

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Writer Sherman Alexie to bring emotion about kidney disease
to Northwest Kidney Centers' 2014 Breakfast of Hope**

Seattle, WA (April 1, 2014): No one thinks kidney disease is funny. Yet when award-winning author and performer Sherman Alexie talks about it, he makes people laugh. And cry. The local literary hero will share stories of his life and his family's experience with kidney disease at [Northwest Kidney Centers'](#) 12th annual [Breakfast of Hope](#) Thursday, May 8, 2014.

The breakfast will be held from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at The Westin Seattle, 1900 Fifth Ave., with proceeds benefiting the nonprofit organization's home dialysis program and charity care. Enrique Cerna, producer and host of KCTS-TV Connects, will serve as master of ceremonies. Also sharing the podium will be Lori Hartwell, founder of the Renal Support Network.

Alexie, a Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian, determined at a young age that he did not want to live his life on the reservation where he was born. But he wears that heritage proudly. Using vivid stories, Alexie draws in audiences with personal anecdotes that are often parables for larger lessons.

The breakfast, titled "Stories and Voices," will also feature a dramatic interpretation of the experience of several Northwest Kidney Centers patients, family members and staff members.

"Every person living with kidney disease has a treasure chest of inspirational stories," said Joyce F. Jackson, Northwest Kidney Centers president and CEO. "It is an honor for those of us who work here to experience their courage and grace under pressure day in and day out. We look forward to sharing just a few of their stories at this breakfast."

There is no charge for the Breakfast of Hope, but attendees are encouraged to make a gift of at least \$150 per person. To register, visit www.nwkidney.org/breakfast or contact breakfast@nwkidney.org or 206-720-8585.

Why is this event important? It not only helps Northwest Kidney Centers patients, but the community as a whole. Did you know:

- One in seven adult Americans—more than 30 million people—have chronic kidney disease; most don't know it.
- Chronic kidney disease is progressive and irreversible; it can be slowed down with nutrition, exercise and medication.
- Home dialysis patients have a 61 percent better survival rate than patients who dialyze in a center.

- Northwest Kidney Centers actively promotes self-dialysis at home for patients who can benefit. As a result, 17 percent of Northwest Kidney Centers' patients use home dialysis, compared to 8.5 percent nationally.
- Philanthropy helps fund home dialysis clinics and home visits, evening and weekend nursing coverage, free classes for predialysis patients and those considering a different form of kidney treatment, and treatments for Medicare home patients who dialyze more than three times per week.
- Forty-two percent of Northwest Kidney Centers' patients meet federal poverty guidelines; 2 percent are homeless. Gifts to charity care help patients whose insurance does not fully cover dialysis or medications. Charity care also provides transportation assistance, emergency grants and nutritional supplements to patients in need.

About Northwest Kidney Centers: Northwest Kidney Centers is a regional, not-for-profit, community-based provider of life-sustaining kidney dialysis, public health education, and research into the causes and treatments of chronic kidney disease. Founded in Seattle in 1962, it was the world's first dialysis organization. It remains a model in the field because of its high quality services, community connections and generous donor support. Learn more at www.nwkidney.org.

About Sherman Alexie: Poet, short story writer, novelist and performer, Alexie has published 24 books including "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" and "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven." He helped produce the newly released film "Winter in the Blood" about a young Native American man's identity crisis in a small Montana town.

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