

**Renal Support Network founder Lori Hartwell  
receives Northwest Kidney Centers' highest honor**

Clyde Shields Distinguished Service award  
named for first long-term dialysis patient

Seattle, WA (May 8, 2014)—[Northwest Kidney Centers](#) is pleased to present the 2014 [Clyde Shields Distinguished Service Award](#) to Lori Hartwell of Glendale, Calif., founder of the Renal Support Network.

Northwest Kidney Centers presents the award – its highest recognition – to a person who makes significant contributions to the welfare of kidney patients through advocacy, clinical care or research.

“Lori has made a huge difference in the lives of people with chronic kidney disease through her advocacy and support services,” said Joyce F. Jackson, president and CEO of Northwest Kidney Centers. “She is known by renal leaders throughout the nation as an independent and committed voice for services and programs that advance the quality of life of kidney patients. A kidney patient herself, she is a model of living a fulfilling life despite chronic illness.”

First placed on dialysis at age 2, Hartwell wasn't expected to survive. She has spent 13 years on dialysis and has had four kidney transplants, the most recent in 2011.

In 1993 she founded the Renal Support Network (RSN) to instill health, happiness and hope into the lives of those affected by chronic kidney disease. The patient-led organization started as a Southern California grassroots effort, and now extends across the U.S.

RSN's mission is to identify and meet the non-medical needs of people affected by kidney disease, whether they are in the early stages of the disease, on dialysis, or with a kidney transplant. RSN provides service, support, and advocacy to patients and their families and builds coalitions within the renal community.

Hartwell has been a presenter at Northwest Kidney Centers events. Several Northwest Kidney Centers dialysis patients have attended RSN's Renal Teen Prom in Los Angeles. Like Northwest Kidney Centers, Hartwell is an active participant in Kidney Care Partners, a national advocacy coalition.

Hartwell received the award at a luncheon in Seattle on May 8, 2014. The award is named for machinist Clyde Shields, who in March 1960 became the first person in the world to receive dialysis on an ongoing basis. Mr. Shields received the first Scribner shunt, a breakthrough dialysis delivery method developed in Seattle. Although Mr. Shields' kidneys had failed – a death sentence before the innovation – the shunt and regular dialysis helped him survive another 11 years. His courage as a research subject made possible great advances in kidney treatment.

**About the Clyde Shields Distinguished Service Award:** Northwest Kidney Centers bestows the Clyde Shields Distinguished Service Award on a living individual who has contributed significantly to the welfare of kidney patients through advocacy, clinical care or research. Factors considered are length of service, number of people impacted, awards or citations, humility and perseverance. Past awardees include patients, volunteers, staff members, scientists and supporters.

**About Northwest Kidney Centers:** Northwest Kidney Centers is a regional, not-for-profit, community-based provider of 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](http://www.nwkidney.org).

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