



50  
YEARS 1971  
2021

# THE HOPE AFFAIR

**Honoring the Past. Forging the Future.**



American Kidney Fund®  
FIGHTING ON ALL FRONTS



## Dear Friends,

As the American Kidney Fund (AKF) celebrates its 50th year of fighting kidney disease and helping people live healthier lives, we look back with pride on our past and reflect on our vision for the future. The 2021 theme of The Hope Affair— Honoring the Past. Forging the Future— is a fitting way to celebrate the milestones we have achieved as an organization and recognize the people at the heart of the work we do today and will continue to do for the next 50 years and beyond.

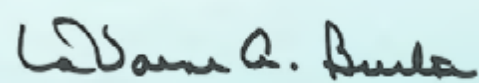
When AKF was founded, fewer than 55,000 people in the U.S. had kidney failure. Today, there are more than 785,000 Americans with kidney failure and a staggering 37 million with kidney disease, making our work more important now than ever.

One of those people living with kidney failure is 12-year-old Sadallah Alhaj, whose artwork, Fishing for a Kidney, will appear on the cover of AKF's 2022 calendar. Featuring a smiling boy reeling in a kidney like a fish, Sadallah's hopeful artwork invites us to "imagine if kidney fishing were a reality," so everyone like him who is on dialysis could receive a lifesaving transplant.

Increasing the number of kidney transplants is a cornerstone of our work. In 2020, AKF's financial support made kidney transplants and post-transplant care possible for 7% of all kidney recipients in the U.S., and we are on pace to help even more low-income dialysis patients get transplants in 2021. We have also spearheaded the nationwide effort to secure protections for living organ donors at the state level, and since 2019, 18 states have signed these protections into law. Tonight's KidneyNation honoree, Jeremy Smith, flew across the country last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, to donate a kidney to his brother, Drew. He also used downtime during the pandemic to raise more than \$12,100 through AKF's do-it-yourself fundraising program, Kidney Nation. Since its launch in 2015, Jeremy and other participants have raised \$2 million for AKF's programs and services.

Securing protections for living donors and improving the lives of those living with kidney disease through legislation would not be possible without the dedicated Ambassadors in our Advocacy Network. Since we began our Advocacy Network in 2010, more than 16,000 patients, family members, friends and kidney care professionals have joined us as Ambassadors in the fight against kidney disease. One of our most passionate Ambassadors is tonight's Hero of Hope, Leigh-Ann Williams, a dialysis patient who is dedicating her career to giving back to the kidney community. As she works to reduce health disparities that lead to disproportionately high rates of kidney failure in communities of color—a focus of AKF's for many years— we are inspired by Leigh-Ann's drive to improve health equity for future generations.

Throughout the next 50 years, AKF will be there, fighting on all fronts, for every American impacted by kidney disease. We are grateful for your partnership in this fight, and we are honored to have you with us for this special evening. Thank you for all you do help us forge a brighter future for patients.



**LaVarne A. Burton**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Kidney Fund



## American Kidney Fund Board of Trustees

**Maureen Nugent Franco**  
Chair

**Silas P. Norman, M.D., MPH**  
Chair-Elect

**Jerry D. Klepner**  
Immediate Past Chair

**Julie Wright-Nunes, M.D., MPH**  
Chair, Medical Affairs

**John F. Hanley, CFA**  
Treasurer

**William J. Schuyler**  
Secretary

**Frances E. Ashe-Goins, RN, BSN, MPH, FAAN, PhD (hon)**

**Donna M. Christensen, M.D.**  
Member-at-Large

**Michael W. Flood**

**Maria A. Grasso**

**Brian Krex, Esq.**

**Gregory P. Madison**

**Pamela W. McNamara**

**Elaine Milem**

**John B. Moriarty, Jr., Esq.**  
Member-at-Large

**John D. Ring, CPA, CGMA**

**Lisa A. Robin**

**Sean P. Roddy, CPA, CMA, CGMA, MBA**

**Sue E. Rottura**

**Andrew M. Shore, J.D.**

**Melanie J. Turieo**

**Heidi I. Wagner, J.D.**

**Larry H. Warren**

**Gail S. Wick, MHSA, BSN, RN, CNNe**  
Trustee Emeritus

**LaVarne A. Burton**  
Ex-officio President  
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends,

As Chair of the American Kidney Fund's Board of Trustees, I am honored to be involved with the organization that has a 50-year track record of directly touching more lives than any other kidney nonprofit.

The Hope Affair is AKF's annual celebration of the inspiring work that our donors make possible. Though we wish we could celebrate our 13th annual gala with you in person, we are virtual again this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its particularly devastating impact on people with kidney disease. We look forward to the light at the end of this tunnel and are excited to introduce you to our honorees who are helping to forge a brighter future ahead.

Despite the continuing struggles of the pandemic, AKF has been there every step of the way for the kidney community, including:

#### Education

- Continued to provide crucial and award-winning information about COVID-19 to patients and caregivers
- Led efforts to improve diagnosis and treatment for unknown causes of kidney disease
- Launched several powerful new disease education campaigns and initiatives.

#### Advocacy

- Successfully lobbied the Biden-Harris Administration for the direct allocation of the COVID-19 vaccine to the nation's dialysis clinics
- Launched our first annual State of the States: Living Donor Protection Report Card
- Drove national conversations about health equity and health disparities.

All of this work and more is made possible thanks to your support and generosity.

When you give to AKF, you can trust that your donation has the biggest impact on the lives of the 37 million people with kidney disease and the millions more who are at risk. For every dollar donated, AKF invests 97 cents in our programs and services, not overhead.

Whether we are publishing award-winning educational content, advocating for legislation to improve the lives of kidney patients and living organ donors, or empowering the kidney community to start a KidneyNation fundraiser, we are there fighting on all fronts.

Thank you for supporting the American Kidney Fund. We are honored to have you join us for The Hope Affair.

*Maureen Franco*

**Maureen Nugent Franco**  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
American Kidney Fund



## 2021 Honorary Congressional Host Committee

### UNITED STATES SENATE

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Democratic Leader  
The Honorable John Barrasso  
The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
The Honorable John N. Boozman  
The Honorable Mike Braun  
The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
The Honorable Mike Rounds  
The Honorable Thom Tillis  
The Honorable Mark Warner  
The Honorable Roger F. Wicker

### UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán  
The Honorable Cliff Bentz  
The Honorable Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
The Honorable Stephanie I. Bice  
The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop  
The Honorable Kevin Brady  
The Honorable Anthony G. Brown  
The Honorable Julia Brownley  
The Honorable Kenneth R. Buck  
The Honorable G. K. Butterfield  
The Honorable Troy A. Carter  
The Honorable Judy Chu  
The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
The Honorable Katherine Clark  
The Honorable Steven A. Cohen  
The Honorable Tom Cole  
The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly  
The Honorable Jim Cooper  
The Honorable J. Luis Correa  
The Honorable Angie Craig  
The Honorable Diana DeGette  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Suzan Kay DelBene  
The Honorable Deborah Dingell  
The Honorable Tom Emmer  
The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
The Honorable Ron Estes  
The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher  
The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
The Honorable Lois Frankel

The Honorable John Garamendi  
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez  
The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
The Honorable Jahana Hayes  
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler  
The Honorable Jody Hice  
The Honorable William P. Huizenga  
The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
The Honorable Frederick Keller  
The Honorable Robin L. Kelly  
The Honorable Derek Kilmer  
The Honorable Young Kim  
The Honorable Ron Kind  
The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick  
The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster  
The Honorable Susie Lee  
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
The Honorable Elaine Luria  
The Honorable Kathy Manning  
The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
The Honorable Kweisi Mfume  
The Honorable Carol Miller  
The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
The Honorable Ralph W. Norman  
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
The Honorable Steven Palazzo

The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
The Honorable Mike Quigley  
The Honorable Amata Coleman Radewagen  
The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez  
The Honorable Adam B. Schiff  
The Honorable Albio Sires  
The Honorable Pete Stauber  
The Honorable W. Gregory Steube  
The Honorable Thomas Suozzi  
The Honorable Mark Takano  
The Honorable Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
The Honorable Dina Titus  
The Honorable Paul D. Tonko  
The Honorable Frederick S. Upton



## Diamond Sponsor

**Akebia**<sup>®</sup>  
THERAPEUTICS

## Gold Sponsor

**AMGEN**<sup>®</sup>

Advancing the Science and  
Practice of Nephrology

## Silver Sponsor

**SATELLITE**  
HEALTHCARE

## Bronze Sponsors

 **HORIZON** **KING & SPALDING**

 **Otsuka**

## Teal Sponsors

 **Alnylam**  
PHARMACEUTICALS  
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

 **Interactive  
Strategies**

 **JPA**  
HEALTH

 **MERCK**  
INVENTING FOR LIFE

**Northleaf**

 **ORASES**

 **PRMA**  
RESEARCH • PROGRESS • HOPE

 **SPLITOAK**  
STRATEGIES

 **VERTEX**

 **VIFOR  
PHARMA**

## Crystal Sponsors

 **Avalere**  
An Innovation Company

 **Davita**

 **FRESENIUS  
MEDICAL CARE**

 **ARTHUR  
AND JEAN  
METCALF II**

 **RIGHT  
ADVISORY**

 **SPG**  
FIDUCIARY PARTNERS  
RAYMOND JAMES

 **vericli**<sub>dx</sub>

## Turquoise Sponsors

Ardelyx  
BrightVine Solutions  
John P. and Dorothy Butler  
Chinook Therapeutics  
CliftonLarsonAllen  
CMI AV Audiovisual People  
ColorNet Printing and Graphics

Federal Street Strategies  
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
John and Jennifer McDonough  
The RKD Group  
Truist  
Vendorin

## Circle of Friends Sponsors

Alexion  
BGR Group  
Cigna Healthcare  
The Choice  
Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann, LLP

Hack | Stone  
Larry H. Warren  
Mutual of America  
NFP  
Warren and Gail Wick

## VIP Sponsors

AllStripes  
LaVarne A. Burton  
• The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D.

Julie Wright-Nunes, M.D., MPH  
Shawn and Louise Hendon



# Program

Welcome to The Hope Affair 2021: Honoring the Past. Forging the Future.

The Hope Affair is about honoring those who inspire us in the fight against kidney disease.

Tonight we look forward to celebrating many milestones with you: The American Kidney Fund's 50th Anniversary and the milestones of our patients and their families!

## EMCEED BY

NBC 4 News Anchor Shawn Yancy, Live from Washington, D.C.

## SPECIAL GUESTS

LaVarne A. Burton, American Kidney Fund President and CEO  
Maureen Franco, Chair, American Kidney Fund Board of Trustees

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

Sadallah Alhaj, Calendar Kids Art Contest Cover Artist  
Jeremy Smith, KidneyNation Excellence Award  
Leigh-Ann Williams, Hero of Hope



## Sadallah Alhaj, 2021 American Kidney Fund Calendar Cover Artist

Sadallah Alhaj is a sixth grader from Philadelphia who wants to be a nephrologist when he grows up because of the impact his own nephrologist has had on him. "I want to be a nephrologist because I want to help people," he says. He was born without functioning kidneys and had a transplant at age 2 that lasted for eight years. He is now on dialysis, attending three times per week. At every session, he asks his nurses if they've found a kidney for him yet.

Though dialysis takes up about half of Sadallah's time, he is able to attend school regularly and is very proud to be a straight A student. He likes talking to his school friends about his experience with kidney disease and how dialysis keeps him healthy. During his free time when he is not at dialysis or school, he stays busy playing board games, listening to music and solving math problems.

Sadallah's artwork, Fishing for a Kidney, received the most votes from the public during this year's AKF Calendar Kids Art Contest. His artwork features a boy on a dock reeling in a kidney like a big fish, which won over voters with its hopeful message, "Imagine if kidney fishing could be a reality!" The caption reads, "I would fish a kidney for all of us who need one."

Sadallah stays positive. "I never give up," he says. "My family, friends, nurses and teachers all support me." He says his parents are "the best parents in the world I could ever have." Sadallah was excited to showcase his artwork and compete in the contest. He feels "so awesome and grateful" for everyone who voted for him to be the Cover Artist. He wants to tell other kids with kidney disease to be patient because he is hopeful they will all get a kidney soon and achieve their dreams.

Each year the public selects the cover of the American Kidney Fund's calendar. The Calendar Kids Art Program has been providing a creative outlet and national recognition for children living with kidney disease for over 25 years.





## Jeremy Smith, 2021 American Kidney Fund *KidneyNation Excellence Award*

Jeremy Smith and his brother, Drew, have been best friends since they were kids. Now both in their 30s, they have spent decades doing everything together—playing on the same sports teams, taking an annual snowboarding trip to Lake Tahoe, hanging out in the same group of friends, attending the same college and even once following each other in a move across the country.

In 2020, they also went into surgery together when Jeremy donated his kidney to Drew.

Jeremy spent a year prepping for the transplant, including changing his entire lifestyle so he could be his healthiest for the surgery. He says COVID-19 lockdowns were the “perfect storm” because it allowed him to do pretty much nothing else except focus on being ready to give Drew his kidney.

The perfect storm created by the coronavirus pandemic also gave Jeremy time to give back to the larger kidney disease community. Inspired by Drew and friends who lost parents to kidney disease, Jeremy signed up for AKF’s do-it-yourself fundraising program, KidneyNation. Jeremy started a KidneyNation fundraising page and hosted a backyard concert at their family farmhouse in Pennsylvania, featuring the Grammy-nominated band Yarn, to raise additional funds. Determined to raise money for AKF as a tribute to Drew before the transplant surgery, Jeremy reached out to his network of family, friends and coworkers to get as many donations and sell as many concert tickets as he could. His fundraising efforts were so successful, he exceeded his goal of \$8,500 and raised more than \$12,000 for AKF’s programs and services.

We honor Jeremy tonight for his selfless gift of organ donation and lasting commitment to improving the lives of everyone with kidney disease.

The KidneyNation Excellence Award is presented to a member of our fundraising community whose commitment to the cause of helping kidney patients and increasing awareness of kidney disease is an inspiration to others. For more information about how you can get involved with KidneyNation, please contact Martin McNutt at 240-292-7056 or [mmcnutt@kidneyfund.org](mailto:mmcnutt@kidneyfund.org).



## Leigh-Ann Williams, 2021 American Kidney Fund *Hero of Hope*

Leigh-Ann Williams is an AKF Ambassador and Kidney Health Coach who currently works as a program coordinator at the West Jefferson Medical Center in New Orleans. While undergoing dialysis at home, Leigh-Ann has continued working, traveling and pursuing her education. She hopes other people with kidney disease can look to her for inspiration and know that life does not end with a kidney disease diagnosis.

Leigh-Ann has adopted the mantra, “these kidneys won’t hold me back!” It is a declaration that despite her disease, she will still live her life to the fullest. She is an avid public speaker and motivator, and is involved in several social, civic and service organizations. She recently received her Masters in Public Health from Louisiana State University with a concentration in epidemiology. She is committed to reducing health disparities that lead to disproportionately high rates of kidney disease and other chronic diseases in communities of color.

As an AKF Ambassador, Leigh-Ann has provided encouragement to other people with kidney disease through her active social media presence, advocated on Capitol Hill for kidney patients across the country, and shared educational materials about kidney disease prevention and risk factors with her network. In her limited spare time, Leigh-Ann loves to travel, go to the movies, spend time with family and meet new people.


The Hero of Hope Award is presented to a patient whose life is a testament to hope in the face of kidney disease.





## Together, We're Working Toward a Brighter Future for People with Kidney Disease


Akebia is a proud sponsor of  
The Hope Affair

A photograph of a female doctor in a white lab coat with a stethoscope, smiling and looking at an elderly female patient who is also smiling. They are in a clinical setting.

## Transforming the language of life into vital medicines

At Amgen, we believe that the answers to medicine's most pressing questions are written in the language of our DNA. As pioneers at biotechnology, we use our deep understanding of that language to create vital medicines that address the unmet medical needs of patients fighting serious illness—to dramatically improve their lives.

[amgen.com](https://www.amgen.com)  
©2021 Amgen Inc. All rights reserved.

The Amgen logo, consisting of the word "AMGEN" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its upper right.



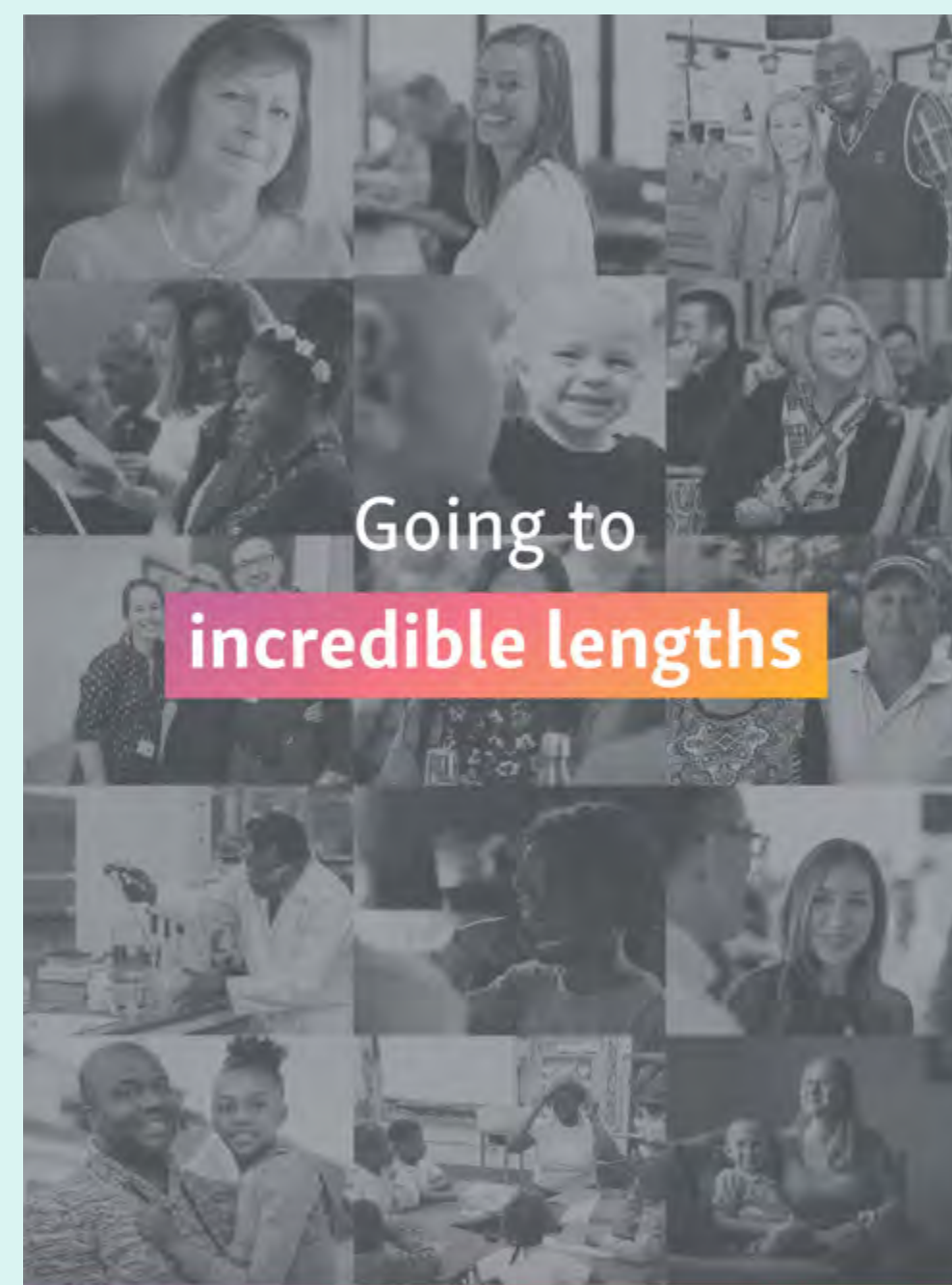
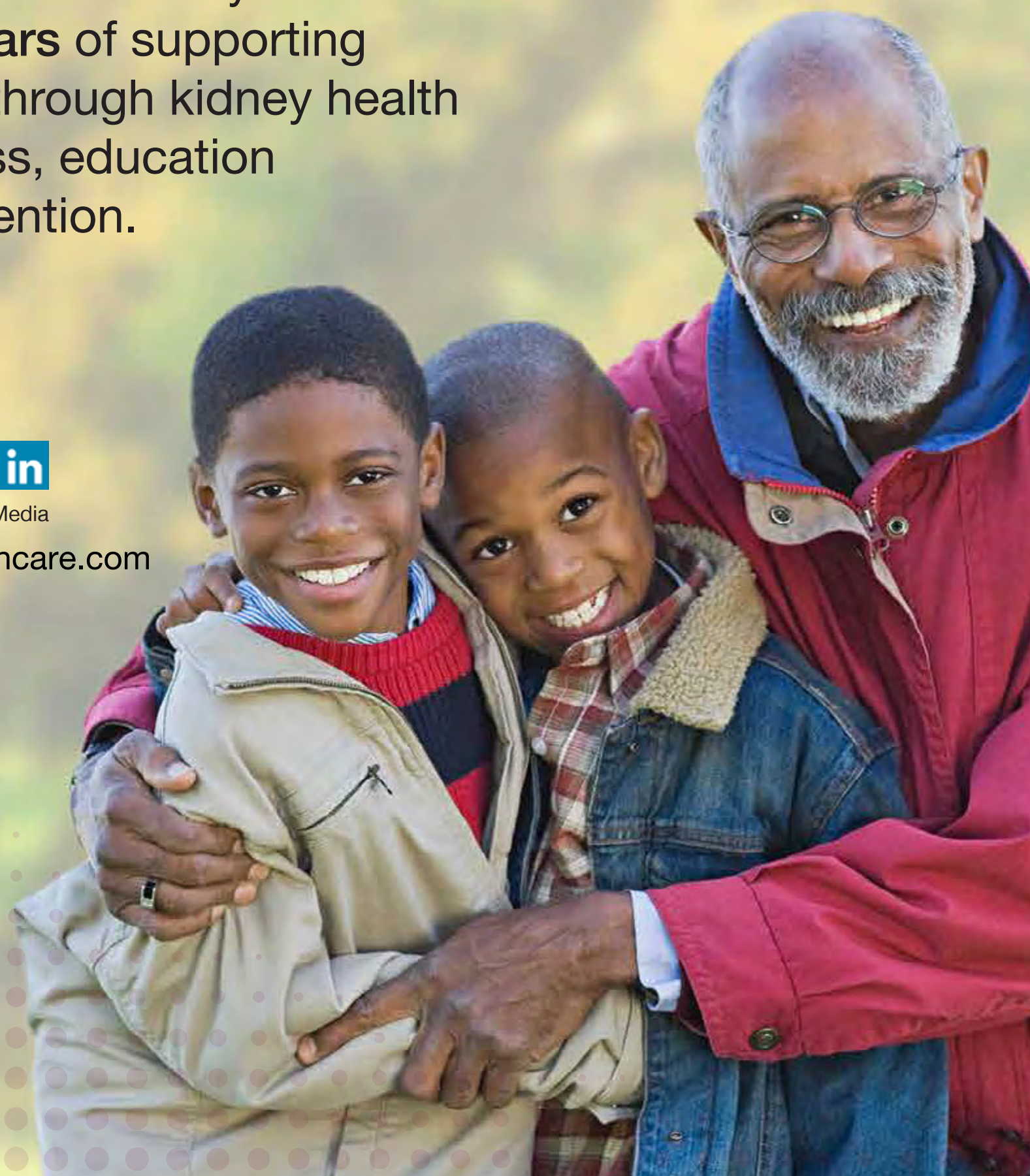
# SATELLITE HEALTHCARE

Satellite Healthcare salutes the American Kidney Fund for 50 years of supporting patients through kidney health awareness, education and prevention.



Follow us on Social Media

SatelliteHealthcare.com



Horizon Therapeutics is proud to support The Hope Affair 2021.

Horizon is focused on researching, developing and commercializing medicines that address critical needs for people impacted by rare, autoimmune and severe inflammatory diseases. Our pipeline is purposeful: we apply scientific expertise and courage to bring clinically meaningful therapies to patients. At Horizon, we believe science and compassion must work together to transform lives.

[horizontherapeutics.com](http://horizontherapeutics.com)

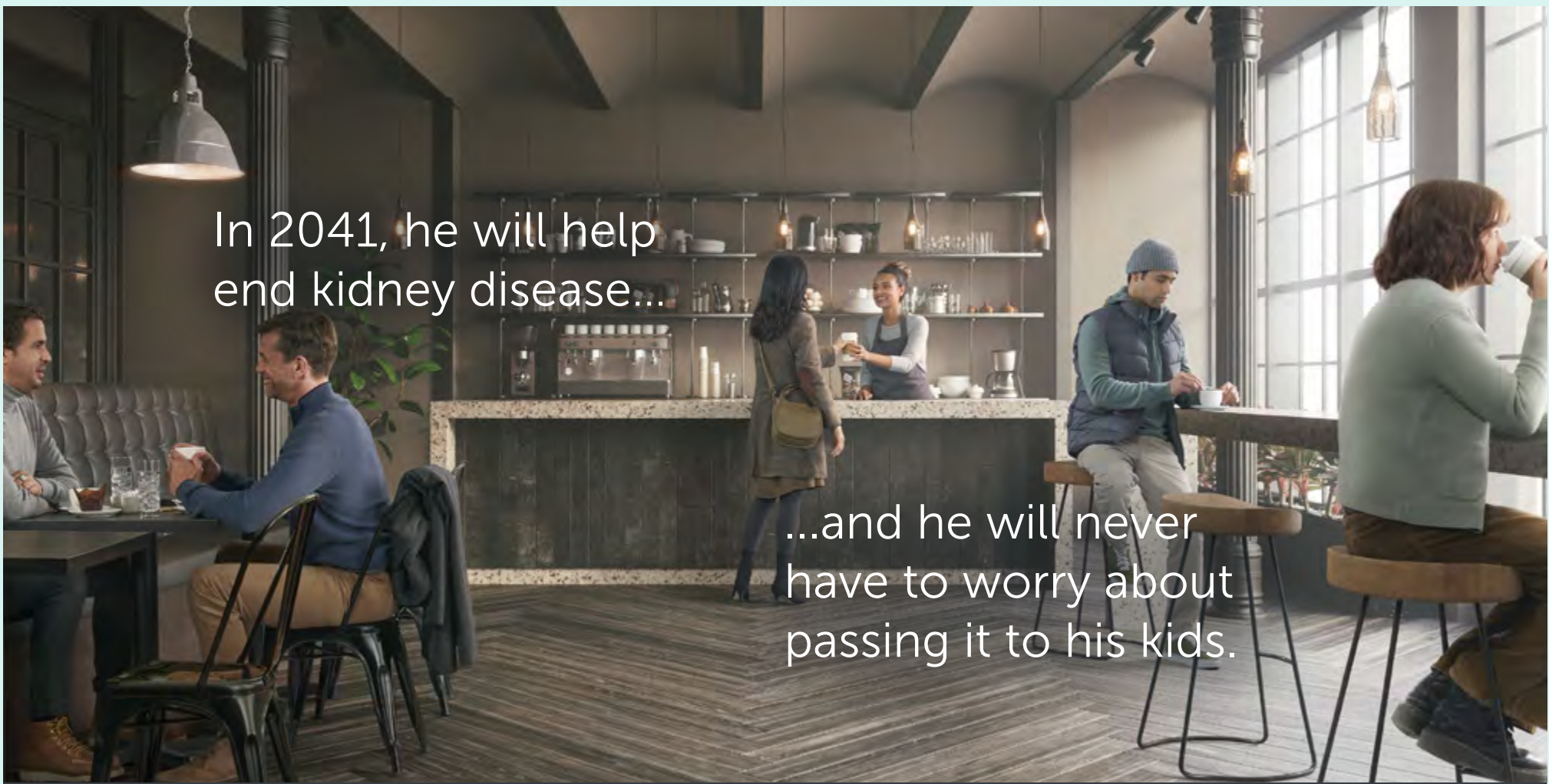
## King & Spalding proudly supports American Kidney Fund's The Hope Affair.

We applaud your efforts on behalf of patients, members of the kidney care community, advocates and policymakers.

KING & SPALDING

[kslaw.com](http://kslaw.com)





In 2041, he will help  
end kidney disease...

...and he will never  
have to worry about  
passing it to his kids.

If you think this is impossible,  
you've never met an Otsuka-person.

Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.  
Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc.



At Otsuka, we defy limitation,  
so that others can too.  
Visit [Otsuka-us.com](https://www.otsuka-us.com).

August 2021 01US21EUC0102

THERE IS NO TIPTOEING INTO THE UNKNOWN.

Every day, thousands of biopharmaceutical researchers and patients are fighting the odds to unearth cutting-edge medicines and cures.

Welcome to the future of medicine. For all of us.

**GOBOLDLY™**

**PARMA**  
RESEARCH • INNOVATION • HOPE

**America's Biopharmaceutical Companies™**

[Innovation.org](https://www.innovation.org)

**Northleaf**

Supporting the American  
Kidney Fund in fighting kidney  
disease and helping people  
live healthier lives.

[northleafcapital.com](https://northleafcapital.com)

TORONTO | CHICAGO | LONDON | MELBOURNE | MENLO PARK | MONTREAL | NEW YORK



# By putting lives first, we've created a legacy that lasts

For 130 years, we have tackled some of the world's biggest health challenges and provided hope in the fight against disease, for both people and animals. Today, we continue our commitment to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in pursuit of medical breakthroughs that benefit patients and society for today, tomorrow and generations to come.

Copyright © 2021 Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc.  
All rights reserved. US-NON-04146 02/20






To those who say “impossible,  
impractical, unrealistic,” we say  
**CHALLENGE  
ACCEPTED**

We're pioneering  
RNAi therapeutics  
for patients like  
Eloise Viola, who is  
living with the rare  
disease primary  
hyperoxaluria type 1.

[alnylam.com](http://alnylam.com)

 **Alnylam**



**Connectability**

**That good feeling  
when things just work.**

It's what JPA Health clients have come to expect.  
Because we make meaningful connections like no  
other. Our specialists synchronize insights, ideas and  
incredible execution for results that impress.



**We bring it together.**

PR | MARKETING | ADVOCACY | [JPA.COM](http://JPA.COM)



Vertex creates new possibilities  
in medicine so people with serious  
diseases can live better lives.

We work with leading researchers,  
doctors, public health experts and other  
collaborators who share our vision for  
transforming the lives of people with serious  
diseases, their families and society. We're  
proud to support the Hope Affair 2021 and the  
American Kidney Fund's ongoing efforts to  
improve the lives of kidney patients.

**Learn more at [vrtx.com](http://vrtx.com)**

©2021 Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated  
VXR-US-02-2100119 (v1.0) | 09/2021



Proud to serve as a  
**digital partner** of the  
American Kidney Fund

| STRATEGY | BRANDING  
| WEB DESIGN | MARKETING

[interactivestrategies.com](http://interactivestrategies.com)

**ORASES**  
Custom software to reach your vision.

Proud to support **THE HOPE AFFAIR**

Together building a grant management  
system that provides life-saving  
assistance to kidney patients.

[orases.com](http://orases.com) / 301.694.8991



**IMAGINE**

IF YOUR FINANCIAL CONSULTANT  
KNEW WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO  
RUN A COMPANY.

— YOU CAN STOP DREAMING —

OUR EXPERIENCE TURNS YOUR  
CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES  
OUR PASSION GETS THE JOB DONE,  
AND OUR INTEGRITY MEANS IT'S  
DONE RIGHT.

**RIGHT  
ADVISORY**

1701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW; Ste 200  
Washington, DC 20006

**We honor those  
who inspire us  
in our collective  
fight against  
kidney disease.**



At Fresenius Medical Care North America  
we're connected through one purpose:  
putting patients first.

Dedicated to helping people with kidney  
disease live well at every stage, we deliver  
superior care that improves the quality of  
life of every patient, every day.

[FMCNA.com](http://FMCNA.com)

© 2021, Fresenius Medical Care. All Rights Reserved.





**DaVita is proud  
to support AKF in  
fighting kidney  
disease.**



©2021 DaVita Inc. C08P23-006

true curiosity.  
genuine science.  
earned trust.

**verici**Dx  
vericidx.com



**Moving  
Healthcare  
Forward**

Visit us at [Avalere.com](https://Avalere.com)  
to learn more.

**SPG**  
FIDUCIARY PARTNERS OF

**RAYMOND JAMES**

*Proud Supporters*

*of*

**THE HOPE AFFAIR**

For nearly 20 years, SPG Fiduciary Partner's  
exclusive focus has been serving the needs of non-  
profit organizations like American Kidney Fund.

Our team is comprised of individuals who have  
dedicated themselves to understanding and  
specializing in non-profit investment management.

We are very honored and proud to support  
American Kidney Fund's monumental 50th  
anniversary.

[SPGFIDUCIARYPARTNERS.COM](https://SPGFIDUCIARYPARTNERS.COM)

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 740W // Bethesda, MD 20814

T 240.802.5111 // TF 800.982.3035 // F 866.522.9587

Investing involves risk and you may incur a profit or loss regardless of strategy selected.  
© 2021 Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC

**37 Miles in one month  
for the 37 million Americans  
living with kidney disease**

**Over \$200k raised for  
AKF programs**

THE  
**37 MILE**  
CHALLENGE

**Thank you for making  
2021 a great year for the  
37 Mile Challenge!**

 American Kidney Fund®  
**KidneyNation**



## People are at the center of it all

AKF was founded 50 years ago, in 1971, by a group of compassionate friends who came together to help a neighbor with kidney disease. For the past five decades, **PEOPLE HAVE BEEN THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF OUR WORK**. Listening to the needs, hopes, and dreams of kidney patients defines our agenda.



### My "Second Birthday"

"My two younger sisters and I are used to chatting about borrowing shoes or jeans. But when I was diagnosed with kidney disease in my twenties, the conversation took a very different turn.

I called my middle sister and asked if she would be willing to donate a kidney. **SHE SAID YES AND GAVE ME THE GIFT OF LIFE.**"

— Shayla Harris, ten-year kidney transplant recipient and proud member of the AKF staff

## National Organization, Local Impact

AKF is a national organization, but our services have a truly local impact. All across the country, and perhaps in your neighborhood, people rely on our services.

We provide direct financial assistance to help with the high costs of dialysis, transplants, insurance and other expenses not covered by insurance.

**SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1971, WE HAVE GIVEN LIFE-CHANGING GRANTS TO MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING WITH KIDNEY DISEASE.**

And, when a community is hit by a disaster, whether it's a hurricane or a pandemic, AKF is there to ensure kidney patients can still get the treatment they need.

We have provided emergency financial support throughout all the major disasters that have struck the United States and its territories over the past two decades—including a staggering **\$3.1M THROUGH OUR CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY FUND AND \$150K IN DISASTER RELIEF GRANTS FOR HURRICANE IDA, WHICH RECENTLY DEVASTATED NEW ORLEANS.**

## Giving Patients a Voice

When people need information about kidney health, they turn to AKF. Our website, KidneyFund.org, is one of the top sites on the Internet for information about chronic kidney disease, kidney failure, complications and treatment.

We're helping people learn how to prevent kidney disease before it starts. And, we help thousands of people—at every stage of kidney disease—access our tools and resources to achieve a better quality of life.

We also have made it our mission to give patients a voice. We know that when people share their kidney disease stories, lawmakers listen.

**AKF HAS A POWERFUL NETWORK OF 16,000 PASSIONATE AKF AMBASSADORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY—AND WE'RE MOBILIZING MORE PEOPLE TO RAISE THEIR VOICES EVERY DAY.**

Our impeccable credibility with the people we serve also makes us the "go-to" organization for researchers seeking to enroll people in research studies. And, since we launched our Clinical Scientist in Nephrology program in 1988, we've started the careers of 48 of the best and the brightest researchers in the kidney disease field.

## Partnering With Us

When you partner with AKF, you can have a truly transformational impact on American healthcare. Millions of lives are at stake - lives that we can save together if we attack if we attack the problem of kidney disease with focused determination and strategic investments.

The time to act is now. On behalf of the people we serve every single day, please join us in creating a world without kidney disease.



## A Passionate Voice

"This is a very scary, lonely and frustrating disease. But I want my son and everyone else's children to have a shot at a healthy life free from kidney disease. As an AKF Ambassador, I get to tell my story on Capitol Hill. By using my voice, I am conveying the urgency of kidney disease to our leaders and demanding that they fight for better treatments.

**OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT KIDNEY DISEASE DESERVES THE SAME AMOUNT OF FUNDING AND ATTENTION AS ANY OTHER DISEASE."**

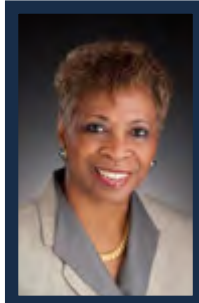
— Ellery Payton, AKF Ambassador

AKF is the most efficient and highly-rated kidney nonprofit in the United States with 97 cents of every donated dollar invested in patients and programs. We hold the highest 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator and the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. Simply put, your dollar goes further at the American Kidney Fund.



# Increasing Kidney Transplants in Communities of Color

As part of AKF's 2021 Kidney Action Week, our government relations team hosted a virtual Congressional briefing on *Increasing Kidney Transplants in Communities of Color*. The briefing featured panelists who discussed their personal experiences with kidney transplantation, as well as the systemic barriers that limit both transplants and living organ donation in communities of color. The goals of the briefing were to educate viewers about this important issue, provide recommendations for policymakers and inform people of color who may be directly impacted by these disparities of ways they can advocate for themselves.



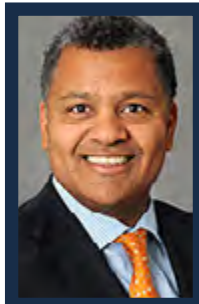
**LaVarne Burton, President & CEO of the American Kidney Fund:**

"An integral part our mission is to fight health disparities, which have been brought into sharp focus by the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate adverse impact on communities of color—and on people with kidney disease."



**Andrew Donnelly, Communications Director & Senior Advisor for Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE):**

"We need to better understand the social, environmental and occupational factors that contribute to the health disparities communities of color face, and that's why Congress must come together to fund research, prevention, testing and treatment of kidney disease."



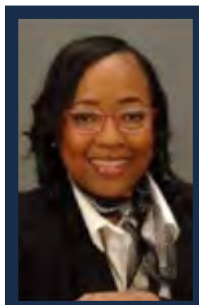
**Dr. J. Keith Melancon, MD, Director of Transplant, George Washington University Hospital:**

"We believe it's important to consistently emphasize the preeminence of living donor kidney transplants to all other forms of renal replacement therapy, you have to take on head-on myths and misinformation, and you have to address implicit bias in your staff."



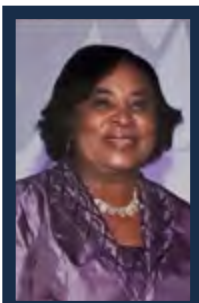
**Dr. Ken Sutha, MD, PhD, Instructor of Pediatric Nephrology, Stanford University School of Medicine & AKF Ambassador:**

"Being able to come up with better strategies to encourage people to become living organ donors is very important to try to reduce the kidney transplant wait time."



**Nicole Jefferson, AKF Ambassador:**

"When I tell my story, people don't know they can advocate for themselves, that you can delay dialysis if you are medically sound, or that you can register for a kidney in multiple locations."



**Dr. Frances Ashe-Goins, RN, MPH, FAAN, PhD (hon), Former Deputy Director for HHS Office on Women's Health & AKF Board Member:**

"Throughout [my daughter] Cheryl's life, she became an advocate to let other patients, the people at the dialysis clinic with her, know that they should get on the transplant list – because a lot of people didn't know that. She also talked to them about taking care of the kidneys while they had them, and she talked a lot about being aware of your body and being aware of symptoms and having a conversation with your healthcare provider and letting them know how you're feeling, to be a partner in your healthcare."

The entire briefing is available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

We are grateful to AstraZeneca for their Title support of AKF's health equity programming.



October 20, 2021

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the American Kidney Fund's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, The Hope Affair. Today, you come together to celebrate the history of the American Kidney Fund and the integral role it has played in supporting patients, families, caregivers and the renal community as a whole. As you gather to celebrate your accomplishments, I applaud your ongoing efforts to ensure that those living with kidney disease as well as those at risk have access to essential resources and the support they need to fight this disease.

Founded in 1971, the American Kidney Fund has maintained its role as a pivotal partner in assisting Americans in their personal fight against kidney disease. It is estimated that roughly 37 million Americans have chronic kidney disease. This is a large community of individuals who do not always have access to the programs and medical resources that would allow them to tackle this disease. The American Kidney Fund and its dedicated staff work tirelessly to alleviate this harsh reality through a variety of programs, such as early detection, disease management, clinical research, financial support and political advocacy. The mission you have dedicated yourselves to has made an enormous difference, and I applaud your half century of work to realize your vision of a world without kidney disease.

Congratulations on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and thank you for your commitment to providing the resources and support that so many across our country desperately need. I am confident that the services you provide will continue to improve quality of life for these individuals. You have my best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator





October 20, 2021



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings as you gather for the American Kidney Fund's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

This event brings together everyone involved in raising awareness of kidney disease – friends, supporters, the media, policymakers and the public. It provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight AKF's courageous patients and the important life-sustaining services that the organization provides.

AKF makes a critical difference in the lives of those living with kidney disease and their family and friends. Through this event, you provide the critical support needed for AKF's programs and services, including the vital assistance provided to low-income kidney patients and the resources for health education and prevention efforts. And with your help, we will move closer to a world without kidney disease. Until then, we are grateful for AKF's efforts to ensure that every kidney patient has access to health care and that every person at risk for kidney disease is empowered to take the steps necessary to prevent it.

Thank you for all that you do, and best wishes for a memorable and inspiring Gala.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

Not printed in government expense

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN KIDNEY FUND'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

of Maryland

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Kidney Fund (AKF) for its outstanding leadership in the fight against kidney disease. AKF is located in Rockville, in Maryland's 8th District, and I am proud to be AKF's Representative in Congress. This year marks the organization's 50th anniversary and I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing AKF's five decades of work.

AKF was founded in 1971 by a group of people who came together to help pay for a neighbor's lifesaving dialysis treatment, and in the 50 years since, AKF has become a well-known and widely-respected charitable organization that is dedicated to meeting the needs of people affected by kidney disease. AKF is the nation's leading independent nonprofit advocating on behalf of the 37 million Americans with kidney disease. AKF's vision is a world without kidney disease-- but until then, AKF will do everything in its power to ensure that every kidney patient has access to health care, and that every person at risk for kidney disease has the knowledge and resources to help prevent it.

AKF notes that it touches more lives than any other kidney organization, with programs of prevention, early detection, and direct financial assistance that enable the nation's low-income dialysis and transplant patients to access lifesaving medical care, disease management support, clinical research, innovation and advocacy resources. The American Kidney Fund plays a leading role in educating and informing the American people about kidney disease, raising public awareness about the fact that many cases of kidney disease are preventable, and spreading the message that when it is detected early, kidney disease can often be managed and its progression slowed. Recognizing that advanced kidney disease disproportionately affects minority populations, AKF and its 16,000 Ambassadors have been longtime advocates for these patients and their communities. One area of focus for the organization has been to educate the public about the importance of increasing the participation of minority populations in clinical trials, which are critical to developing better treatments for conditions like kidney disease. Minority populations have historically been underrepresented in these trials, and AKF is dedicated to changing that.

AKF also assists low-income dialysis patients and people who have recently received a kidney transplant, providing financial assistance through Safety Net Grants, Disaster Relief Grants, Health Insurance Premium Program Grants and Coronavirus Emergency Grants. AKF has worked to address longstanding health disparities in the United States and advance health equity so that all of us are as healthy as possible. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of AKF's 50th anniversary, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Kidney Fund's unsurpassed leadership in the fight to end kidney disease.



Join in the Fight Against  
Kidney Disease.

Donate Your Car,  
Truck, RV, or Boat.



It's Easy, and Your Gift Is Tax-deductible!

When you donate your car, truck, RV, or boat, you make a direct, sustainable impact in the lives of 37 million Americans living with kidney disease.

800-936-4356 | [americankidneyfund.careasy.org](https://americankidneyfund.careasy.org)  

JOIN  
**AKF PARTNERS  
FOR CHANGE**

Give monthly to help  
kidney patients in need.

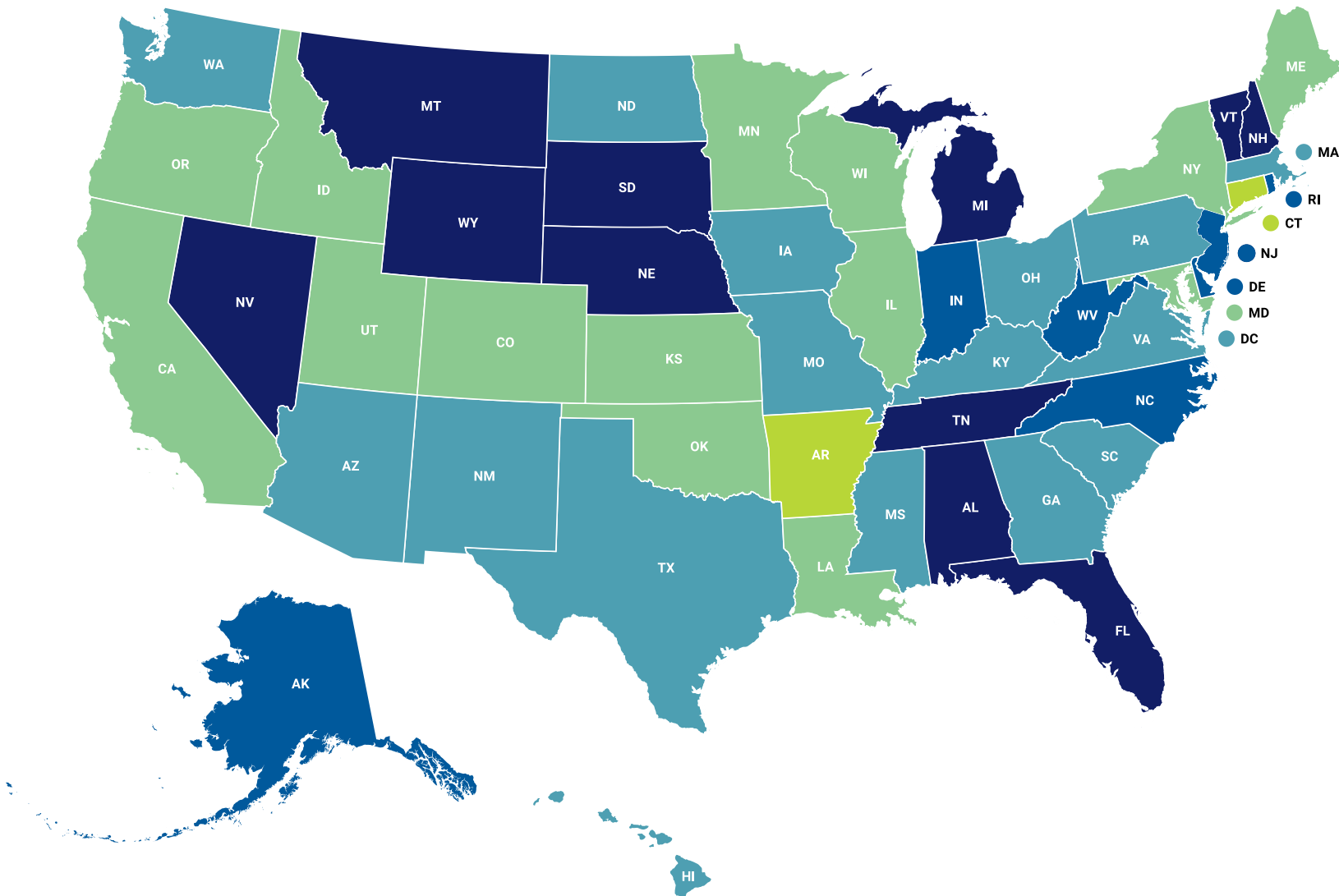


<https://www.kidneyfund.org/pfcgive>

You're invited to join Partners for Change, a monthly giving program for our most dedicated supporters. Stand with other compassionate donors on the front lines of fighting kidney disease and provide continued hope for 37 million patients!


97 cents of every dollar you give every month goes directly to patients and programs. Monthly giving is a convenient way to support Americans living with kidney disease.


Together, we can give living  
organ donors the protections they  
need, no matter where they live.




National Living Donor Statistics

**>108,000 people** are currently on the national transplant waiting list





 **4 out of 5 people** are waiting for a kidney

In 2020, there were **5,234** living organ donations out of **23,644 transplants**

 That is about **1 out of 5 transplants**

In 2019-2020, **12 states** enacted legislation spearheaded by AKF to remove barriers and protect living organ donors



 **15,000+ AKF Ambassadors** are working to advocate for living donor protections, and other types of legislation, at the state and federal level to improve the lives of kidney patients





KidneyFund.org

