



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

*Hope  
within Reach*



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## WHO WE ARE:

The American Kidney Fund (AKF) fights kidney disease on all fronts as the nonprofit with the greatest direct impact on people with kidney disease. AKF works on behalf of the 1 in 7 American adults living with kidney disease, and the millions more at risk, with an unmatched scope of programs that support people wherever they are in their fight against kidney disease—from prevention through transplant. AKF fights for kidney health for all through programs that address early detection, disease management, financial assistance, clinical research, innovation and advocacy. AKF is one of the nation's top-rated nonprofits, investing 96 cents of every donated dollar in programs, and it has received 24 consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator as well as the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, formerly known as GuideStar.



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## OUR VISION:

A world without kidney disease

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## OUR MISSION:

We fight kidney disease and help people live healthier lives

## FROM THE CEO & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friend,

Kidney disease affects us all. It's the fastest-growing noncontagious disease in our country, and one of our nation's most pressing health challenges. While no two journeys with kidney disease are exactly alike, the need for hope—anything that promises a better, longer, healthier life—is universal.

**The American Kidney Fund is there when and where people need us, no matter where they are in their journey. And it's all possible because of YOU: The supporters who believe so deeply in our work and the difference we're making.**

As you'll read in this report, we accomplished so much together in 2024. AKF worked nationally and in local communities, unveiling new resources, programs and events—all designed to generate hope for people affected by this serious condition, including caregivers and living donors.

In the wake of an especially devastating hurricane season, we helped more than 1,600 kidney patients, providing crucial financial assistance to help them recover from the disasters. We reached deep into American communities hard-hit by kidney disease, mobilizing our Kidney Health Coaches and local partners to spread the word about prevention, early detection and management.

In this momentous year, AKF also reached more health care professionals and scientists to improve our collective understanding of rare, undiagnosed or misdiagnosed causes of kidney disease. And we reached a national audience with high-profile partnerships and campaigns, including our first-ever APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day.

No other kidney organization reaches farther to directly impact more lives than AKF. Thanks to your generosity, the kidney community can find hope in education, lifesaving financial support and research that powers new treatment breakthroughs. We can see hope in early detection, access to high-quality health care, the possibility of a transplant and more.

On behalf of everyone at AKF, thank you for being on this journey with us. **Together, we are fighting kidney disease on all fronts—and putting hope within reach.**

With sincerest gratitude,



**LaVarne A. Burton**  
President and CEO

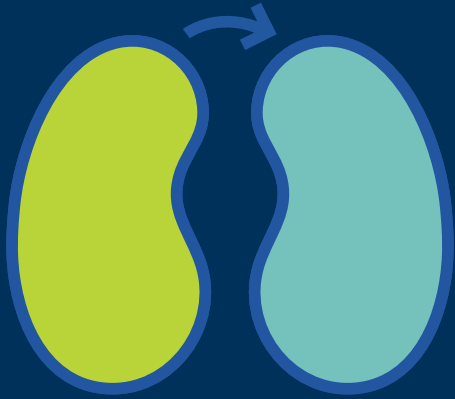


**Silas Prescod Norman,**  
M.D., M.P.H.  
Chair, AKF Board of  
Trustees

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# KIDNEY DISEASE BY THE NUMBERS



**Nearly 90%**

of people on the organ transplant waiting list are waiting for a kidney.



**1 in 7**

Americans has kidney disease—but 9 out of 10 don't know it.



**1 out of 8**

Americans on dialysis, and many post-transplant patients, cannot afford the cost of care.

# OUR IMPACT IN 2024

*With your support ...*

**18,332**

people in high-risk communities learned how to keep their kidneys healthy, thanks to our Kidney Health Coach Health Equity Grants.

**1,601**

people on dialysis received grants from AKF enabling a life-saving kidney transplant ... that's about 6% of all kidney transplants performed in the U.S.

**3x**

as many people with kidney disease received emergency financial assistance to cope with a natural disaster, compared to 2023.

**NEARLY**

**380,000**

people learned about living well with kidney disease by viewing our free webinars.

**7,000+**

Kidney Health Coaches have been trained to date to spread the word about kidney disease prevention, early detection and management worldwide.

READ ON FOR MORE OF WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER!



# Reaching PEOPLE AFFECTED BY KIDNEY DISEASE

Kidney disease is complex, life-threatening and costly—but no one has to go through it alone. Thanks to our generous stakeholders, the American Kidney Fund is there to help people navigate every stage of the journey, from prevention through post-transplant living, with financial support for lifesaving treatments and practical educational resources. We're also at the forefront of shining a light on rare causes of kidney disease that so often go misdiagnosed or undiagnosed.

## HOPE FOR THE HARDEST MOMENTS

Kidney disease and kidney failure often impose enormous physical, emotional and financial burdens. AKF is committed to ensuring every patient can access health insurance and the essential treatments they need to survive and thrive.

In 2024, AKF provided direct financial assistance to about 70,000 dialysis and recent transplant patients with low incomes in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and every U.S. territory.

- Our **Health Insurance Premium Program (HIPPP)** helped nearly 58,000 people maintain their access to kidney care.
- The **Safety Net Program** helped nearly 10,000 people living with kidney failure pay for expenses not covered by health insurance, such as transportation to and from dialysis, co-payments and blood pressure cuffs.
- The **Living Donor Assistance Program™** made more kidney transplants possible by easing donors' out-of-pocket expenses like travel, childcare and lost wages from taking time off work. In 2024, we expanded the program to serve Massachusetts and the Washington, DC, metropolitan area and distributed more than \$120,000 in grants to more than 65 living donors who chose to give the gift of life.

The Living Donor Assistance Program is made possible with support from the Friends of David Atkins (Massachusetts and NYC metro area) and the Sievers Family Charitable Fund (DC metro area).

## WEATHERING THE STORM

When a natural disaster hits, people can lose access to life-sustaining kidney treatments—and AKF is there, ready to help. This year, our **Disaster Relief Program** provided nearly \$420,000 in emergency financial assistance to more than 1,600 people with kidney failure affected by Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton and severe storms in Houston. With the grants, they could evacuate, obtain medications and healthy food, and travel to dialysis centers that still had power.

AKF is grateful to the many corporations, foundations and other friends who have offered critically needed aid to these disaster relief efforts, including the American Society of Nephrology, Ardelyx, Aurinia Pharmaceuticals Inc., CorMedix, CSL Vifor, Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., the Schattner Foundation, The Foundation for Kidney Patients and Travele Therapeutics, Inc.

Learn more about AKF financial assistance programs at [KidneyFund.org/Get-Assistance](https://KidneyFund.org/Get-Assistance)







*‘Every bit of help  
is life-changing’*

Mark Pendlebury is no stranger to severe weather, but Hurricane Helene was something else. The historic storm went straight through Augusta, Georgia, in September 2024, and completely devastated his community.

“You couldn’t see five feet in front of you because the rain was so bad,” Mark recalled. Helene damaged his house and yard, and he and his wife spent a week without power.

Another concern: Would Mark be able to continue dialysis? He was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 4 and received a dual kidney and pancreas transplant in his mid-30s. But a severe bout of COVID-19 in 2022 required doctors to pause his immunosuppressants, and his donated kidney failed.

Mark was relieved to learn a dialysis center was still accepting patients after the hurricane hit, just 10 minutes away from his usual clinic. The hardest part of surviving Helene was replacing his family’s refrigerated and frozen food.

Everyone descended on the neighborhood’s lone open grocery store. “You had to wait for a shopping cart,” Mark shared. “I’ve never seen anything like it before in my life.”

The former restaurant manager has been unable to work while he awaits another kidney transplant, so money is tight. But then Mark’s social worker told him about the **AKF Disaster Relief Fund**.

“It was great because I had just spent a lot on groceries and had no money left for bills. Every penny I got was extremely helpful and helped relieve so much stress,” Mark said of the grant.

He wants AKF supporters to know: “Every bit of help is life-changing to so many people. Thank you!”

“  
**THIS MONEY ALLOWED MY  
PATIENTS TO TAKE A DEEP  
BREATH. THANKS FOR BEING  
SUCH A GREAT SUPPORT  
FOR OUR PATIENTS [AFTER  
HURRICANE HELENE].**”

*Suzanne B., health care professional, Florida*



### *‘I just wanted to make him feel better’*

Tracey Previti surprised her then-boyfriend John—and herself—when she offered to donate her kidney to him.

John has polycystic kidney disease (PKD), a genetic form of the disease that affects multiple members of his family. By 2023, he was in kidney failure. He would need to begin dialysis unless he could get a transplant.

“I wasn’t even an organ donor at that point,” she recalled. “I just wanted to make him feel better.”

Tracey was not a match for John, but on Oct. 25, 2023, she donated a kidney to someone else and John received a kidney through a paired organ donation—when two donor and recipient pairs swap to get kidney matches.

Tracey had some complications requiring follow-up surgeries, which caused not only physical and mental stress, but financial stress as well. She found relief in **AKF’s Living Donor Assistance Program**, which reimbursed her for some of the out-of-pocket costs.

After receiving her grant, Tracey rallied her coworkers to contribute over \$1,800 to the program. “I just wanted [other living donors] to know that there is help out there if you need it.”

The happiest ending of all: Tracey and John were married in October 2024, almost exactly a year after their life-changing transplant surgery.

## LEARNING TO THRIVE

No matter how you come to kidney disease, AKF is committed to helping you every step of the way. That starts with learning as much as you can, so you can stay healthy and move forward.

We work to identify unmet needs and, together with our partners, craft compelling educational campaigns and resources for the kidney community. People living with kidney disease and their loved ones know they can come to AKF for easy-to-understand information and useful tools that will help them make the best possible health decisions.

In 2024, AKF significantly expanded the **Know Your Kidneys® initiative**, a comprehensive program that provides a roadmap to better kidney health.

- **Know Your Kidneys** offers information about kidney disease risk factors, prevention strategies, signs and symptoms and understanding important tests.
- The interactive **Know Your Kidney Numbers** tool helps people learn their chances of facing kidney problems and determine next steps.
- **Know Your Cause®** explores possible causes of kidney disease, including diabetes, high blood pressure, or a rare or genetic disease.
- **Know Your Plan®** is for people who know they have chronic kidney disease or kidney failure and want more guidance on living a healthy life.

Know Your Kidneys is made possible with support from AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly and Company, and Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.

Get to know your kidneys at  
[KidneyFund.org/KnowYourKidneys](https://KidneyFund.org/KnowYourKidneys)



## UNLOCKING ANSWERS TO KIDNEY DISEASE

Up to 15% of people with kidney disease do not know what caused their condition. They deserve answers.

In October 2024, AKF launched the **“Answers Unlocked”** campaign to spread awareness of how genetic testing can help them find those answers. “Answers Unlocked” empowers patients to talk with their doctor about genetic testing and counseling to receive the best, most personalized kidney care.

This campaign was made possible with support from Natera.



“  
GETTING DIAGNOSED WITH  
KIDNEY DISEASE TURNED THE  
WORLD THAT I KNEW UPSIDE-  
DOWN. ... I WANT TO ENCOURAGE  
OTHERS TO BE INFORMED ABOUT  
THEIR KIDNEY HEALTH AND  
BECOME A SELF-ADVOCATE FOR  
A TREATMENT PLAN  
THAT CAN ALLOW  
THEM TO LIVE THEIR  
BEST LIFE.”

U.S. Olympic gymnast Suni Lee



### *A Champion for the Cause*

This year, AKF proudly teamed up with Olympic gymnast Suni Lee on the Know Your Cause initiative. Lee, who was diagnosed in 2023, shared her experience to shed light on unknown causes of kidney disease and encourage others to pursue their dreams. She made an incredible comeback, bringing home three medals in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Understand the cause of your kidney disease at [KidneyFund.org/KnowYourCause](https://KidneyFund.org/KnowYourCause)



## NAVIGATING NUTRIENTS

Phosphorus helps keep bones strong and healthy. But in people with kidney failure, the kidneys may not be able to remove extra amounts of this mineral, leading to health complications. In March 2024, AKF unveiled the “phosphorUs” educational awareness campaign to help people on dialysis manage their phosphorus levels through medication and diet.

This campaign was made possible with support from Ardelyx, Inc.

## TIME FOR ACTION

Equipping and empowering people with the tools they need to prioritize their kidney health and fight kidney disease is central to AKF’s mission. Enter our annual **Kidney Action Week**®, the nation’s only free online conference that brings together the entire kidney community—from patients and caregivers to nephrologists (kidney doctors) and researchers—to help people with the condition live healthier, fuller lives. The five-day virtual event drew nearly 5,000 participants in 2024, and nearly 80,000 have viewed the archived sessions.

Kidney Action Week 2024 was made possible with support from Presenting Sponsor U.S. Renal Care; Event Sponsors Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly and Company and Travele Therapeutics, Inc.; Track Sponsor Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Session Sponsors Ardelyx, Inc. and Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

## CONNECTING YOUNG KIDNEY PATIENTS

When you’re a child or teen with kidney disease, it can be hard to find someone who understands what you’re going through. AKF’s **Camp Connections**, formerly National Virtual Camp, is the only program of its kind for young kidney patients. The virtual camps create a space for children and their families to form essential bonds, with a healthy dose of fun from art classes, bingo games and more. In 2024, we brought on two new hospital partners, for a total of 14, and reached 155 camps from 30 states.

Camp Connections is made possible with support from the American Legion Foundation, Amgen, Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., the Schattner Foundation and the Truist Charitable Fund (a donor-advised fund at The Winston-Salem Foundation).

Learn more and support Camp Connections at  
[KidneyFund.org/Camp-Connections](https://KidneyFund.org/Camp-Connections)



## *Coping with Cystinosis*

Everything changed for the Leininger family when 16-month-old **Charlie** was diagnosed with stage 3 kidney disease. Over time, they adjusted to their “new normal” of medicines, blood draws and regular exams. Charlie received a kidney transplant from a living donor (a friend of his parents’) shortly before his fifth birthday.

However, the Leiningers’ life was shaken up once again in 2022, when further testing revealed Charlie’s kidney disease was due to cystinosis, a rare genetic disease that can cause kidney failure as well as damage to the eyes, pancreas, liver and brain. Suddenly, his treatment plan became even more complicated. What’s more, Charlie was now old enough to understand his medical condition. It was a lot to process.

Fortunately, mom Erin learned about AKF’s Camp Connections’ new program just for children living with cystinosis. Charlie, now 11, joined the monthly virtual camp alongside his siblings, Arthur and Emilie. A strong support system helps the Leiningers through both the good and bad days of life with kidney disease.

“It really made Charlie feel special in the best possible way,” said Erin. “We are so grateful to be a part of this program.”

Our cystinosis programming was developed in partnership with Cystinosis Research Network and with support from Amgen.





# Reaching AT-RISK COMMUNITIES

Kidney disease is one of our nation's most pressing health challenges. And while every community needs reliable information about kidney disease, some areas are more affected than others due to complex social determinants of health and other factors.

Together with our partners, the American Kidney Fund reaches deep into these U.S. communities, combining awareness and education with a personal touch to help reduce health disparities.

## FIGHTING FOR KIDNEY HEALTH FOR ALL

AKF is working to change the role of race and ethnicity in kidney disease with **Kidney Health for All™**. This initiative builds effective solutions to help Americans prevent and manage the disease, access home dialysis and transplants, participate in clinical trials and more—no matter where they live, what language they speak or the color of their skin.

In 2024, we launched an ambitious **national media campaign** to generate greater awareness of kidney disease in eight U.S. markets with high populations of Black and Hispanic/Latino Americans, the two groups most disproportionately affected by kidney failure. The multimedia campaign reached people with a critical message: Get your kidneys checked to prevent or slow kidney disease.

AKF's third annual **Dialysis at Home virtual summit** on Oct. 3 brought together more than 700 people with late-stage chronic kidney disease to learn more, so they can make informed decisions about their kidney care. We also released **Your Guide to Kidney Transplant**, a curated toolkit to help patients, especially in underserved communities, access the best treatment for kidney failure.

Kidney Health for All is made possible with support from Presenting Sponsors Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly and Company and Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and Equity Sponsors AstraZeneca, Merck, Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., Sanofi and Travere Therapeutics.

Join the fight at [KidneyHealthforAll.org](https://KidneyHealthforAll.org)



## POWER IN PARTNERSHIP

AKF fights kidney disease on all fronts, but we never fight alone. We are proud to work with dozens of local organizations that share our goals and values to amplify our national reach, especially among communities with large health disparities.

Our new partnership with Washington, DC-based **Food & Friends** helps people in the nation's capital manage kidney disease and live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Through this collaboration, AKF offers valuable resources such as financial assistance for health care expenses and educational materials on kidney health, while Food & Friends provides residents with home-delivered, medically tailored meals and nutrition counseling to support healthy food choices.



“  
 I USED [THE ACE AWARD]  
 FUNDING TO HOLD AN EVENT  
 AT MY CHURCH, WHERE I TOLD  
 PEOPLE ABOUT MY JOURNEY  
 WITH KIDNEY DISEASE AND  
 DISCUSSED HOW WE CAN  
 IMPROVE KIDNEY AWARENESS  
 IN OUR COMMUNITY. ... THANKS  
 TO AKF, I FEEL I CAN MAKE A  
 DIFFERENCE.”

*AKF Ambassador Artise Carr, Massachusetts*

## MOBILIZING THE KIDNEY COMMUNITY

When it comes to improving health, the messenger matters. AKF's innovative **Kidney Health Coach® program** equips health professionals and everyday people to deliver culturally relevant information about preventing and managing kidney disease in their communities. The KHC Health Equity Grant goes even further, deepening our reach into areas often overlooked in kidney health education.

In 2024, AKF awarded a second round of grants to **29 Kidney Health Coaches and four organizations**, including:

- The **Kidney Champion Foundation**, which offers free kidney health education workshops in community settings and online.
- **KDSAP at the University of Southern California**, which will soon roll out scientific experiments to engage elementary and middle school students in kidney health awareness.
- **Pine Bluff (AR) Chapter of the Links, Inc.**, whose goal is to spread awareness about chronic kidney disease prevention in Black communities.

Join the Kidney Health Coach team at  
[KidneyFund.org/Kidney-Health-Coach](https://KidneyFund.org/Kidney-Health-Coach)



## *Getting the Word Out*

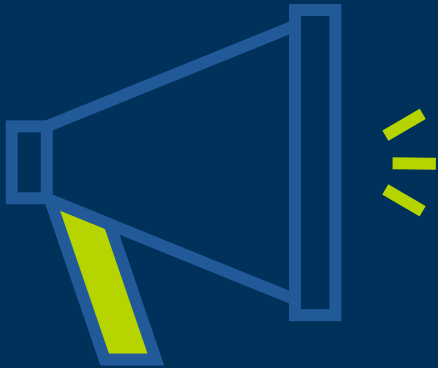
AKF Ambassadors are another group of trusted messengers in their home communities. This year, we gave out 10 **Ambassador Community Engagement (ACE) Awards** so they could conduct educational outreach on kidney disease, including rare kidney diseases. From in-person seminars to podcasts, our Ambassadors are brimming with creative ideas.

We also trained advocates to share their stories with policymakers, health care providers and the public, bringing attention to health disparities and helping to shape policies and laws that will improve health outcomes for people with kidney disease.





# WE DON'T JUST BELIEVE IN KIDNEY HEALTH FOR ALL. WE WORK FOR IT.



**100 million+**

In its first year, the bilingual Kidney Health for All national media campaign surpassed 100 million+ impressions with 60,000+ clicks to our website.



**38**

AKF received 38 excellence awards in 2024 for our patient-friendly education campaigns, engaging videos, Kidney Health For All website and more.



**90%**

of Kidney Health Coach event attendees reported they plan to take steps to keep their kidneys healthy.

# Reaching HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND RESEARCHERS

Scientific and medical professionals are on the front lines of advancing kidney care. Your support makes it possible for the American Kidney Fund to equip health care professionals with evidence-based continuing education so they can provide the very best care to their patients. We also support early-career scientists who choose to pursue clinical nephrology research.

## A LEGACY OF IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

For decades, AKF has invested in brilliant minds and new ideas to take kidney disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment to the next level. Amid a national shortage of nephrology researchers, our prestigious fellowship program attracts talented scientists in the early stages of their careers, then gives them the funding to explore what's next in kidney care.

Many of today's leaders in the field credit AKF for kickstarting their research career, with a number of former fellows conducting groundbreaking research that advanced knowledge and treatment of kidney disease.



In 2024, AKF awarded **Clinical Scientist in Nephrology** fellowships to:

- **Dr. Kavita Mistry**, a nephrology fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, who will use cutting-edge single cell sequencing technologies to gain insights into the initial events that lead to kidney inflammation in acute interstitial nephritis (ICI-AIN).
- **Dr. Marcelle Tuttle**, a first-year fellow in the Tufts Medical Center Division of Nephrology, who will focus on the development of pulmonary hypertension in patients with chronic kidney disease.



Help us sustain a promising research pipeline at [KidneyFund.org/CSN](https://KidneyFund.org/CSN)





## VENTURING INTO THE UNKNOWN

In 2024, AKF ramped up the **Unknown Causes of Kidney Disease (UCKD) Project®** to improve our understanding of how undiagnosed or misdiagnosed causes of kidney disease directly impact patient care and outcomes. We urged health care professionals to consider the wide range of possible causes of kidney disease and empowered patients to pursue an accurate diagnosis to inform appropriate, personalized treatment.

The fifth **UCKD Summit** in September convened 100 medical leaders, patient advocates and academic and industry leaders to further explore how the kidney community can drive innovation in research, diagnosis and treatment of the underlying causes of kidney disease.

The Unknown Causes of Kidney Disease project is made possible with support from Title Sponsors Novartis and Travere Therapeutics; Leadership Sponsors Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. and Vertex Pharmaceuticals; and Champion Sponsors Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Boehringer Ingelheim, Natera, Novo Nordisk and Sanofi.

*As Kevin Schnurr knows all too well, knowledge is power.*

He was suddenly diagnosed with kidney failure at age 26 and received a donated kidney from his best friend a couple of years later. The root cause: Alport syndrome, a rare genetic disease that causes kidney disease as well as hearing loss, eye problems and blood in the urine that can only be seen under a microscope. Kevin had experienced health issues for most of his life, never knowing they stemmed from kidney disease.

A member of the UCKD Project since 2020, Kevin fights for genetic testing that would allow others with kidney disease to land a proper diagnosis, join clinical trials, find potential living donor matches and more. He joined the UCKD Summit in September 2024 as a speaker and moderator.

"[Patient advocates and scientific and medical experts] were on equal footing as far as sharing our input on how we can improve patient outcomes," said Kevin, who works professionally in the kidney disease advocacy space. "That level of collaboration was inspiring and really, really special. I commend [AKF] for putting the mission first always and bringing together the right people."



**SINCE 1989, AKF HAS AWARDED  
NEARLY \$6 MILLION IN GRANTS TO  
50+ RESEARCHERS THROUGH THE  
CLINICAL SCIENTIST IN NEPHROLOGY  
PROGRAM.**

*AKF's Clinical Scientist in Nephrology program is made possible with support from Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. and the Hearst Foundations.*

# Reaching THE ENTIRE NATION

While the American Kidney Fund is proud to make a direct impact on individuals with kidney disease, we also drive change on a national scale. With your support, we convene stakeholders to promote the information, laws and policies that will lead to real change for people with and at risk for kidney disease and their families.

## A POWERFUL, UNITED VOICE

Advocacy is not only essential for improving the lives of those who have kidney disease today—it's key to prevention and early detection tomorrow.

Together with our nationwide Advocacy Network of over **36,000 Ambassadors**, we work with Congress, the administration, federal agencies, state governments and other organizations to bolster access to health care and strengthen quality of care.

In 2024, AKF rallied support for **federal legislation** to improve the lives of people with kidney disease and living organ donors, including the Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act, the Access to Genetic Counselors Act, and the Living Donor Protection Act.

We also helped pass **11 state bills** to support living donors, secure insurance coverage of biomarker testing and expand Medigap to Medicare beneficiaries with kidney failure under age 65.

## THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Living kidney donation can help overcome the severe shortage of donor organs. However, where you live greatly impacts your ability to save a life. AKF has long championed legislation that lowers barriers for living donors, such as financial strain, job insecurity and insurance discrimination.

Our annual **State of the States: Living Donor Protection Report Card®** tracks our nation's progress toward achieving those important protections. The current C grade spotlights the urgent need for reform, and we won't stop fighting until the nation earns an A.

View the state of the states at  
[livingdonor.kidneyfund.org](https://livingdonor.kidneyfund.org)



## A Night for Hope

Our annual gala, **The Hope Affair®**, honors the patients, policymakers, advocates and dedicated supporters who give us hope that we can achieve a world without kidney disease. Our 2024 gala was no different—an evening full of moving stories, meaningful connections and energizing speakers, including actor and author **Steve Guttenberg**, who cared for his father through dialysis treatments. **AKF 2024 Hero of Hope Chet Alan Bennett** accepted his award for helping others with kidney disease stay healthy through delicious, nutritious food and other forms of support. *Thank you for your profound passion!*





## UPHOLDING OUR COMMUNITY

At AKF, we believe in the power of personal stories to shine a light on invisible conditions like kidney disease and to destigmatize treatments like dialysis and transplants. This year, we hosted several events centered around some of the most pressing issues facing the kidney community.

- The **Kidney Action Summit** on May 15 convened 37 AKF Ambassadors from 22 states and other stakeholders to urge Congress to support legislation to protect living donors, ensure appropriate reimbursement for quality care and improve patient access to innovative drugs, technology and innovations along the kidney care continuum.
- Sept. 18 marked our first **Rare Kidney Disease Advocacy Day** on Capitol Hill with 23 patient advocates from 17 states. AKF's **Rare Kidney Disease Advocacy Network (RKDAN)**, launched in June 2024, ensures the voices of people fighting rare kidney diseases are heard and amplified. RKDAN's nearly 150 members work with AKF to advocate at the federal and state levels and inform new educational resources.
- On Nov. 19, AKF's second **Patient Access Initiative (PAI) Summit** brought together the best minds to source solutions for making kidney health care more accessible and affordable.

*RKDAN is made possible with support from Novartis, Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. and Travere Therapeutics.*

*The PAI Summit is made possible with support from Leadership Sponsors Travere Therapeutics, Novartis and CSL Vifor, and Supporting Sponsors Amgen and Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*



“

[BEING AN AKF AMBASSADOR]  
MEANS BEING AN ADVOCATE FOR  
MY PEOPLE. IT MEANS BEING  
AN ADVOCATE FOR THE KIDNEY  
COMMUNITY. IT MEANS BEING  
AN ADVOCATE FOR  
HEALTH EQUITY  
FOR ALL.”

AKF Ambassador  
Katie Hallum



Join our Advocacy Network at  
[KidneyFund.org/advocacy](https://KidneyFund.org/advocacy)



### *Advocating for herself—and her people*

AKF Ambassador Katie Hallum has been forever changed by her experience with kidney disease.

Katie developed IgA nephropathy (IgAN), a rare form of the disease, at age 18. It wasn't long before she required dialysis and a life-saving kidney transplant. She came by her new kidney in a most unusual way: Making a TikTok video using the “You have something I want” line from “The Mandalorian.”

Katie's humorous post caught the eye of then-22-year-old nursing student Savannah Stallbaumer. Savannah wondered if she could help this complete stranger by becoming a living donor. They were a match, and the kidney transplant surgery was performed in August 2023.

Today, 23-year-old Katie is living an ambitious life only made possible by her kidney transplant. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma (OU) in May 2024 and relishes her job as an Indigenous Affairs Reporter for the NPR affiliate in Oklahoma City. (Katie is part Cherokee and Quapaw.) She volunteers at OU Children's Hospital and touches base with Savannah weekly. “She's my sister at this point,” Katie said of her living donor.

In fall 2025, Katie will head to the OU College of Law. She plans to use her law degree to fight for health care access for Native Americans, who have exceptionally high rates of diabetes and end-stage renal disease.

Katie has shared her remarkable story at several AKF events and in a video for AKF's Know Your Cause webpage, and most recently was the recipient of a Carolyn Wilson Dialysis Patient Scholarship, which provides support for people with kidney failure living in Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma to further their education or vocational training as part of an effort to initiate, maintain or resume employment and independent living.

# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

## AKF AMBASSADORS IN ACTION



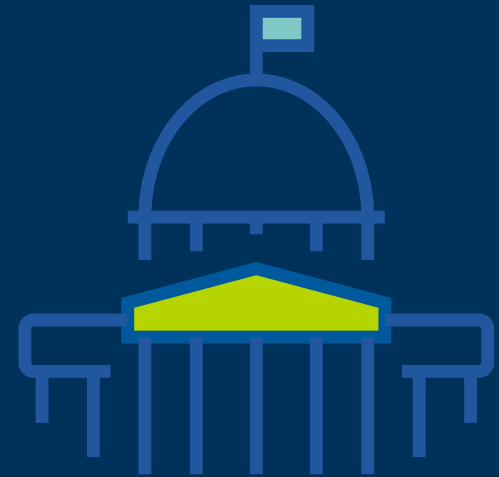
**34,214**

emails sent to  
elected officials



**846**

meetings held with  
elected officials



**48**

working in 48 states and  
Washington, DC



## Driving Early Detection for AMKD

April 30, 2024, was an important milestone: the very first national APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day.<sup>®</sup> AKF is leading efforts to raise awareness about this rapidly progressive form of genetic kidney disease that impacts people of West and Central African descent. The best way to manage AMKD is to detect it early, and this day is all about becoming “APOL1 aware” and learning your risk.

We conducted a multimedia awareness campaign; led a livestreamed panel; hosted a roundtable and policy discussion on Capitol Hill; created a downloadable toolkit to help people spread the word about AMKD; worked with social media influencers and trusted Ambassadors to reach more communities; and more.

AMKD Awareness Day is made possible thanks to leadership support from Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and additional support from Natera.

Become APOL1 aware at  
[KidneyFund.org/AMKD-Awareness-Day](https://KidneyFund.org/AMKD-Awareness-Day)



“  
YOUR GENES ARE A STORY ...  
MAKE APOL1 FAMOUS—  
BECAUSE THE WHOLE WORLD  
NEEDS TO KNOW.”

– Emani McConnell-Brent, diagnosed with AMKD at age 18





# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

## 1<sup>ST</sup> AMKD AWARENESS DAY



**24**

TV and radio interviews for  
20 million impressions



**1,000**

toolkit downloads



**2.6 million**

reached with the  
#APOL1Aware hashtag



**20,000**

views of the campaign landing page



**12**

governor-issued state proclamations

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Year January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

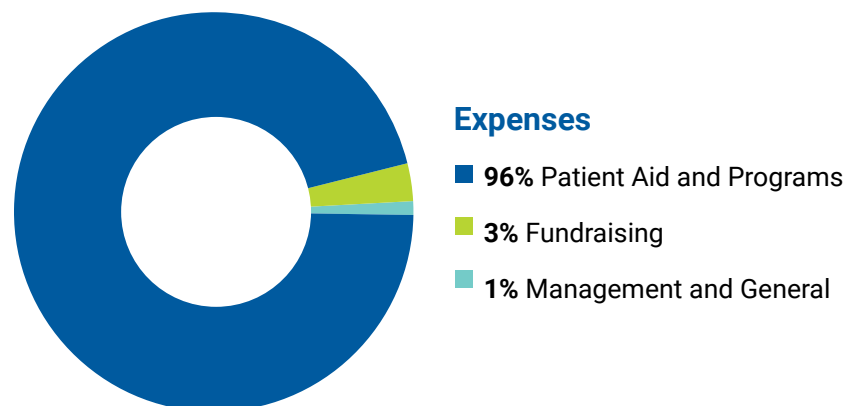
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE

Contributions	\$289,578,911
Planned Giving	3,878,950
In-kind Contributions	906,510
Other Income	9,822,083
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$304,186,454</b>

### EXPENSES

Direct Patient Aid	\$261,697,470
Education, Advocacy, and Outreach	19,290,593
Research	445,293
Fundraising	8,184,582
Management and General	4,052,310
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$293,670,248</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$10,516,206</b>



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS

Cash	\$130,678,653
Investments	\$32,852,720
Contribution Receivables, net	3,101,781
Furniture and Equipment, net	775,339
Right of Use Asset	6,262,851
Other Assets	1,871,827
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$175,543,171</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$3,285,491
Lease Liability	\$6,262,851
Annuities Payable	131,604
Other Liabilities	948,972
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$10,628,918</b>

### NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions-Undesignated	\$83,037,350
Without Donor Restrictions-Board Designate	75,443,000
With Donor Restrictions	6,433,903
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$164,914,253</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$175,543,171</b>

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](http://KidneyFund.org).

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

Thank you to our Corporate Partners who supported AKF in 2024.

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American Kidney Services, Inc.  
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The following foundations supported the programs and services of the American Kidney Fund with generous contributions in 2024.

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Members of the Circle of Champions have made a minimum annual investment of \$1,000 in the American Kidney Fund. These gifts represent a steadfast commitment to the patients we serve, and we are grateful for their support.

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Thank you to the following teams who joined KidneyNation and raised money through do-it-yourself fundraising to support our lifesaving work. These teams and individuals raised a minimum of \$1,000 each in 2024.

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Mike Spigler  
US Renal Care, Inc.  
Gary Vuono  
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The Heritage Society recognizes friends of the American Kidney Fund who have either funded or planned a deferred gift, such as a bequest or life income plan, in 2024.

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### *Coming of Age*

In spring 2024, 13-year-old **Peyton Halpern** was approaching his bar mitzvah, a Jewish tradition that marks when a child becomes an adult, accountable for their own actions. Inspired by his mother Emily's work as a renal dietitian, he started a KidneyNation fundraiser for his bar mitzvah project.



"[AKF] holds a special place in my heart because my mom has been working closely with people affected by kidney disease for the past 15 years. After I saw how it helped kidney patients, I knew it was the right choice," said Peyton, who lives in the Atlanta area.

Peyton surpassed his fundraising goal, raising \$1,295 to directly support people living with kidney disease. *Thank you, Peyton, and mazel tov!*

### *Why Sally Gives*

After her 2021 kidney transplant, **Sally Carrubba** wanted to remain connected to the kidney community. She discovered the American Kidney Fund while searching Charity Navigator. "I was so lucky ... It was very important to me to give money to an organization that was going to help other people. AKF had a great score [on Charity Navigator], and I knew my money would go to help people in need." *Thank you, Sally!*



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# OUR MOST IMPORTANT PARTNER IS YOU

Our vision is bold: a world without kidney disease. But we can only achieve this future if each of us joins the fight. By standing with the American Kidney Fund, you help us fight kidney disease on all fronts: prevention, education, advocacy, awareness, research and direct financial assistance. Your gift is much more than a donation—it makes a tangible difference to the children and adults living with kidney disease who need it most and helps prevent millions of others from ever facing this diagnosis.

Here's how you can continue to make a lasting difference.

## WAYS TO GIVE

- » **Become a Member of KidneyNation.**  
Create your own fundraiser to help make a difference for the kidney community.  
[KidneyNation.org](https://KidneyNation.org)
- » **Become a Monthly Giver.**  
Help us continue to be there for our patients when they need us most. Join AKF Partners for Change, a monthly giving program for our most dedicated supporters.  
[KidneyFund.org/Ways-Give](https://KidneyFund.org/Ways-Give)
- » **Become a Circle of Champions Member.**  
Show your commitment to ending kidney disease with a gift of \$1,000 or more. Have a bigger impact and enjoy special privileges that help you come closer to our work.  
[KidneyFund.org/Circle-of-Champions](https://KidneyFund.org/Circle-of-Champions)
- » **Leave a gift through your Donor-Advised Fund.**  
If you have a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), you can create a lasting legacy by naming AKF the beneficiary of the entire account or a percentage of the fund.  
[KidneyFund.org/DAF](https://KidneyFund.org/DAF)
- » **Create a will in 10 easy steps.**  
Leaving a gift to AKF is a wonderful way to make a lasting mark on the world. Your gift costs you nothing now and there is no minimum gift amount.  
[KidneyFund.org/Make-a-Will](https://KidneyFund.org/Make-a-Will)
- » **Make a gift by beneficiary designation.**  
Many members of the kidney community have decided to create a lasting legacy by naming AKF as the beneficiary, or partial beneficiary, of a retirement account, donor advised fund or other financial account.  
[KidneyFund.MyPlannedGift.org](https://KidneyFund.MyPlannedGift.org)
- » **Make a tribute gift to AKF in honor of a loved one by adding their name to our Tribute Wall.**  
You can then share with friends and family to continue to honor your loved one's fight.  
[KidneyFund.org/TributeWall](https://KidneyFund.org/TributeWall)



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