephrology, Chief Medical Officer - Indiana Donor Network, and Longtime Board Member and Volunteer for the NKFI. Dr. Taber also received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award and a proclamation from the city by Mayor Ballard. The gala’s Co-Chairs were Michael A. Kraus, M.D. and Alvin Wee, M.D. Bob Donaldson, CBS 4 News Anchor, was the master of ceremonies. The gala raised over $120,000.

The 14th Annual 2015 NKFI-SDI Golf Classic was held on June 9 & 10th at the Bridgewater Golf Course in Auburn. The Chairman was Keith Busse. This event raised over $242,000. The winning teams from the Golf Classic were invited to the annual 2015 NKFI-SDI Gator Golf Classic. This event was held in November in Sarasota, Florida at three premiere golf clubs. The Chairman was Aaron Busse. The Gator Classic raised over $58,000.

Presenting sponsor: ESMARK
Title sponsor: Steel Dynamics, Inc.
Presenting sponsors: Butler Mill Services
Magic Coil Products
Winning Team: OmniSource
Winning Teams: Custom Steel Processing
Murans Investment Group
OmniSource

Indianapolis Gala

The annual Celebrating Life Under the Stars Gala took place on Saturday, September 26th at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis. The black tie event featured silent and live auctions, dinner and live entertainment. The gala honored, Tim E. Taber, M.D., F.A.C.P. for his dedication in the field of nephrology, increasing awareness for kidney transplantation and his longtime support for the NKFI.

Dr. Taber, Professor of Clinical Medicine - Indiana University, IU Transplant Institute’s Medical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program, Medical Director of Living Donor Kidney Program, Director of Transplant Nephrology, Chief Medical Officer - Indiana Donor Network, and Longtime Board Member and Volunteer for the NKFI. Dr. Taber also received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award and a proclamation from the city by Mayor Ballard. The gala’s Co-Chairs were Michael A. Kraus, M.D. and Alvin Wee, M.D. Bob Donaldson, CBS 4 News Anchor, was the master of ceremonies. The gala raised over $120,000.

Presenting sponsors: DaVita
IU School of Medicine
Fresenius Medical Care
Indiana University Health
Indiana Donor Network
Donate Life Indiana

Winning Team: OmniSource
Winning Teams: Custom Steel Processing
Murans Investment Group
OmniSource
To prevent kidney diseases, improve the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases and increase the availability of all organs for transplantation.

Support the NKFI and donate your old vehicle!
Proceeds go to our patient programs and services here in Indiana.