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News Release



NORTHWEST
KIDNEY CENTERS

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Northwest Kidney Centers leader wins healthcare excellence honor

Joyce F. Jackson to receive 2009 Warren Featherstone Reid Award

OLYMPIA — Joyce F. Jackson, president and chief executive officer of Northwest Kidney Centers in Seattle, has been named the recipient of Washington’s 2009 Warren Featherstone Reid Award for Excellence in Healthcare. The annual award is presented to health care providers and facilities in Washington that exhibit exceptional quality and value in the delivery of health services.

“Your leadership and dedication to [Northwest Kidney Centers](#), as well as its patients and the local community, exemplifies the very spirit of this award,” Gov. Chris Gregoire wrote in a letter to Jackson notifying her that she would receive the award.

Secretary of Health Mary Selecky presented the award to Jackson Nov. 20 in Seattle.

“Feather” Reid served under U.S. Sen. Warren G. Magnuson for almost 20 years, advising Congress on initiatives such as Medicare and Medicaid and working to expand federal support for research. He later became the first chairman of the Washington State Board of Health. In 1994 the Washington Legislature honored Reid by creating this annual award.

“Northwest Kidney Centers is a leader in treating patients, along with research and education,” said Secretary of Health Mary Selecky. “Joyce Jackson has worked for more than a decade to improve the outlook for people with kidney disease.”

Jackson joined Northwest Kidney Centers as president and CEO in 1998, after 15 years as an administrator at Virginia Mason Medical Center. Jackson has worked to improve health care for kidney patients on a regional, state, and national level, through community benefit services, public education and treatment of kidney problems, support for sound public policy on behalf of kidney patients, and fostering research to cure kidney disease.

“I am deeply honored to receive this award. Like Feather Reid, I strongly believe in creating health care policy that helps people lead lives that are as full, healthy and independent as possible. Like places around the world, Washington State now faces an epidemic of kidney disease, fueled by increases in diabetes and high blood pressure. My organization, Northwest Kidney Centers, will continue to care for people whose kidneys have failed, help others avoid or slow down kidney disease, and apply the best science to stop kidney disease once and for all,” said Jackson.

In the past two years, under her leadership the organization has:

- Established new dialysis facilities in SeaTac, Kent, and on First Hill in Seattle.
- Brought dialysis for the most medically fragile patients to south King County, a better alternative than the three-times-a-week travel to downtown Seattle that was required before.
- Expanded its training and support for self-administered dialysis. The Kidney Centers’ home dialysis program is now one of the largest in the country. Jackson has raised significant donations for home services, now centralized at Seattle Kidney Center, which opened this year.

Jackson established the educational program *Living Well with CKD™* to educate individuals, communities, physicians, and staff about the risks of chronic kidney disease.

Jackson also led the effort to establish the Kidney Research Institute, a collaboration between Northwest Kidney Centers and UW Medicine that opened its doors in June 2008. In its first year, the institute secured \$8 million in grant funding for kidney-related clinical research.

About Northwest Kidney Centers: The nonprofit Northwest Kidney Centers provides 80 percent of the dialysis care in King and Clallam counties, educates the public about kidney health, and collaborates with UW Medicine in the Kidney Research Institute. Northwest Kidney Centers’ staff

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of 550 delivers more than 200,000 treatments per year in 14 dialysis centers and 11 hospitals. It also maintains one of the country's largest training and support programs for people who wish to give themselves dialysis at home. Since 1962, Northwest Kidney Centers has sustained lives and inspired hope. Its mission – to promote health, independence and quality of life for people with kidney disease – remains vital today. One in seven American adults now has kidney disease, up 30 percent in the past decade.

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