

By the numbers...

POPULATION

26 Million	American adults have chronic kidney disease (CKD)
800,000	People in Illinois have CKD and most don't know it!
15,000	Kidney patients in Illinois receive dialysis at least 3 times per week to replace kidney function
80,000	People die annually due to CKD, making it the ninth leading cause of death in the U.S.
4,800	Illinois residents are waiting for an organ transplant
20	People die each day while waiting for a life-saving organ transplant
300	People in Illinois who died in 2010 waiting for a transplant

COST

\$20 Billion	Annual cost of the Medicare ESRD program
\$42 Billion	Annual Medicare expenditures to treat people with CKD
\$71,000	Medicare spending on dialysis per-patient per-year

Transplantation is often the best or only treatment option for patients across the country dying of organ failure. This option not only saves lives, but ultimately can be more cost-effective.



**National Kidney Foundation
of Illinois**

215 West Illinois Street, 1C
Chicago, IL 60654



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of Illinois**

Gift of Life Advocates

The NKFI Gift of Life Advocates seek to provide education and information to the public and legislators; encourage involvement on issues relating to chronic kidney disease, dialysis, donation and transplantation.

Who We Are

What We Advocate

Get Involved.

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois' Give of Life Advocates are an organized group of trained advocates comprised of people affected by chronic kidney disease (CKD), transplantation and organ and tissue donation.

Together, we work to shape public policy on both state and federal levels by advocating for legislation that improves the lives of transplant patients, organ donors, dialysis patients, and patients with diabetes, hypertension and chronic kidney disease.



How We Advocate

- Educate legislators on issues related chronic kidney disease, organ donation and transplantation.
- Engage public support for legislative issues
- Participate in lobby days at the state Capitol
- Meet quarterly as a group and take part in regular trainings
- Provide advocacy training

As a group comprised of constituents with many different perspectives, we advocate for issues that benefit the following communities:

- Transplant recipients
- Living kidney donors
- Organ donors and their families
- Dialysis patients
- Patients with chronic kidney disease
- Patients with diabetes and hypertension

Our group is affected by a number of different issues ranging from those dealing with the challenges faced by living kidney donors, the costs and access to immunosuppressant medications for transplant recipients, the availability of organs for transplant, and the conditions and access to dialysis for patients with kidney disease.



Senator Mark Kirk with NKFI screening participant



Bills are passed into laws due in large part to the number of individuals who show their support and voice their opinions. To make change, we need your support.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I am a transplant recipient
Organ _____
Date _____

I am transplant candidate
Organ: _____

I am a family member or friend of a patient

I have diabetes, high blood pressure and/or chronic kidney disease

I am a dialysis patient

I am donor family member

Please complete and return this form to:

National Kidney Foundation of Illinois
215 West Illinois Street, Suite 1C
Chicago, IL 60654

Questions? Please contact Jessica Maclean at 312.321.1500 x226 or jmaclean@nkfi.org