



How times have changed since this photo of Gary May and nurse Joshua Tadina at our Fife clinic last year. Today personal protective equipment and heightened infection control measures are the norm. What has not changed is our dedication to excellent patient care.

Coronavirus sprint becomes a marathon

As the country's first dialysis provider treating a patient known to have COVID-19, Northwest Kidney Centers worked closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Public Health – Seattle & King County.

We contributed experience and expertise as the agencies developed clinical measures for safe dialysis during the pandemic; our clinical leaders also wrote journal articles, spoke at online seminars and were interviewed in public media including The New York Times.

Our guiding principles: 1) Provide safe dialysis in the outpatient setting to all patients, including those with COVID-19, so long as they aren't so sick that hospitalization is required. 2) Follow the science. 3) Provide leadership to patients and their families, staff and the community.

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The pandemic's silver lining

We are humbled by the community's outpouring of support for Northwest Kidney Centers patients and caregivers. We've experienced many extraordinary acts of kindness, courage and giving. Thank you.

Difficult times bring out the best

Our community rises to the challenge of COVID-19

Necessity is the mother of invention

Coping with COVID-19 has meant finding new and creative ways to get medical supplies. One example is Northwest Kidney Centers 2020 Private Reserve, hand sanitizer custom formulated for us by a compounding pharmacy. We expect to distribute more than 3,000 bottles of Private Reserve to staff, patients and transportation drivers.

Because of changes in regulations due to the pandemic, physicians now can see patients via telehealth technology. This allows doctors to be more available and flexible to “meet” with patients at dialysis.

Community delivers masks and more

When medical grade face masks were in short supply, craftspeople in the community donated more than 5,550 handsewn masks, in all styles, colors and sizes. Each of our clinics gives them to patients, staff, families and transportation drivers.

Several community partners, vendors and medical staff provided pocket-size bottles of hand sanitizer and medical grade face masks. A local nonprofit organization donated 500 grocery store gift cards for patients in need.

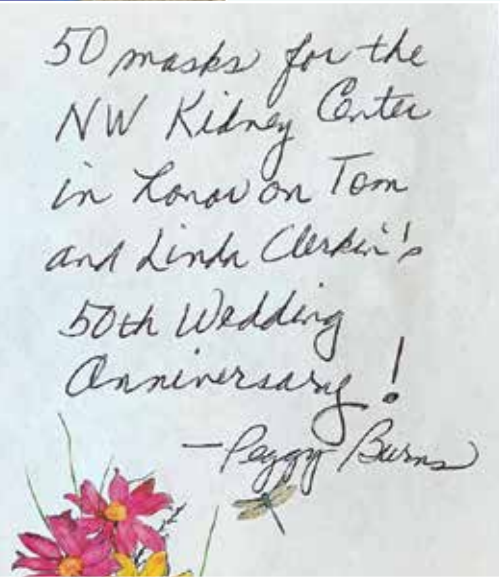
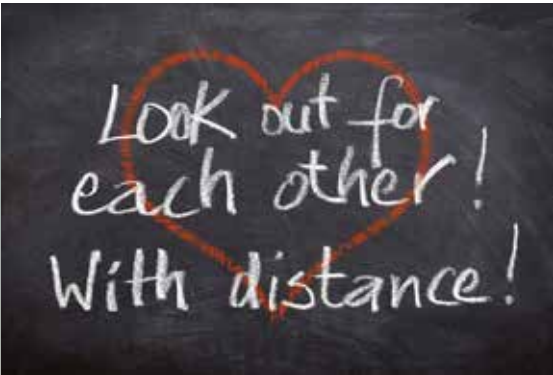
We are grateful for every donated face shield created on a 3D printer, every bagel and cookie, every bouquet of flowers and every kind word.



Our response to the pandemic honors our mission and legacy. I'm proud that we've met the challenge locally and have helped our dialysis colleagues across the nation by sharing knowledge, insight and best practices.

— Rebecca Fox, Northwest Kidney Centers
President and CEO

out the best





Janice Backer has created dozens of scarves and hats while dialyzing at our Renton clinic as her form of giving back. She donates them to the Union Gospel Mission in Kent.

Planned giving: meet Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson joined Northwest Kidney Centers in March as gift planning officer. Bill worked for the past four years with donors to ALSAC/St. Jude Children’s Hospital in a six-state Western region.

“I love learning about what connects donors to Northwest Kidney Centers, about what they enjoy in life, their passions and interests,” Bill said. “I want to help people accomplish something through their philanthropy that’s meaningful to them.”



Looking forward to connecting with you

Bill Johnson, gift planning officer

206-720-8550

legacy@nwkidney.org

CARES Act may impact your charitable giving

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted on March 27 includes temporary and permanent changes to the tax code that may impact your charitable giving. These include:

- New \$300 above-the-line charitable contribution deduction
- Suspension of required minimum distributions in 2020
- Temporary repeal of adjusted gross income (AGI) limit for gifts of cash

Please consult your professional advisors about these changes as a part of your philanthropic decision-making. Our gift planning officer is also available to help.



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Thank you!

HopeBuilders funds charity care and Eastside expansion

COVID-19 spurred us to convert a planned luncheon into a livestream, and our community joined in on May 21. Champion snowboarder Amy Purdy, a double amputee and kidney transplant recipient, offered a timely message of resilience. Sponsors and donors raised \$226,000 (and counting) for charity care and the transformation of our Bellevue dialysis clinic into a comprehensive kidney resource center for the Eastside.



Amy Purdy



Find hundreds of healthy and delicious recipes

at www.nwkidney.org/recipes



COVID-19 makes its mark on kidney research

COVID-19 has brought opportunities and challenges to scientific understanding of kidney conditions.

“We now know that kidney failure can be a side effect of COVID-19,” points out Dr. Jonathan Himmelfarb, director of the Kidney Research Institute, a collaboration between Northwest Kidney Centers and UW Medicine. The KRI is working to understand how the coronavirus affects kidney function.

The COVID-19 pandemic is adding urgency to work on new mobile, user-friendly dialysis technology. And KRI scientists are taking a close look at COVID-19's impact on transplant recipients.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 has stalled some ongoing research studies, primarily due to social distancing. KRI investigators are not able to visit Northwest Kidney Centers patients in the dialysis clinic. Nearly all research labs are closed or allowing just one person to enter per day.

Some investigators are able to work from home to analyze data collected previously or to write grant proposals. Dr. Himmelfarb anticipates current studies will be able to resume soon, and new studies are being planned to start in the fall.



Kidney Research Institute scientists like Dr. Beno Freedman benefit from Northwest Kidney Centers support of research. By making creative use of new technology to reveal and understand biology and diseases, the work from his lab is leading toward novel treatments for kidney disease in precision medicine interventions, gene therapy and regenerative medicine.

Dr. Freedman's lab uses human kidney structures or “organoids” as surrogates for patients, which allows therapies to be developed more quickly and safely. In the future this technology may make it possible to grow grafts from a person's own body that can help regenerate the kidney.

Interested in participating in research studies?

Contact:
Kidney Research Institute
206-616-8574
info@kri.uw.edu
www.kri.washington.edu



A collaboration between
Northwest Kidney Centers and UW Medicine

Gala goes virtual

Little did we know at last year's Discovery Gala that the 2020 version would be a virtual experience. We still plan to celebrate, inform and entertain you – as we raise money together for kidney research – at the 2020 gala Oct. 17. Feel free to wear your tiara with your bunny slippers and join us.



Dr. Buddy Ratner dances with his wife Cheryl at a past Gala. With Dr. Jonathan Himmelfarb, Ratner codirects the Center for Dialysis Innovation.



Guests talk kidney research with KRI pharmaceuticals scientist Dr. Ed Kelly at last year's Gala.

Board member transitions

Three valued volunteer leaders are completing three three-year terms as board members at Northwest Kidney Centers. Dr. Cyrus Cryst and Dr. Michael Kelly are leaving the Foundation Board, and Rick Greaves will leave the board of trustees.

New to the Foundation Board is Theresa Smith, vice president of Evergreen Business Capital. Thanks to all for past and future contributions to Northwest Kidney Centers mission.



Dr. Cyrus Cryst



Dr. Michael Kelly



Rick Greaves



Theresa Smith



Next Step classes: www.nwkidney.org

Join us on October 17 for the Discovery Gala

Northwest Kidney Centers promotes the optimal health, quality of life and independence of people with kidney disease through patient care, education and research.



www.nwkidney.org
communications@nwkidney.org

Northwest Kidney Centers: 206-292-2771

Pharmacy: 206-343-4870 or 1-800-947-8902

Free kidney health education resumes

After a temporary halt due to the pandemic, we have restarted in-person, one-to-one sessions of our free kidney education classes in Burien, Kirkland, SeaTac and Seattle. Videoconference sessions are available as well. Learn more at www.nwkidney.org/classes.

Save the date

Discovery Gala

Saturday, October 17

5:30 p.m.

Online event



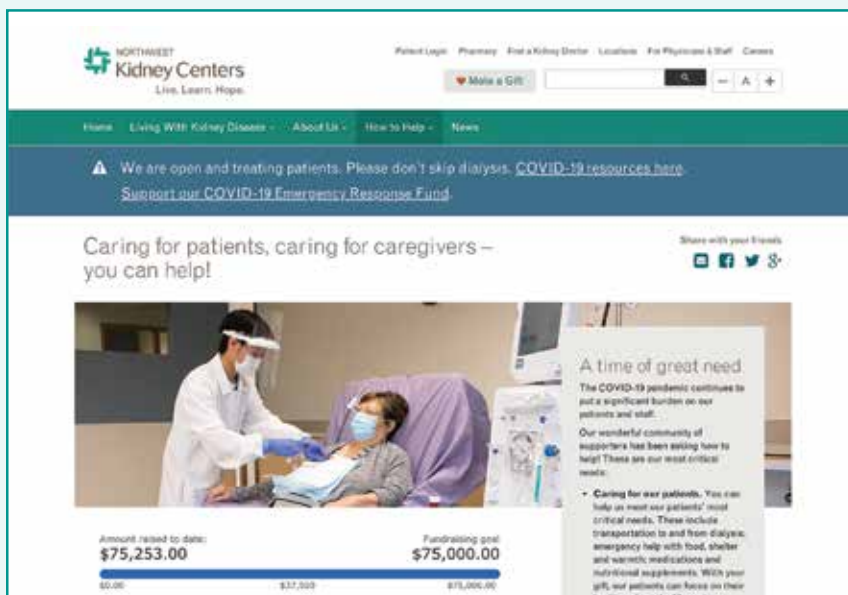
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COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

Soon after the pandemic reached our region, Northwest Kidney Centers created the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to support patients and staff. We've received more than \$75,000 in gifts from all over the country. Thank you to our community far and wide for your generous financial support. If you'd like to help, visit us at www.nwkidney.org.