Sawyer Dawes, age 4

National
Kidney
Foundation®
of Illinois

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2018

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois improves the health and well-being of people at risk for or affected by kidney disease through prevention, education and empowerment.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2018

Thank you for making Fiscal Year 2018 such a successful one for the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois!

For nearly 70 years, the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois has provided residents of our state with education, information on prevention and invaluable support for those suffering from kidney disease, those on dialysis, those in need of a transplant and those who have received a transplant. 2018 was no different.

- Our KidneyMobile® program provided nearly 60 free prevention screenings in every corner of Illinois. 70% of the 3,450 screened had at least one abnormal test result, and more than 45% were immediately referred to a physician or health center.
- The Board of Directors granted $120,000 to a promising young investigator, researching gene therapy for congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract in children.
- Nearly 650 patients and caregivers attended free educational seminars to learn how to manage their disease, support their loved one and network with medical professionals and people in similar situations.

All of our early detection and patient programs are FREE, because we know that we are dealing with some of the most vulnerable communities in our state. Oftentimes, these are people who are choosing between buying groceries for their families or spending that money on their life saving medication. Contributors like you allow them to attend an educational seminar or early detection screening without having to worry about cost.

Every person we come across while doing this critical work has a story. They may have been a seemingly healthy nine-year-old, suddenly diagnosed with kidney failure in the emergency room and immediately put on dialysis. They may be a physician, whose life's work is to advocate or conduct research for their patients and their families. They might be a philanthropist who dedicated their life to financially supporting awareness and prevention efforts because they lost a relative at a young age.

Our ongoing goal is to keep our overhead low while increasing our services in the field, and you truly make this possible! The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois is stronger than ever due to our continually expanding community who comes together to donate time, resources and talent in support of our vital mission: to improve the health and well-being of people at risk for or affected by kidney disease through prevention, education and empowerment.

Thank you for wholeheartedly being a part of the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois. We are looking forward to much more in Fiscal Year 2019!

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Matthew B. Gilbert
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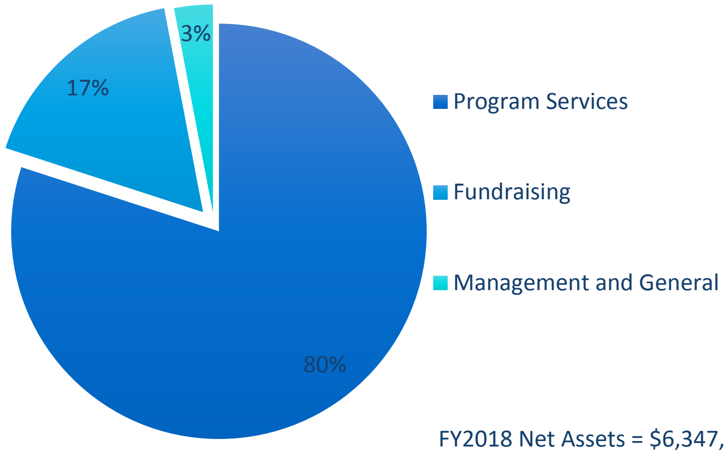
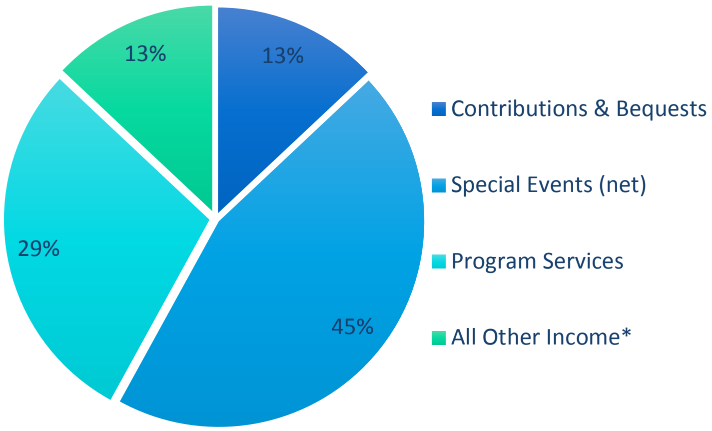
Expenses
$1,820,353



Revenue
$2,169,905



FY2018 Net Assets = $6,347,966

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois fiscal year runs from April 1 through March 31.
**Includes investment return*

FACES OF THE NKFI

Mark & Judy Schwartz

In the early 1960s, when Mark Schwartz was four years old, his uncle Ronald contracted a terrible case of strep throat. The bacterial infection quickly took a dangerous turn, causing his kidneys to fail and ultimately leading to his death. At age 23, Ronald left behind a pregnant wife and a loving family.

Devastated by the shocking loss of his brother, Mark's father Harold dedicated his life to fighting kidney disease. He spent decades volunteering for, donating to, and advocating on behalf of kidney patients, eventually helping pass a national legislative bill to protect those suffering.

Mark was inspired to follow his father's humanitarian example. Over the last 13 years, Mark has committed his time and financial resources to the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois. He has served as Board President, Vice President and remains an active board member.

Over the years, Mark and his wife Judy have taught their children the importance of giving and raising awareness about the prevention of kidney disease. One moment in time created generations of philanthropy. Today, the Schwartz family continues to be one of the foundation's most generous donors.

In the future, Mark wishes to see the NKFI reach more people by expanding the KidneyMobile early detection, free screening program. By having not one, but three or four KidneyMobiles, the foundation could screen hundreds of thousands of people. There are an estimated 900,000 people living with kidney disease in Illinois, and most of them do not know it. Mark's ultimate goal is to find those people, and prevent or delay their disease. It was too late for Ronald, but within our future is the opportunity to ensure that no one will have to face the same fate.

"You have the ability to save a life. It's a unique opportunity." - Mark

Sheila Williams & Teliyah Young

Sheila Williams has given life to her daughter Teliyah twice. First in January 2006, when Teliyah was born and again in December 2017, when Sheila gave her 11-year-old daughter a kidney.

Teliyah's childhood has been anything but normal. It has come with six surgeries, over 15 hospital visits resulting in more than 60 terrifying nights in the hospital. She has endured hemodialysis, 750+ peritoneal dialysis sessions, 300+ shots, 6,000+ pills, and so much more.

Kidney disease is hard, at best. When you are a working mother of three and your young daughter has it, it is even harder. Sheila didn't know where to turn so she called the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, looking for help and answers.

Support comes in many forms, but for the patients we serve, it means having someone trusted to call with questions, someone to provide the right answers. The NKFI did exactly that, walking Sheila through the complicated process of dialysis and ultimately her living kidney donation.

Last December, Sheila gave Teliyah a second life - one without dialysis. One in which she can feel a little more like her peers at school. Sheila donated a kidney to her daughter, a perfect match in so many ways.

Today, Sheila and a healthy Teliyah attend the foundation's Teens & Young Adults Living with Kidney Disease & Transplantation program; Teliyah attends Kidney Camp in July; and the whole family comes out to celebrate surviving kidney disease at Walk for Kidneys each summer.

"We survived dialysis with all of the educational materials and support from the NKFI." - Sheila

Josie Ortiz-Avila

"I was placed on this earth to save my father's life." - Josie

Martin Ortiz was a healthy man so when he became increasingly disoriented Josie Ortiz-Avila and her sister rushed him to the hospital. For the first time, Martin and his family learned he had been living with stage 5 kidney disease, and his kidneys were functioning at less than 5%. Doctors placed Martin on emergency dialysis while he stayed in the hospital for two days. Once he was released he began dialysis treatments three days a week.

Shaken by the news, Josie and her siblings rushed to find a solution. Her family and a close friend were tested to be kidney donors. Amazingly, all four were a match, and Josie was deemed the closest match.

Once Josie started the transplant process, people began to ask, "Why are you doing this? You must have a heart of gold," but for Josie, there was no other way. This was her father's life. On July 9, 2012, Josie gave her father the gift of life and her kidney became his.

To commemorate his fifth kidney anniversary, Martin's family attended the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois' Walk for Kidneys and threw a huge celebration with family, friends, and a mariachi band! In 2018 a healthy and happy Ortiz family participated in their sixth Walk for Kidneys.

"Being able to do this for my family has been a true blessing." - Josie

Jamie Dawes

Jamie Dawes was eight months pregnant, preparing to meet her first child, when she received the tragic news that his kidneys were not working properly. Just seven days after his birth, baby Sawyer underwent the first of ten surgeries. After two and a half long years of appointments, medications, and trying new strategies, Sawyer's medical team was able to stabilize his kidney disease at stage 3. He will eventually need a kidney transplant, but his parents and doctors hope that step is years down the road.

Jamie learned early on that she was not a transplant match for her son and would never get the chance to give him her kidney. As a parent, it is heartbreaking to not be able to give your child everything he needs to survive. But Jamie could give the gift of life to another little boy.

Johnny desperately needed a new kidney. When Jamie heard this, she immediately got tested and was a match. In August of 2017, when Johnny was just 18 months old, Jamie's kidney became Johnny's.

Jamie says donating her kidney hasn't slowed her down one bit. "There are so many people in need, it's a great thing to share your spare. You can live well with one, why not bless someone with the gift of life?"

Jamie has always been a runner and post-transplant, she wants her runs to mean something. "I was already registered for the Illinois Half Marathon and I knew you could raise awareness and funds while running, so I joined Team Kidney."

Things with Sawyer can still be tough. It continues to be a struggle, but Jamie hopes one day a living donor will give her son the gift of life, as she was able to give to Johnny.

"Keep fighting. Keep looking for answers. Keep pressing on." - Jamie

YEAR IN REVIEW

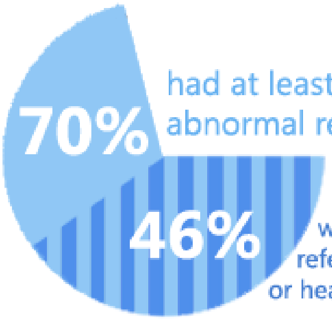
56

Free screenings provided around the state of Illinois in the past year.

3,450

Illinoisans tested for common risk factors.

Of those tested...



70% had at least one abnormal result.

46% were immediately referred to a physician or health center.

23

advocates met with their state senators and representatives about protections for living kidney donors

$120,000

granted to a promising young investigator, researching gene therapy for congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract in children

648

patients and caregivers attended educational seminars to learn how to manage their disease.

4,000

patients, family members and friends came together as a community for a health fair and three-mile walk to show solidarity in the fight against kidney disease.

383

renal professionals participated in debates, networking events, workshops and continuing education, strengthening the field of nephrology.

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Research Grants

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois is dedicated to investing in the most promising kidney disease research in Illinois, granting $1.8 million in support since 1989.

The foundation funds young investigators who have research projects that will increase the understanding of kidney, urologic and related diseases and transplantation; as well as improve the clinical management, treatment or cure of these diseases. Award winners receive up to $60,000 per year for a total of $120,000 per award period.

To make an even greater impact, the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois has added four new grant opportunities in 2018. The Medical Student Research Grant funds three $3,000 summer research projects and the Fellowship Extension Grant offers up to $75,000 in salary support for investigators in need of third and fourth-year fellowships to complete their work.

Our current Tony Noel Memorial Research Grant for the Young Investigator grantee is Gal Finer, MD, a pediatric nephrologist at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Dr. Finer was awarded $120,000 over the span of two years to research congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT) as the leading cause of chronic kidney disease in children. Dr. Finer found that many of these cases arise from mutations in genes important in kidney development. With the help of her mentor, Susan E. Quaggin, MD, an internationally-acclaimed developmental nephrologist, Dr. Finer plans on finding new therapeutic targets in CAKUT.

Additionally, Dr. Finer expects the evidence found in her research to assist in the replacement of injured kidney tissue through tissue engineering, a possible cure to kidney disease.

Tipu Puri, MD, PhD

Tipu Puri, MD, PhD is a member of the Nephrology Faculty at The University of Chicago Medicine with clinical interests in general nephrology and a particular focus on management and slowing progression of chronic kidney disease (CKD). He was awarded the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois' Tony Noel Memorial Research Grant for the Young Investigator from 2006-2008 to investigate patients' susceptibility to development of and progression of CKD. Dr. Puri enjoys volunteering at KidneyMobile health screenings, collaborating on Professional Advisory Board activities, and raising awareness of kidney disease.

"When I meet people that are faced with thinking about a future of dialysis or a kidney transplant I can't help but ask myself whether things would be different if they knew about the problem 3 years ago? 5 years ago? 10 years ago? Making changes in lifestyle like diet and exercise are hard…managing diabetes and high blood pressure is hard…but being made aware of kidney disease when there is still time to do something about it…hopefully avoid dialysis or the need for a transplant…I would hope that might be empowering and would help people with the hard choices needed to take control of their health and take care of their kidneys. This is a major goal of the NKFI education and screening programs and one of the most rewarding parts of my involvement." - Dr. Puri

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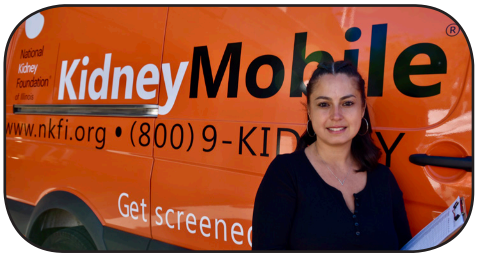

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