

EMPOWER.

Based on this webinar, I am definitely going forward with transplant evaluation. Thank you for helping clear up questions and concerns. —AKF webinar participant

FIGHT.

"Our cause is noble and worthy. Our advocacy changes and improves lives."

—Ron, AKF Ambassador

HONOR.

"I raised just over \$900 in memory of a woman who was my best friend and the strongest, bravest woman I have ever met in my life." —Meagan, KidneyNation fundraiser





ABOUT AKF

The American Kidney Fund (AKF), an independent nonprofit, works to improve the quality of life for all people affected by kidney disease: those at risk, newly diagnosed, living with kidney disease, in kidney failure, caring for a loved one, going through transplant, or mourning a loved one lost to the disease.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control says more than 30 million Americans are living with chronic kidney disease, and that many millions more are at risk. It's a serious public health threat, and we are on the front lines.

We operate the nation's largest kidney health screening program, reaching into communities at high risk for kidney disease so that we can help people detect it early or prevent it altogether by managing their risks. Our award-winning website, blog, and top-rated health education materials and programs empower millions of patients, their caregivers and their loved ones with knowledge to help them live well with kidney disease. We fund clinical research that aims to improve the care and health outcomes for patients living with kidney failure, and we advocate on the federal and state levels for policies that improve access to health care and strengthen quality of care for those with kidney disease.

For patients living with kidney failure who have experienced the financial devastation that so often accompanies this disease, our financial assistance programs help ensure they can access the health care they need to stay alive.

We celebrate and honor those bravely fighting kidney disease as well as those we have lost at our annual gala and through our KidneyNation nationwide community of fundraisers. They inspire us every day as we work to fight kidney disease and help people live healthier lives.

Dear friends,

When a group of friends came together in 1971 to help a mutual friend afford the cost of dialysis, it was an act of love and concern. Dialysis was a relatively new procedure, not widely available, and very expensive. To fight kidney disease, you needed money. They founded the American Kidney Fund, and soon began receiving requests for aid from patients nationwide.

Today, with 30 million Americans living with kidney disease, half a million relying on dialysis to stay alive, and nearly 100,000 on the waiting list for a kidney transplant, the American Kidney Fund is still fighting for patients out of love and concern. The mission has broadened—we want to help people prevent kidney disease, detect it early, live healthier if they have it, and ultimately we want to increase the number of transplants. AKF's work has never been more important, or more urgent. This disease is stealthy, often catching people unaware. And it still routinely devastates families' finances.

As the recipient of a kidney transplant more than 30 years ago, I am deeply passionate about AKF's mission of fighting kidney disease and helping people live healthier lives.

I'm incredibly proud of the work that this organization does. AKF's focus on effectiveness, transparency and stewardship of the donated dollar—spending 97 cents of every dollar on patients and programs—consistently results in the highest ratings from charity watchdog organizations, including Charity Navigator, which lists AKF in its top 10 list of charities for fiscal accountability.

That group of friends in 1971 could never have dreamed that their act of helping a friend would grow into one of the nation's most respected charities, touching countless lives and helping more than 1.5 million patients over the years afford their health care.

Nearly 50 years later, the fight continues. Thank you for your part in it.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Tarola, CPA, CGMA Chair, Board of Trustees

Robot M. Tarola

American Kidney Fund

Dear friends,

As I reflect on 2017 and our extraordinary accomplishments in the fight against kidney disease, I am incredibly grateful for the 61,000 individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations who make our work possible through their generous support.

Each day we work to empower people to fight this disease on every front, from clinical research to free health screenings to financial assistance and access to health care; and to honor those living with the disease as well as those who are no longer with us.

We helped 1 out of every 5 dialysis patients in every state and U.S. territory afford the cost of their health care in 2017. When Hurricane Harvey devastated coastal Texas, followed closely by hurricanes Irma and Maria, we mounted an unprecedented emergency response that provided nearly \$850,000 to more than 3,800 dialysis patients from nine states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to help with temporary housing, transportation to treatment, replacing lost medications, and replacing renal diet foods, clothing, and other personal essentials.

The outpouring of support from the public and from corporations was a powerful demonstration of the strength of our community of supporters. In 2017, we continued to innovate in our outreach and education programs, launching powerful new education campaigns and initiatives that change lives like our Know Your Kidneys™ screening and education program for reaching communities at high risk for kidney disease.

None of it would be possible without the support of friends like you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

LaVarne A. Burton

President and Chief Executive Officer

Dous a. Auto

American Kidney Fund



EMPOWER.

he U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that 96 percent of people with early kidney disease are not aware of it, and nearly half of those with moderate to severe kidney disease don't know it.

Those are shocking statistics, and AKF works every day to change that—by empowering individuals living with kidney disease and those at risk with knowledge that can help them prevent kidney disease or detect it early.

We operate the nation's largest kidney health screening program, reaching into communities at high risk for kidney disease to help people understand what they can do to help prevent it. In 2017, we provided free kidney health screenings to more than 12,000 people in 25 cities. Because early detection can help slow or even stop the progression of CKD, our efforts are an investment in the long-term health of the people we screen.



In 2017, we launched our **Know Your KidneysTM** program to provide a more intensive intervention for people at risk for kidney disease. In our first-year pilot in the nation's capital, we created partnerships with community organizations and screened nearly 2,000 residents of the District of Columbia—an important inroad to a primarily minority population that has historically been medically underserved.

We trained **Kidney Health Coaches** to give educational talks about kidney health and kidney disease in their communities, greatly extending our reach to those at high risk for kidney disease.

2.8 million

2.8 million people visited our website, KidneyFund.org, to learn about kidney health.

140,000+

More than 140,000 patients, caregivers and kidney care professionals are engaged in our social media community. 12,000+

We provided free kidney health screenings to more than 12,000 people in 25 cities nationwide, checking for indicators of kidney and heart health, diabetes and other important health measures. We created new patient materials that are clear and easy to understand, and translated most of our educational literature into Spanish. We built a new Spanish-language website to mirror our award-winning KidneyFund.org, empowering a population of non-English speakers with vital information.



In 2017 we also launched several powerful new education campaigns. The **Be Hep C Smart** campaign encourages kidney patients to learn about the connection between the hepatitis C virus and kidney disease, to be checked for hepatitis C, and if found to be positive, to seek treatment. The campaign was made possible by an educational grant from Merck & Co. A second phase of our

popular **ACT on Anemia** campaign focuses on anemia in patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and provides Spanish-language resources. ACT on Anemia was created with support from Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.

We launched the new **Transplant Central** section of our website, in English and Spanish, to provide comprehensive, detailed information for people living with kidney disease, their families and potential donors who want to know more about kidney transplant, kidney donation and life after transplant. Transplant Central is supported by a patient education grant from Novartis.

Know Your Kidneys DC™

The District of Columbia has been called "ground zero" for kidney disease, with neighborhoods that have some of the highest rates of kidney failure—along with diabetes and high blood pressure, its leading causes—in the country. Through our new Know Your Kidneys DC™ pilot program, AKF is helping to change that.

Know Your Kidneys DC is a comprehensive outreach, education and screening program



2,000

Our Know Your Kidneys DC pilot screened nearly 2,000 high-risk individuals and provided follow-up education about kidney health, reinforcing the important message that most cases of kidney disease could be prevented.

1,900

Nearly 1,900 AKF Kidney Health Coaches are educating their communities about kidney disease and how to prevent it.

800 million

Our outreach to increase awareness of kidney disease generated nearly 800 million media impressions. designed to reach deep into the community to residents at high risk for kidney disease. We forged partnerships with the United Planning Organization (UPO) and Men's Health Network to help plan and deliver our health screening and kidney health education programs.

The nation's capital is a perfect storm of risk factors for kidney disease. African-Americans are three times more likely to develop ESRD as Caucasians, and Hispanics are 1.3 times more likely than non-Hispanics. Five of the eight wards in the District have populations that are majority minority, and two are nearly entirely African-American and Hispanic. These two wards also have the highest rates of obesity, diabetes and prediabetes in the District—of special concern because diabetes is responsible for nearly half of all cases of kidney failure.

Though any health screening program can have a positive effect on those who participate, we designed Know Your Kidneys DC to go much farther. We wanted D.C. residents at risk for kidney disease to know that we'll stay in touch with them, following up, to help motivate them to stay on track to better health.

Know Your Kidneys DC concentrates outreach efforts in the wards with the highest risk for kidney disease based on demographic and health factors. Educational workshops and health screenings identify individuals at high risk for kidney disease. Those individuals receive motivational educational materials and multi-channel follow-up to reinforce their understanding of their health, their risk for kidney disease, and the lifestyle changes that can help them prevent it.

In the first year of the pilot, we screened nearly 2,000 D.C. residents through Know Your Kidneys DC—a great start to a program with the potential to save lives.



Kidney disease en español

Hispanic individuals are at increased risk for kidney disease and are 34 percent more likely to have kidney failure than non-Hispanic whites. The prevalence of diabetes and high blood pressure—the two leading causes of kidney failure—in the Hispanic population makes kidney disease education among this population an urgent priority.

Our new Spanish-language website addresses the limited availability of high-quality information about kidney health and kidney disease at an appropriate level of health literacy for a broad and diverse population of Spanish speakers. It complements the resources we have long offered to Spanish speakers, including health education materials and more recently, webinars for patients.

KidneyFund.org/en-espanol contains all the same health information that is found on AKF's award-winning KidneyFund.org site—within the main navigation headings of kidney disease, kidney transplant, financial assistance, education and research, prevention, and get involved (in Spanish, enfermedad de los riñones, trasplantes de riñón, asistencia financiera, educación e investigación, defensa, involúcrese).

The culturally-appropriate translation and design of KidneyFund.org/en-espanol was made possible in part by an educational grant from Amgen.





FIGHT.

iving with kidney disease or kidney failure is a daily battle, not just with the disease itself but also with all the complications that accompany it. Our broad range of programs gives patients tools, information, encouragement and financial assistance to help them in their daily fight, while our Advocacy Network gives patients and their loved ones a voice in legislative and policy debates on issues that are important to people living with kidney disease and those who care for them. We educate allied health professionals through our free online continuing education programs, increasing their understanding of kidney disease, its treatment, and its impact on patients, and we fund innovative clinical research that is designed to improve treatment and patient outcomes.

Our financial assistance programs helped 1 out every 5 U.S. dialysis and transplant patients afford the health care they need to stay alive. AKF has long been an essential part of the safety net for low-income patients with kidney failure in the United States. Because more than 80 percent of dialysis patients are unable to work, they can face a sudden drop in income that makes it impossible to keep up with their bills.

AKF's financial programs pay health insurance premiums for all types of insurance (Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage, employer-provided plans and other commercial coverage); provide grants for treatment-related expenses not covered by insurance; help pay for specialty summer camps for children living with kidney disease; provide scholarships in select states to patients living with kidney failure to continue their education; and help patients meet emergency needs when a natural disaster strikes.

A popular series of free monthly webinars for patients and caregivers tackled many topics pertaining to kidney disease and kidney transplant, featuring leading experts in the field. Thousands of patients and their caregivers and loved ones, as well as renal professionals, took advantage of the live webinars and the archived versions that are available on-demand on our website. Our webinar series was supported in part by educational grants from Satellite Healthcare, Amgen, Novartis, Merck & Co., and Pentec Health.

Our Advocacy Network grew to 8,700 members in all 50 states—powerful voices in public policy at both the federal and state levels. We work with our Advocates to increase awareness of kidney disease and advocate for policies that improve access to health care and strengthen quality of care for individuals with kidney disease.

74,000

Nearly 74,000 kidney patients maintained their health insurance coverage through our Health Insurance Premium Program. 11,500

With help from our Safety Net Program, 11,500 kidney patients were able to pay for transportation to dialysis, nutritional products, emergency assistance and other expenses not covered by health insurance. 1,600

1,600 patients received donated medications at no cost, helping them to manage common complications of kidney failure.



When insurance gets canceled

When Charlotte Yount's kidneys failed, she had to stop working because she was too sick and too weak. Eventually her husband Curtis had to stop working to take care of her.

The Memphis, Tennessee, couple was barely making ends meet before. Without income and significantly higher medical costs, their situation became dire. Financial assistance from AKF to pay Charlotte's Medigap premiums helped to keep them afloat.

But Charlotte's health continued to decline. She was hospitalized for several weeks fighting a severe infection that ultimately took her life.

During that time, Charlotte's insurer—Blue Cross of Tennessee—stopped accepting insurance premium payments from AKF.
Charlotte's Medigap policy was canceled for nonpayment while she was dying in the hospital.

A few weeks after Charlotte's death, Curtis began receiving the bills. Because her Medigap policy had been canceled, the Yountses were billed for Medicare's 20 percent cost-sharing. With barely enough money to pay for Charlotte's funeral, Curtis was faced with mountains of medical bills he would never be able to pay.

Together with our nationwide Advocacy network, we are fighting insurers' discriminatory policies that target some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens who cannot afford their health insurance premiums without financial assistance from AKF.

An unprecedented disaster relief response

As three Category 5 hurricanes bore down on the U.S. and its territories in August 2017, AKF mobilized our rapid-response Disaster Relief Program to help dialysis patients affected by the storms. As Harvey approached Houston, it was clear that the need for emergency funds—to replace lost medications and special renal diet foods, pay for temporary housing and transportation to treatment, and replace clothing and household essentials—would far exceed our budgeted capacity.

Harvey inundated coastal Texas with massive floodwaters, destroying homes and displacing residents, and causing many dialysis clinics to close. Irma necessitated large-scale evacuations in Florida and caused widespread power outages. And Maria killed thousands and devastated Puerto Rico's infrastructure.

Members of the general public, corporations and foundations responded generously to our fundraising appeals. Coverage in

major news outlets spotlighted the special challenges faced by dialysis patients, whose lives depend on receiving their lifesustaining treatments, even during a natural disaster.

We highlighted the heroic efforts of social workers who made sure patients were able to get their treatments even while dealing with



3,800+

10

More than 3,800 patients affected by natural disasters received grants from our Disaster Relief Program. 40

40 children living with kidney disease received grants to attend specialized summer camps.

1,600+

More than 1,600 people attended our free monthly patient and caregiver webinars, and more than 6,000 later viewed our webinars on demand. 6,700

More than 6,700 health care professionals took AKF's 9 free, certified online courses, obtaining continuing education about caring for people with, and at risk for, kidney disease.

their own devastating losses. We heard harrowing stories of patients who were trapped in flooded areas and unable to get to treatment, and met one patient who had to travel by boat and truck to get out of his flooded neighborhood to his clinic. They all expressed heartfelt gratitude to those who

supported AKF's Disaster Relief Program that was so helpful to them immediately after the storms.

We were able to provide \$847,695 in emergency grants to 3,846 patients affected by the three hurricanes—an unprecedented response to an unprecedented series of disasters.



Helping women with kidney disease deliver healthy babies

Pregnancies in women with kidney disease are high risk not only for the mother but also for the baby. Jessica Sheehan Tangren, M.D., has been studying pregnancy and kidney disease and helping many women with kidney disease become mothers against the odds. In 2017, Dr. Tangren became the American Kidney Fund (AKF) 2017-2018 Clinical Scientist in Nephrology (CSN) fellow with a grant to fund her research that seeks to improve treatment and outcomes for pregnant women with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and a history of acute kidney injury (AKI).

Dr. Tangren's research as part of the Brigham and Women's Hospital/Massachusetts General Joint Nephrology Fellowship Program is advancing understanding of renal physiology in pregnant women. Pregnancy causes profound changes in renal circulation, and Dr. Tangren's research is

providing valuable information that may help forestall the future development of preeclampsia and CKD in young women. Dr. Tangren is exploring the long-term effects of AKI specifically in young women—an area where very little research has been done.

AKF's CSN program strives to improve the quality of care provided to kidney patients and promotes clinical research in nephrology. The program enhances the training of nephrologists who want to pursue an academic career and whose primary professional commitment is to scholarship in the provision of patient care. Dr. Tangren joins a distinguished list of CSN fellows whose work in nephrology research has been advancing patient care since 1989. Her CSN fellowship was funded in part by a grant from Amgen.

47,000

We provided 47,000 AKF 2017 Dialysis Planners and 10,000 Dialysis Guides to dialysis patients at their treatment facilities to help them in treatment self-management. CSN

AKF awarded its newest Clinical Scientist in Nephrology fellowship to Dr. Jessica Tangren for her work on pregnancy and kidney disease. 8,700

8,700 people from all 50 states participated in our Advocacy Network, fighting against discriminatory health insurance practices and advocating for increased federal funding for kidney disease care and research.



HONOR.

nyone who has known someone living with kidney failure knows the strength, courage and heroic effort it takes to fight the unrelenting battle. These warriors inspire our work every day and we honor them in all we do.



The Hope Affair, our annual gala, celebrates those who inspire us in the fight against kidney disease. In 2017 we honored Luis Matos, a dialysis patient, as the AKF Hero of Hope for his work in coaching and mentoring at-risk young men in inner-city Newark, New Jersey. Skyler Moats of Elkins, West Virginia, the 14-year-old artist whose drawing won our annual Calendar Kids Art Contest and appears on the cover of our 2018 calendar, was also recognized at the event. And we presented the KidneyNation Excellence Award to Justin Condon from Hoboken, New Jersey, in

recognition of his extraordinary effort in raising over \$25,000 for AKF in conjunction with his quest to scale Mount Everest in memory of his father who died of kidney failure.

Our growing KidneyNation community of fundraisers—patients, family members, caregivers and renal professionals—honors those living with kidney disease as well as their loved ones who have lost their battles by fundraising to support AKF programs and services. They have completed Ironman competitions, run marathons and 5K races, climbed mountains, sacrificed man-buns, collected pennies in classrooms, dedicated their birthdays and anniversaries, and more.

AKF supporters are proud of our record of spending 97 cents of every donated dollar on patients and programs and our commitment to financial stewardship and transparency. Those who fundraise—and those who donate to their cause—give with confidence, knowing that AKF is one of the most trusted charities in the country.

97¢

97 cents of every donated dollar goes directly to patients and programs

900

Nearly 900 people across the country have joined KidneyNation, AKF's grassroots fundraising community, which raised nearly \$200,000 in revenues in 2017. 61,000

Nearly 61,000 individuals, corporations and organizations across the country made charitable contributions to AKF to support our programs.

Honoring a loved one lost to kidney disease

When he set out to climb the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, at the end of March 2017, Justin Condon carried 40 pounds of gear and essentials on his back and something far heavier and more precious in his heart: the memory of his father, Gerry, who died of kidney failure in 2015.

Gerry had been Justin's most ardent supporter in his quest to summit the highest peak on each continent. Everest was to be his sixth—an amazing turnaround for the formerly overweight, overstressed Wall Street IT executive, an Irishman who lives in Hoboken, New Jersey. Justin dedicated his climb to the memory of his father and decided to use his expedition to raise awareness of kidney disease.

After researching kidney-related organizations, he chose to support the American Kidney Fund because it helps patients directly and spends 97 cents of every dollar on patients and programs. He joined KindeyNation and set a goal of raising \$10,000 as he began training to climb the world's highest mountain.

For months before his climb, Justin reached out to his network of friends and acquaintances, finding many willing to donate



in honor of his father. Donations continued to pour in as Justin chronicled the arduous acclimation and his trek to reach the summit in his blog.

Unfortunately Everest had other plans for Justin, who sustained an injury requiring a medical evacuation by helicopter after reaching Camp 3 at 23,000 feet, higher than he had ever climbed before. But one of his teammates carried Justin's Gerry Condon Memorial Expedition patch to the summit, and Justin surpassed his other lofty goal, raising over \$25,000 to support AKF programs and services in his father's memory.



Coach, mentor, inspiration, hero

Despite a chronic, debilitating neuromuscular condition that caused his kidneys to fail in 2015, Luis Matos of Ozone Park, New York, had a passion, football, and a mission: helping to take at-risk young men, ages 18-23, off the streets of Newark, New Jersey.

When Luis became too sick to play football himself, he started a semipro team, the New Jersey Hawkeyes. In their first year, the Hawkeyes won a League Championship and were a national runner up. But even more importantly, the players on the team began to see that there are more options and alternatives open to them beyond life in the streets.

97¢

We continued our longstanding record of spending 97 cents of every donated dollar on patients and programs. 16th

We received our 16th consecutive "Four Star" rating from Charity Navigator. AKF ranks among the top 1 percent of charities nationwide out of more than 9,000 reviewed for fiscal accountability. **Top 10**

We were again ranked in Charity Navigator's "Top 10" list of organizations with the most consecutive Four Star ratings. Luis was not only a coach, but also a mentor to these young men who have few positive role models in their lives. Players frequently told him that if it weren't for the opportunities the team gave them, they would be lost.

Despite his own serious health challenges, Luis gave his all to the players on his team. His inspirational story won him the prestigious American Kidney Fund 2017 Hero of Hope award, and Luis was honored at our annual gala, The Hope Affair.

His failing health sidelined him from coaching, and Luis worked hard to stay healthy enough to remain on the transplant list. He received a transplant in fall 2017, and is hopeful he'll get well enough to be able to resume the work that is so important to him.

A baseball card, a kidney and a love story



Source: Tennessean.com

Steve and Heather Winfree were already active members of AKF's Advocacy network when Heather learned that she was a match and would donate a kidney to him. The way she told him—on a custom-printed baseball card as she recorded his emotional reaction on her phone—went viral on social media and the Winfrees became overnight celebrities.

Steve and Heather used their newfound fame to raise awareness of the need for living kidney donation and to honor Heather's selfless gift to her husband. In numerous television appearances, media interviews and speaking engagements, they directed people to AKF's website for more information about being a living donor.

Their story inspired minor league baseball player Carter Kieboom—whose baseball card was in the pack that Steve opened in their viral video—to raffle off a bat and glove and donate the proceeds to AKF.

Heather donated her kidney to Steve in September 2017. Their story continues to inspire others and raise awareness of living kidney donation.

Our **disaster relief efforts** were recognized in Charity Navigator's lists of highly-rated organizations helping those affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the California wildfires.

We achieved GuideStar's **Platinum Seal of Transparency**, the highest level of recognition given to organizations that report metrics important to donors.

Consumer Reports once again listed

AKF as one of the "Best Charities for

Your Donations."

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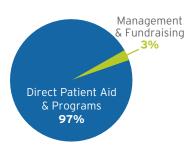
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Financial HighlightsFiscal year January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017

Public Support and Other Revenue Contributions In-kind Contributions Planned Giving Other Income Total Support and Revenue	\$ 287,485,335 8,213,659 1,914,158 2,894,623 300,507,775
Expenses Direct Patient Aid Public and Professional Education Research and Community Service Fundraising Management and General Total Expenses	\$ 278,036,080 9,770,074 232,272 4,782,807 2,043,252 294,864,485
Net Surplus	\$ 5,643,290
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION Cash and Investments Contribution Receivables Furniture and Equipment, net Inventory and Other Assets Total Assets	\$ \$36,941,985 1,159,169 902,343 924,431 39,927,928
Liabilities Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Deferred Rent Annuities Payable Total Liabilities	\$ 2,264,536 481,852 291,683 3,038,071
Net Assets Unrestricted Unrestricted - Board Designated Temporarily Restricted Permanently Restricted Total Net Assets	\$ 32,951,415 2,844,500 918,925 175,017 36,889,857
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 39,927,928

A complete copy of the audited financial statements is available upon request from the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD, 20852, or on our website at KidneyFund.org.



THANK YOU

The following sponsors supported the programs and services of the American Kidney Fund with generous contributions of \$5,000 or more in 2017.

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