

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

BRINGING KIDNEY HEALTH INTO THE SPOTLIGHT



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.



our vision

A world without kidney disease.

our mission

We fight kidney disease and help people live healthier lives.

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from the **CEO & BOARD CHAIR**

Dear Friend,

Kidney disease is a silent killer. It usually develops with no symptoms, and most people don't realize they have it until the late stages. This public health crisis is underrecognized, underresearched and underdiagnosed.

But the American Kidney Fund (AKF) isn't silent. We shine a bright spotlight on kidney disease and its immense toll on patients, families and the health care system. We focus on the power of prevention, early detection and prompt treatment and illuminate solutions that help people protect their kidney health and lead the healthiest possible lives.

This report highlights all that we accomplished together in 2025 as AKF continued to fight kidney disease on all fronts. You'll learn how we strengthened community relationships across the country, putting evidence-based kidney health education and resources into the hands of those who need them most. How we notched state legislative wins improving access to affordable, high-quality care, while rallying against new federal policies that stand to harm the health of millions of Americans. How we showed up for people and caregivers by easing the burden of insurance premiums, prescription medications, transportation and other health care costs.

This progress wouldn't be possible without you. Your support allows AKF to help more people than any other kidney organization, from making about 140 kidney transplants possible every month to building a nationwide network of thousands of Kidney Health Coaches.

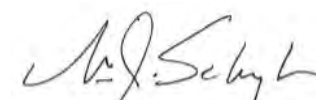
Thanks to our community of donors, kidney health no longer exists in the shadows. More people are learning about their risk of kidney disease and thriving. More treatment breakthroughs are on the horizon. The 37 million Americans living with this serious condition are more visible, and they know their stories matter.

AKF envisions a world without kidney disease. And because of your generosity, that day is closer than ever. **Thank you for helping us bring kidney health into the spotlight.**

With deepest gratitude,



LaVarne A. Burton
President and CEO



William J. Schuyler
Chair, AKF Board of Trustees

OUR IMPACT *by the numbers*



1 in 7 Americans has kidney disease — but **9 out of 10** don't know it.



About 90% of people on the organ transplant waiting list are waiting for a kidney.



1 in 8 Americans on dialysis, and many post-transplant patients, cannot afford the cost of care.



More than 75% of dialysis patients cannot work due to the demands of their treatments.



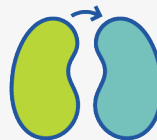
75,000 low-income dialysis and kidney transplant patients received direct, life-sustaining financial assistance.



Nearly 700,000 people learned from AKF's Kidney Health Coach program, continuing medical education programs and webinars.

**kidney
action week®**

125,000 people participated in our annual Kidney Action Week and Dialysis at Home events.



1,673 people had kidney transplants with AKF's financial support.



58 awards recognized the excellence of our patient-friendly educational resources.

SPOTLIGHT ON *patient support*

People affected by kidney disease are at the center of all we do at the American Kidney Fund. We put patients first to help them navigate every stage, from prevention through post-transplant living. We also support family members and caregivers, as well as the living kidney donors who choose to give the gift of life.

With your generosity, AKF offers financial support, practical educational resources and community-building opportunities, ensuring no one must walk this journey alone.

SUPPORT WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

Helping kidney patients access the health care and tools they need to survive and thrive has been the heart of AKF's mission since the very beginning. The average income of a person we assist is \$30,000 a year, yet their out-of-pocket health care costs can top \$17,000. That's unsustainable. Our need-based financial assistance programs help them afford health insurance, transportation, prescription medications and other necessities.

AKF's **Safety Net Grant Program** experienced a surge of demand in 2025, helping nearly 15,000 people living with kidney failure pay for expenses not covered by insurance. We issued over \$2.7 million in grants—so people wouldn't have to choose between health care and other life expenses, like food or rent.

thank you!

When the Safety Net Program experienced an emergency shortfall in summer 2025, our community came through, donating nearly **\$685,000** to directly support patients in need.

We're grateful for the **Schattner Foundation's** \$275,000 contribution, which made it possible for AKF to provide greater financial assistance to people living with kidney failure in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. This generous grant will also support Camp Connections, AKF's national virtual camp program for children and teens living with kidney disease.

“The Safety Net grant wasn't ‘just help,’ it was real relief. That extra money helped me cover essentials, take care of my kids, and keep our home stable during a time when things could have easily fallen apart. It gave me breathing room when I needed it most.”

– *Elijah Small, living with kidney failure*



THE ULTIMATE GIFT

Too often, people face financial and workplace barriers to living organ donation. **The Living Donor Assistance Program™** aims to make more kidney transplants possible by easing donors' out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel, childcare and lost wages from taking time off work.

The program already covered Massachusetts, New York City and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area—and in 2025, we expanded it to include all of Maryland and Virginia, plus Illinois. This year, AKF gave over \$287,000 in grants to more than 160 living kidney donors, each of whom represents a lifeline for someone with kidney failure.

- ▶ AKF has awarded **nearly \$400,000** to living donors to date.
- ▶ Each month, **we help about 140 people get off dialysis** by providing financial assistance that makes transplants possible—a scope of assistance unmatched in the nonprofit community.

A Sister's Gift. A Second Chance

When **Carmen Figueroa** learned her brother needed a kidney transplant, it came as a complete surprise. He had been managing focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), a serious and rare kidney disease, with medication for years.

But he knew he would need a transplant eventually—and now, that time had come.

Unfortunately, more than 3,000 people are waiting for a kidney in Massachusetts, where Carmen's brother lives. He asked her if she would consider donating one of hers.

Carmen turned out to be a perfect match. She thought of her brother's roles as a father, a military service member, a firefighter and a police officer. "He deserves it. I wanted him to have a second chance to see his children get married and have children," she said.

On Jan. 15, 2025, Carmen gave her brother one of her kidneys. AKF's Living Donor Assistance Program boosted her recovery. Although she could take paid time off from her job as a respiratory therapist to donate, the \$2,500 grant helped cover two cross-country flights from her home in California for medical evaluation and surgery.

Carmen considers living organ donation a privilege.

The Living Donor Assistance Program was made possible in part by support from the Sievers Family Charitable Fund and the Friends of David Atkins.

"Yes, it's a change in your life...but that change is beautiful because you help someone get off dialysis and have a better life."





REBUILD AND RECOVER

From lost medications to spoiled food to missed dialysis treatments, natural disasters can be particularly hazardous for someone living with kidney failure or a transplant. For more than 30 years, AKF's **Disaster Relief Program** has been the nation's only rapid-response system providing emergency financial assistance to dialysis and recent transplant patients affected by natural disasters.

In 2025, we provided grants to Americans affected by devastating wildfires in southern California and catastrophic flooding in Texas and Washington State. We also established the **Disaster Relief Fund** so AKF supporters can give to the program year-round, ensuring more emergency funds are available when a disaster strikes.

In addition to individual donors, AKF's Disaster Relief Fund was supported by Akebia Therapeutics, Inc., ANI Pharmaceuticals, Apellis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Foundation for Kidney Patients, the Sievers Family Charitable Fund and Travele Therapeutics, Inc.

EMPOWERING EDUCATION

Whatever your relationship to kidney disease, AKF is dedicated to supporting you every step of the way. People living with the condition and those who care for them know they can turn to us for clear information and practical tools to help them live longer, healthier lives.

For **World Kidney Cancer Day** in June, we announced a new educational campaign to help the 80,000 people diagnosed with renal (kidney) cancer each year. With support from Merck, this campaign will provide people with kidney cancer, their families and their caregivers with easy-to-understand information and support.

In August, AKF launched **Step Forward**, an interactive learning platform for patients and their families. The first self-paced course covers Living Well with Stage 3 Kidney Disease, with more courses to come.

We also significantly updated three signature AKF educational campaigns:



“A Step Ahead of IgA Nephropathy” now has more robust information to help people with this rare kidney disease and their caregivers better understand proteinuria (protein in the urine).

This new educational content was developed with financial support from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.



“Voices of Vasculitis” was updated to include storytelling videos reflecting the personal journeys of people living with vasculitis, helping to empower patients to manage their health with confidence.”

This new educational content was developed with financial support from Amgen.



“Me+C3G” has been expanded with new resources to help patients living with complement 3 glomerulopathy (C3G), as well as their families, better understand and manage this rare kidney disease.

This new educational content was developed with financial support from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

WHERE KIDS CAN BE KIDS

Childhood should be filled with joy, not hospital visits. Yet for the more than 5,600 American kids living with kidney disease, the isolation can feel overwhelming.

That's why AKF created **Camp Connections**: to bring children together to build friendships, find confidence and know they are not alone. These virtual monthly camp sessions offer a break from the challenges of managing kidney disease and a chance to meet others who truly understand.

In 2025, 144 campers (including 50 new campers) from 32 states participated in the free Camp Connections, enjoying activities from art classes to trivia games to STEM-related experiments. In this safe, welcoming space, they could share their experiences, form bonds and have fun.

Camp Connections was 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).



meet emma & emma

Few can understand what it's like to live with cystinosis. The rare, progressive genetic disease is estimated to affect only about 2,000 people in the U.S. It causes cystine to build up and form crystals that damage organs throughout the body, including the kidneys.

But Emma and Emma understand. They not only share the same first name and bright blonde hair—they and their families know all too well the daily medications, the feeding tubes and the constant vigilance it takes to manage cystinosis.

Emma S., age 12, hails from Northern California. Despite years of feeding challenges, she's passionate about food and dreams of becoming a professional chef. Over in Indiana, 10-year-old Emma D. loves making TikToks and being on stage. And she's not afraid to answer questions from curious classmates about her medical condition.

The Emmas met at a cystinosis conference. That first spark has blossomed into daily video chats, and they deepened their friendship through AKF's Camp Connections.

"She's kind of the first person that I can talk to a lot," Emma S. said of her best friend.

Emma D. gushed in return: **"She's basically my cheerleader."**

The girls cherish the rare moments they can be together in person, including the 2025 AKF Hope Affair in Washington, D.C. Emma S. and Emma D. were recognized at the gala for spotlighting how children with kidney disease can turn challenges into resilience and advocacy.

► **Your support means the world to children like Emma and Emma.**
Learn more at KidneyFund.org/Camp-Connections

SPOTLIGHT ON *community collaborations*

Kidney disease is one of the most urgent health issues facing our country. The American Kidney Fund gets the word out to improve awareness and partners with community organizations to amplify that message. Together with our donors and partners, we're helping to close knowledge and care gaps for people at risk of and affected by kidney disease.

AKF *on air*

What's it *really* like to live with kidney disease? In summer 2025, we launched our first podcast, **The Kidney Collective™**, to give a voice to people's experiences. Each episode features an unscripted conversation with a special guest, from crashing into dialysis to becoming a living donor. The first seven episodes have garnered more than 53,000 views on YouTube, with more seasons planned for 2026.

Kidney Collective guest **Emmitt Henderson III** was diagnosed with lupus in 1995 after years of undiagnosed symptoms. He experienced several organ failures and surgeries as a result, including kidney failure and a transplant. He founded Male Lupus Warriors to support men with lupus and offer them a safe community to discuss mental and physical health challenges.

"I decided, I am not going to let this beat me again. And my mental health kind of kicked in and said, you are more than this disease. You need to do something about it."

THE
KIDNEY
Collective™
PODCAST

► Watch or listen in at KidneyFund.org/Podcast.

Are you following AKF? We're now on  TikTok and  Bluesky.



AMPLIFYING HEALTH FROM THE GROUND UP

AKF's signature community health education program, **Kidney Health Coach® (KHC)**, empowers everyday people to spread the word about preventing and managing chronic kidney disease in their local communities. As of 2025, **we have trained more than 8,100 coaches and nine partner organizations** to share trusted kidney health information with their neighbors, helping us reach even more people at risk across the U.S.

This year, we also awarded **KHC health equity grants** to 18 coaches and eight organizations to help expand the program's reach and impact. Grantees ranged from public health organizations to historically Black universities and student groups.

"With [AKF's] support, we have been able to expand our reach, provide culturally relevant education and empower individuals to take proactive steps to protect their kidney health and improve their quality of life."

- Ana Laboy, MPH, executive director of the Puerto Rican Kidney Foundation

Kidney Health Coach programming has been supported by Bayer, GSK and Natera.



► Join the team at KidneyFund.org/KHC

REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES

Kidney health care should be within everyone's reach. However, systemic biases and social barriers make it harder for people from Black and Hispanic communities to get that care, putting them at greater risk for kidney failure. AKF is working to change the role of race and ethnicity in kidney disease with the national **Kidney Health for All®** initiative.

In May 2025, AKF expanded this bilingual multimedia campaign to eight new markets. Spanning TV, streaming and radio PSAs, digital advertising, billboards, public transit ads and videos in primary care offices, the campaign connected millions more Americans with the information and resources they need to help prevent or slow kidney disease.

To keep our message going on the local level, we also hosted health equity trainings in Detroit, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. These events united people living with kidney disease, caregivers, health care professionals and other AKF Ambassadors to enhance their understanding of the health disparities facing the kidney community—and to advocate for positive change.

► Kidney Health for All earned nearly **215 million impressions** in 2025.

Kidney Health for All was 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 Travele Therapeutics.

► Join the fight against health inequity at KidneyHealthforAll.org

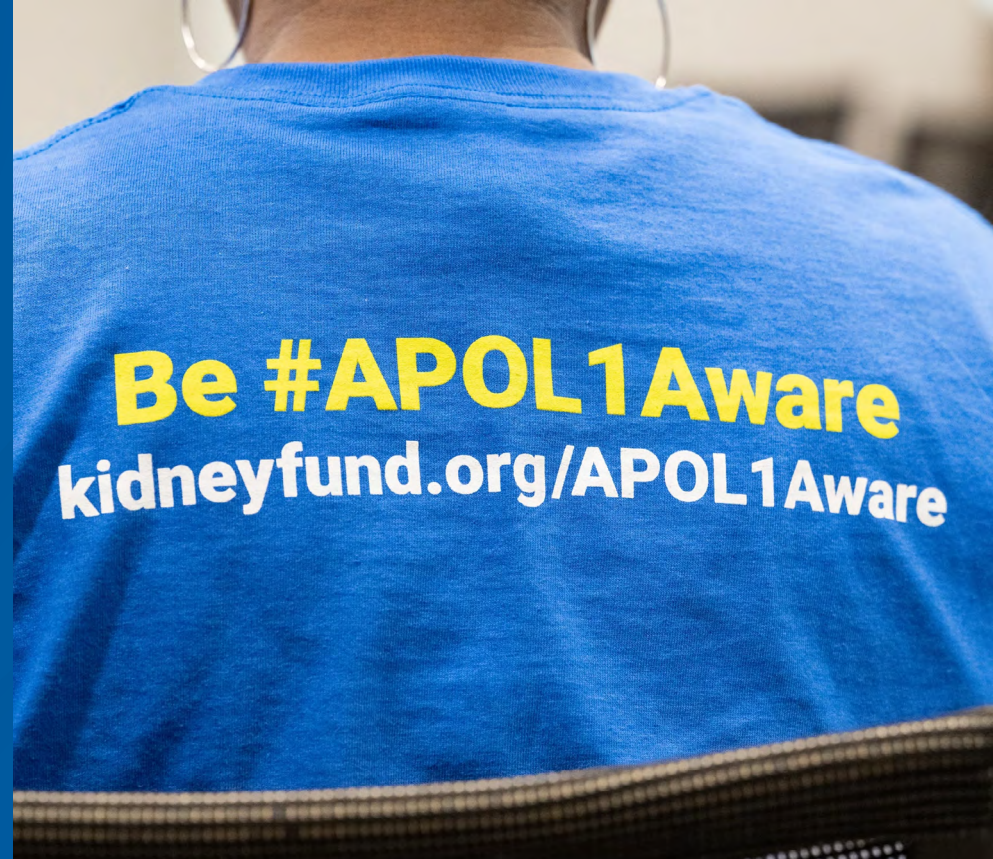
AMKD TAKES CENTER STAGE

AKF is raising much-needed awareness about **APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD)**, a rapidly progressive form of genetic kidney disease that impacts people of West and Central African descent. Our second annual **AMKD Awareness Day®**, held April 29, was a national call to action: become “APOL1 aware” and learn your risk, because early detection makes all the difference.

Highlights of AMKD Awareness Day included:

- A panel about kidney disease at the National Minority Quality Forum’s Annual National Leadership Summit on Health Disparities.
- A Town Hall with U.S. Congressman Glenn Ivey at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Largo, Maryland.
- A radio media tour and public service announcement featuring basketball Hall of Famer Alonzo Mourning that aired more than 7,000 times.
- An article in *Essence* magazine about how AMKD impacts Black Americans.

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



► Become APOL1 aware at KidneyFund.org/APOL1aware

COLLABORATIONS THAT COUNT

To fight kidney disease, we must also tackle closely related health conditions, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity. AKF works alongside other organizations that share our commitment to preventing these diseases, improving the quality of care and helping Americans lead healthier lives. Together, we can amplify each other’s strengths and impact.

In 2025, AKF announced new collaborations or partnerships with:

- The **American Heart Association®** to raise awareness and knowledge about the connection between kidney disease and heart disease, two parts of cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM) syndrome.
- The **American Diabetes Association®** to promote the intersection of kidney disease and diabetes, the leading cause of kidney disease, and build awareness of the urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (uACR) test, which can detect early kidney damage.
- Several Black fraternities and sororities, including **Alpha Phi Alpha**, **Kappa Alpha Psi** and **Chi Eta Psi**, to amplify kidney disease awareness and education among their memberships and the communities they serve.

SHINING A LIGHT, SOUNDING THE ALARM

In April 2025, AKF and YouGov surveyed 1,000 people across the U.S., revealing misconceptions and urgent gaps in public understanding of kidney disease. Among the takeaways:

- A majority (77%) of Americans report knowing what kidney disease is, yet only 16% of respondents are “very confident” of that knowledge.
- Despite the prevalence of kidney disease, less than half (42%) of respondents worry about their kidney health.
- There is strong agreement (61%) that kidney disease is a major health issue, but fewer (45%) believe that policymakers prioritize it.
- There is overwhelming agreement (90%) that treatments for kidney disease, such as dialysis and medicines, should be affordable and accessible.

KIDNEY DISEASE IN THE LIMELIGHT

Media coverage of kidney disease is one of the most powerful ways to save lives. Last year, AKF brought trusted information and inspirational storytelling to American readers and viewers through earned mentions in top-tier news, health and lifestyle publications, including:

- BlackDoctor.org
- Everyday Health
- Forbes
- Healthline
- Medscape
- Newsweek
- Politico
- Sports Illustrated
- STAT
- Women’s Health
- Women’s World
- Yahoo! News

HONORING HEROES WHO GIVE US HOPE

AKF’s hallmark fundraiser, **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 17th annual gala featured uplifting stories of resilience, including **2025 Hero of Hope Tamara Y. Walker**, who was diagnosed over 25 years ago with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) and has devoted her life to raising awareness of ADPKD, kidney disease and transplantation. **We also celebrated the first-ever recipients of the AKF Changemakers Award: Matt Glazier, Julia Pepe Glazier and David Atkins.** Julia shared her husband Matt’s story of sudden kidney failure on social media, prompting their friend David to donate his kidney—an experience that turned them all into advocates. They helped launch AKF’s Living Donor Assistance Program, which increases access to living kidney donations by reimbursing donors for out-of-pocket costs.

Thank you to all the individuals and companies that supported The Hope Affair.



SPOTLIGHT ON *advocacy*

A fight as big as ours calls for change on a national scale. Together with our network of **nearly 50,000 AKF Ambassadors**, the American Kidney Fund works with Congress, the administration, federal agencies, state governments and other stakeholders to turn priorities into progress for people with and at risk for kidney disease and their families.

KIDNEY DISEASE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

Amid enormous health care policy shifts in 2025, AKF remained a steadfast champion for the issues that matter most to the kidney community, such as improving prevention and early detection, addressing unknown causes of kidney disease, making more kidney transplants possible, driving innovation in research and treatment, and protecting access to health insurance coverage.

This year, AKF supported the reintroduction of **key federal legislation**, including the Living Donor Protection Act, the New Era of Preventing End-Stage Kidney Disease Act and the Kidney Care Access Protection Act. We mounted strong opposition to the **devastating cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** included in the budget reconciliation bill H.R. 1. We also fought to **preserve the Affordable Care Act (ACA)** enhanced premium tax credits that made health insurance more affordable for millions of low- and middle-income Americans before they expired at the end of the year.

Through all this uncertainty, AKF continued to keep our community apprised of pending changes to the nation's safety-net programs that have been so vital for helping Americans prevent, diagnose and manage chronic kidney disease. Patients and their families could turn to our website and newsletters for balanced, factual information to help them plan for the potential loss of access to health care providers, treatments and food assistance benefits—while we kept on fighting.

'A WHOLE WORLD OF DIFFERENCE'

AKF Ambassador **Cindy Vallette** enrolled in Medicaid when she was laid off from her job in 2018. Soon after, she was blindsided by a diagnosis of stage 3 kidney disease.

“[Medicaid made] a whole world of difference for me,” Cindy said. “I don’t know that I would be here [without it]. Not only am I alive, but I’m not on dialysis, I’m not looking for a kidney and I’ve been able to be a grandmother.”



UNSTOPPABLE IN THE STATES

AKF also creates change closer to home by advocating for those with kidney disease in the state legislatures. In 2025, we helped pass **nine state bills** into law:

- Two bills require health insurance plans to cover **biomarker testing** for people with chronic diseases, such as kidney disease.
- Three bills give people with kidney failure under age 65 access to Medicare supplement insurance, known as **Medigap**.
- Three bills protect **living donors** from insurance discrimination.
- One bill prevents life and disability insurers from discriminating against people who have received **genetic testing**.

► **Change happens state by state. Check out AKF's state advocacy map to learn about kidney-related legislation where you live: KidneyFund.org/Advocacy-Map**

IN 2025, AKF AND OUR AMBASSADORS:



Held **960 meetings** with Congressional and state legislative offices.



Sent almost **44,000 action alerts** to state and federal legislators.



Sent **6 comment letters** providing the perspective of the kidney community to federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

THE POWER OF PATIENTS

AKF Ambassadors' personal stories are essential to helping policymakers understand the financial and emotional toll of dialysis, the barriers to kidney transplants and the necessity of investing in upstream care to prevent people from developing kidney disease in the first place.

With your support, **AKF brought the kidney community together** through several momentous events in 2025.

- The **Kidney Action Summit** on May 7 and **Rare Kidney Disease Advocacy Day** on Sept. 11 brought advocates to Capitol Hill to urge support of legislation to protect living donors, ensure appropriate reimbursement for quality care and improve patient access to innovative drugs and technology.
- The inaugural **Kidney Action Summit-West Coast** in Denver, Colorado, amped up our advocacy outside of the nation's capital. Ambassadors from 11 Western states participated in advocacy training, including how to tell your story and spread the word on social media.
- The third **Patient Access Initiative (PAI) Summit** in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 21 furthered our work to identify gaps in kidney care and ways to help people get diagnosed and treated for kidney disease earlier, the key to better outcomes.



A VISION FOR CHANGE

AKF's unparalleled expertise turns information into urgent action for the kidney community. This year, we published two groundbreaking reports on kidney health care policy.

Stemming the Tide of Kidney Disease provides a roadmap for addressing this public health crisis in five key areas: prevention, screening and diagnosis; the connection between kidney disease and cardiovascular disease; kidney health education; comprehensive coverage; and workforce development.

Healthy Workforces, Sustainable Futures: Why Employers Should Invest in Early Kidney Care, developed in partnership with the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, examines the impact of chronic kidney disease on the U.S. workforce and identifies solutions that employers can implement to keep employees healthier and more productive, while reducing health care costs.

Thank you to all of our corporate sponsors who helped make this work possible.



ronni discovers her voice

When **AKF Ambassador Veronica “Ronni” Behrend** was in college, a trip to the health clinic quickly escalated into an ER visit. She awoke three days later, already on dialysis. The diagnosis: lupus nephritis, a disease in which the immune system attacks healthy cells in the kidneys.

“I just had tubes and machines all around me. I didn’t have a voice, so all I could do was cry,” Ronni recalled.

In the decades since, she has endured hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and two kidney transplants—one from her mother in 1996, another from a deceased donor in 2011. AKF has been part of her story.

“AKF has been a godsend. They helped me when I was a 20-year-old who didn’t know anything about lupus or dialysis. AKF paid for my mileage to and from the dialysis unit, clear across the city,” said Ronni. “Even today, I follow a lot of the Kidney Kitchen recipes because I need to take care of myself.”

Though she calls herself shy, Ronni has found her voice as an AKF Ambassador. She hands out educational materials at dialysis centers in San Antonio, Texas, where she lives with her husband, Chris. She has represented the kidney community at conferences and on Capitol Hill. She fights especially hard for the Living Donor Protection Act, knowing that many donors aren’t as lucky as her mom in getting time off work and qualifying for life insurance.

“AKF teaches us [how to advocate], gives us the tools and then allows all the Ambassadors to do what we do best,” she explained.

Now a transplant financial counselor, Ronni brings her experience full circle with her patients: “I know what you’re going through, two times over. But it’s worth it—**because here I am, living my best life.**”

SPOTLIGHT ON *life-changing kidney research*

Advanced treatments and technologies are changing what's possible for people with and at risk for kidney disease. Yet the U.S. spends only about \$19 per patient per year on kidney research, a fraction of the investments made for other chronic diseases such as cancer. When you give to the American Kidney Fund, you power the science that is key to saving lives and support the scientists who dedicate their careers to the cause.

FUELING DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

The **AKF Clinical Scientist in Nephrology (CSN)** program provides talented early-career scientists with funding to explore new ideas and conduct important research that will improve diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for people living with kidney disease.

CSN fellows receive advanced training in essential skills such as medical ethics, biostatistics and epidemiology. The program has funded some of nephrology's brightest scholars who have gone on to become leaders in the field and mentors to new generations of scientists studying kidney disease.

In 2025, AKF awarded two fellowships:



Dr. Momen Abbasi, a nephrology fellow at the University of Illinois Chicago, is developing and testing non-invasive ways to assess kidney damage using advanced imaging techniques so patients who are at a higher risk of worsening kidney function can be identified.



Dr. Api Chewcharat, a nephrology fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital, is studying whether biomarkers can be used to detect thrombotic microangiopathy (TA-TMA), a serious complication that can occur after a stem cell transplant and may severely damage the kidneys, as well as the possibility of creating a predictive tool to assess which patients with TA-TMA are at high risk of requiring dialysis and/or death.

Since 1989, AKF has **invested nearly \$6 million** in kidney disease research through the Clinical Scientist in Nephrology program.

AKF's Clinical Scientist in Nephrology program was made possible with support from Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.



A BEACON FOR BREAKTHROUGHS

In 2025, AKF was among the kidney disease leaders that contributed to **“Transforming Kidney Health Research: A Research Agenda for the Future,”** a bold vision for a world without kidney failure. This report calls for a substantial increase in funding for research and innovation—about \$1.8 billion annually over the next 10 years—that will prioritize early detection and prevention, transplantation and more cures for kidney diseases, eliminating the need for dialysis as we know it today.

CHAMPIONING CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials are essential to proving the safety and effectiveness of new treatments for all types of kidney disease, but they remain something of a mystery for many patients. AKF educates the kidney community about the ins and outs of clinical research and shares opportunities to join research studies. We also promote participation among people from Black, Hispanic, Native American and Asian American backgrounds, who are more likely to have kidney failure but often underrepresented in clinical trials.

In 2025, as part of Kidney Health for All, we released guides to encourage meaningful conversations between doctors and patients about clinical trials. By breaking down barriers, we can help more people with kidney disease access the latest treatments, bring more treatments to market and make sure they work for everyone who needs them.

SPOTLIGHT ON *health care professionals*



Health care professionals are on the front lines of preventing, diagnosing and treating kidney disease—and supporting them is a critical part of the American Kidney Fund's efforts.

Your support in 2025 made it possible for AKF to share the latest renal news and evidence-based continuing education with all members of the health care team, from primary care to nephrology, to help them provide the highest-quality kidney care.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER JOINS AKF

AKF started the year off with an exciting new addition to our team: **Dr. Pranav Garimella**, our first-ever Chief Medical Officer (CMO). A nationally recognized leader in nephrology and an expert in rare kidney diseases, Dr. Garimella will help AKF better serve the 1 in 7 Americans living with kidney disease and the professionals who care for them.

UNITED IN CARE

Convening the nephrology community and building bridges with other medical specialties is crucial to delivering the best possible care to patients. This year, AKF attended and presented sessions at several professional conferences, including those hosted by the **American Society of Nephrology**, the **Renal Physicians Association**, the **World Transplant Congress** and the **National Society of Genetic Counselors**.

serving those who served

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), veterans are estimated to have 34% higher rates of kidney disease than the general American population. Nephrologists like **Dr. Anita Mehrotra** are key to caring for military service members at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, transplant centers and other parts of the health care system.

“These individuals have served our country in the most selfless way,” she said. “I am honored to be able to help them with any health issues they may experience after their service.”



BRINGING THE BASICS TO LIGHT

Not having a stable home or access to adequate, nutritious food can make it far more difficult to manage a chronic health condition like kidney disease.

This year, AKF published a first-of-its-kind survey on the burden of housing instability and food insecurity on patients with kidney failure.

Our research shows that, even with financial assistance, people with low incomes still struggle to meet their basic needs. Gaining a greater understanding of the impacts of housing instability and food insecurity on the kidney community is critical for developing policies and interventions that will improve their overall quality of life.



- **47%** of surveyed patients reported at least one housing-related issue, and **61%** reported food insecurity—and in many cases, both.

KIDNEY CARE IS PRIMARY

This year, AKF partnered with the **MAVEN (Medical Alumni Volunteer Expert Network) Project** to improve early identification and treatment of kidney disease, especially in primary care and rural health care settings. The MAVEN Project is a national nonprofit that uses telehealth to connect primary care providers with volunteer physicians across 70 specialties, including nephrology.

AKF will provide evidence-based educational resources and activities to the MAVEN Project's network of community health centers and safety-net clinics, strengthening kidney care in underserved communities. By deepening our reach in primary care, we can ensure more cases of kidney disease don't go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed—and that more Americans get the care they need.



FINANCIAL *highlights*

Fiscal Year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

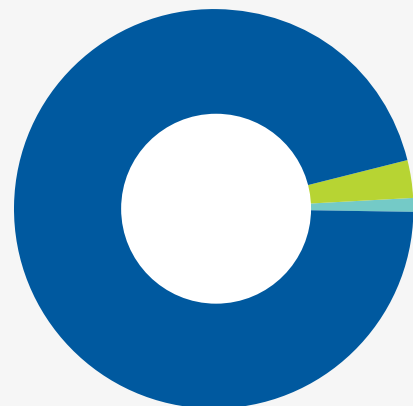
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE

Contributions	\$310,593,308
Planned Giving	3,329,932
In-kind Contributions	7,896,434
Other Income	11,785,108
Total Support and Revenue	\$333,604,782

EXPENSES

Direct Patient Aid	\$268,855,777
Education, Advocacy, and Outreach	26,914,246
Research	472,855
Fundraising	9,074,368
Management and General	4,518,194
Total Expenses	\$309,835,440
Change in Net Assets	\$23,769,342



Expenses

- 96% Patient Aid and Programs
- 3% Fundraising
- 1% Management and General

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash	\$138,941,294
Investments	\$48,481,022
Contribution Receivables, net	3,301,047
Furniture and Equipment, net	921,006
Right of Use Asset	5,693,806
Other Assets	1,910,699
Total Assets	\$199,248,874

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$3,621,871
Lease Liability	\$5,693,806
Annuities Payable	192,234
Other Liabilities	1,057,368
Total Liabilities	\$10,565,279

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions-Undesignated	\$94,507,555
Without Donor Restrictions-Board Designated	88,502,800
With Donor Restrictions	5,673,240
Total Net Assets	\$188,683,595
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$199,248,874

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](https://www.kidneyfund.org).

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- In 2025, AKF received an anonymous **\$880,000 donor-advised fund gift** from a long-time and deeply committed supporter, our largest individual donation to date. We're grateful for every gift that makes our work possible. A donor-advised fund is one important way to leave a legacy of hope for kidney patients.

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

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

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

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

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

Make a gift by beneficiary designation.

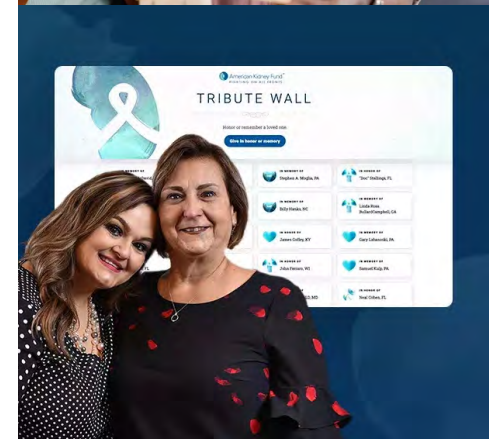
Many members of the kidney community have decided to create a lasting legacy by naming AKF as the beneficiary, or partial beneficiary, of a retirement account, donor-advised fund or other financial account.

KidneyFund.MyPlannedGift.org

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



Thank you
for helping us keep kidney health in the spotlight.



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