About Us

The Kidney Foundation of Ohio is dedicated to providing a broad-based program of direct assistance to those with kidney disease and promoting and providing educational programming for the general public, renal professionals, and patients and their families. It is our goal that all people with renal disease will be accepted in the community and have a measurably improved quality of life as a result of the services provided by the Kidney Foundation of Ohio.

The Foundation serves a thirty-two county area in northern and eastern Ohio and supports two affiliate chapters in Lake and Summit Counties. There are five counties supported by the organization in West Virginia to assist individuals who cross into Ohio for treatment.

What began as a small group of families and physicians has become the premier agency in Ohio for providing direct assistance and education to those suffering from the effects of kidney failure. The Kidney Foundation remains the only health and human services agency in Northeast Ohio which continues to provide funds to patients to assist through the devastation of kidney disease.

Patient Assistance Programs

The following programs are free to qualified kidney patients within the Foundation’s service area.

Medication
Approved program participants receive funding to purchase renal medications through an approved pharmacy. Priority is given to people who have no other form of assistance, such as Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance.

Transportation
Financial aid is provided to pay for safe, reliable, and affordable transportation to and from dialysis or transplant appointments. In emergency situations, bus passes and cab vouchers are issued to patients.

Emergency Grant
An emergency grant, available once a year, can be issued when an incident occurs that has an impact on the patient’s life and no other assistance is available. Unexpected high utility bills, auto repairs, and medical supplies are often situations where emergency grants are awarded.

Emergency Insulin
An emergency supply of insulin syringes, or pen needles is provided to approved applicants. To qualify, patients must have a diagnosis of diabetes and live in Cuyahoga County. Priority will be given to those who are uninsured or underinsured. A diagnosis of kidney disease is not required.

Supportive Services

Information & Referral Guidance
Living with Chronic Kidney Disease requires significant lifestyle adjustments for patients and their families. This may cause individuals to feel helpless or overwhelmed, inhibiting the person’s ability to follow treatment guidelines, and resulting in poor medical outcomes. We provide support to patients and families, allowing them to take control of their health for better management and outcomes.

Medical Identification Bands
The Foundation provides personalized medical alert bands to renal patients in our service area at no cost.

Educational Programs

Professional Education
Renal Symposium
This two-day, interdisciplinary conference for renal professionals focuses on current trends and features nationally recognized experts in the field of renal health care.

Learning Series
In partnership with University Hospitals Transplant Institute, the Kidney Foundation of Ohio offers educational sessions on topics relevant to dialysis and transplant healthcare professionals.

Youth Programming
Healthy Teens, Healthy Tomorrow: Teen Summit
This program offers minority teens comprehensive education and information regarding positive lifestyle choices and risk factors contributing to chronic illness.

Community Programming
Educational Scholarships
Financial support is provided to students who have been diagnosed with kidney disease (or child of a kidney patient), demonstrates financial need and resides in the Foundation’s service area.

Community Outreach
Staff and trained volunteers interact with the community through fairs that are designed to provide basic preventive education and medical screenings. Additionally, the Foundation is available to speak to corporate employees, church groups, or schools about the signs, symptoms, and causes of kidney disease.

Fundraising Events

Annual Gala
Saturday, February 8 | Cleveland Marriott Hotel Downtown
Guests enjoy cocktails, dinner, live entertainment, and silent and live auctions. The 2020 Person of the Year is Edmund G. Sanchez, MD from University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. The award is being presented to him for his dedication and commitment to the field of nephrology, transplantation and the mission of the Foundation.

World Kidney Day
Thursday, March 12 | Tinkham Veale University Center
This free and open to the community event featured speakers on topics related to Kidneys Health. Attendees enjoy lunch, giveaways, and the opportunity to visit with local health organizations.

Golf Outing in Memory of Dennis Kennedy
Monday, June 8 | Sweetbriar Golf Club
The event welcomes more than 120 business and community members to enjoy an afternoon of golf (with cart), beverages, heavy hors d’oeuvres, and a program. Prizes are awarded to top teams and competition winners.

Summer Soiree
Thursday, July 23 | Music Box Supper Club
This fun, business casual summer event hosts members of the philanthropic, medical, and business community. Guests will enjoy hors d’oeuvres, dinner, tastings, live music, raffles, and a silent auction.

Harvest Walk & 5K
TBD (October) | Mapleside Farms
This family-friendly event features a one-mile walk and 5K run to raise awareness for kidney disease. Participants enjoy healthy snacks, the opportunity to visit with local health organizations, giveaways, DJ, balloon artist, face painting and mascots.