

Community Connection

Volume 11, Issue 2 · Spring 2021



President and CEO Rebecca Fox

A year to remember

I want to thank the community for its continued support over the past year, my first leading the dedicated and talented people at Northwest Kidney Centers.

What an unforgettable stretch of time! On March 1 we observed the one-year anniversary of our response to the pandemic and its profound impact.

Along with the solemn weight of COVID-19, I've witnessed so many inspiring acts this year, genuine acts of humanity, courage, devotion, tenacity ... they have buoyed me and will stay with me for life. I hope you've had similar inspirations.

Throughout our nearly 60-year history, Northwest Kidney Centers has faced every challenge openly and unflinchingly, and this last year has been another significant chapter in our partnership with the community. Today we are as committed as ever to delivering lifesaving dialysis treatment to people living with kidney disease in the Puget Sound region.

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HopeBuilders Livestream May 13, 2021

12 – 12:45 p.m.

[www.nwkidney.org/
hopebuilders-2021](http://www.nwkidney.org/hopebuilders-2021)

Kidney palliative care

Focusing on what matters to patients



After piloting kidney palliative care in 2017 in a small number of its dialysis clinics, Northwest Kidney Centers now offers kidney palliative care as an embedded service in each of its 20 dialysis clinics. Kidney palliative care addresses the emotional, spiritual and psychological aspects of chronic kidney disease and kidney failure while bringing hope for the best quality of life for patients and their families.

Dr. Dan Lam, a nephrologist with special training in palliative care, is the program's medical staff advisor. He is part of a three-person team that works with patients who may benefit. "What matters the most to patients is how to live well with the best quality of life," says Dr. Lam. "What matters most varies from person to person."



Proceeds from the HopeBuilders Livestream will support kidney palliative care and charity care programs.

“What matters the most to patients is how to live well with the best quality of life.”

— Dan Lam, MD
Medical staff advisor
Kidney palliative care



Ian Shaw holds a photo of his father, Louis. Louis received palliative care services at Northwest Kidney Centers to help him with what mattered the most.

The Shaw family's story

Louis Shaw was well known at his dialysis clinic for his stories about his 16 children spread across the country. The palliative care team began meeting with Louis weekly to talk about what mattered most to him. When Louis was diagnosed with cancer, they worked with his family to help Louis get healthy enough and strong enough to start cancer treatment.

When Louis' son, Ian, became his father's health care advocate, the team continued to provide hope and guidance to the family as Louis' treatment progressed. After Louis passed away, the palliative care team continued to check in with Ian to offer hope and support.

Hope is power

“Hope,” says palliative care expert Dr. Steven Pantilat, “reminds us of what’s important.” Palliative care has the power to be transformative because, he says, “Our hopes are what make us who we are.”

Dr. Pantilat will share his uplifting insights at the HopeBuilders Livestream on Thursday, May 13 at 12 noon. Join the livestream at www.nwkidney.org.

Northwest Kidney Centers kidney palliative care program is funded 100% through charitable gifts. Proceeds from the HopeBuilders Livestream will raise funds for kidney palliative care and charity care for patients.

CARES ACT extended: tax incentives when you give to charity

Several key provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act were extended into the new year (and in one case, increased). Here's what the new stimulus package may mean to your charitable giving in 2021:

1. An expansion of the universal charitable deduction for cash gifts.
2. An extension of the cap on deductions for cash contributions. Contributions to public charities are generally limited to a percentage of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income (AGI).

Please confer with your financial advisor to find out how these incentives and changes may affect your personal situation. Learn more about ways to make a gift and leave a legacy to Northwest Kidney Centers at our website: www.nwkidney.planmygift.org.

Leave a legacy

You can help Northwest Kidney Centers sustain patient programs supported by charitable gifts by:

- Including a charitable bequest to Northwest Kidney Centers in your will or living trust.
- Naming Northwest Kidney Centers as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy you no longer need, an individual retirement account or certificate of deposit.

Questions?

Email: Legacy@nwkidney.org



Nancy Spaeth was selected to receive dialysis when a college student at age 19. Join Nancy as a Heritage Society member by including Northwest Kidney Centers in your estate plans.



Make a monthly gift

We are deeply grateful for regular gifts we can count on month after month. Even a small amount, given regularly, will go a long way for our patients. To learn how your gift can make a year-round difference, contact:

Jacqui Weber
Development director
(206) 720-8544
Jacqui.Weber@nwkidney.org

Saying farewell to two key leaders

Two exemplary leaders at Northwest Kidney Centers will retire this spring. With key roles as part of Northwest Kidney Centers' executive team, Jane Pryor and Carrie McCabe have been integral to achieving our mission and demonstrated success. We have been privileged and honored to work with both of these passionate and committed leaders. Join us in celebrating their tremendous careers and wishing them both a wonderful and fruitful retirement.



Jane Pryor, CFRE

Vice President of Development and Communications/
Foundation Executive Director

Jane Pryor, CFRE, will retire on April 16, 2021 after a 37-year career in development and communications. Jane has led Northwest Kidney Centers' fundraising efforts since late 2007, increasing annual contributions revenue by 300% and raising more than \$34 million to benefit patients and staff.

As Foundation Executive Director, Jane worked with committed and generous volunteers to raise friends and funds for Northwest Kidney Centers and increase awareness about chronic kidney disease. She also launched the employee scholarship program and our dialysis museum and archives.



Carrie McCabe

Vice President of Finance/
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Carrie McCabe, Vice President and CFO, will retire on June 30, 2021 after a 34-year career. From strategic plans and performance improvement initiatives to billing/payer functions and serving as interim CEO, Carrie has made multiple contributions to Northwest Kidney Centers during the last six years.

Carrie was the visionary behind our new Logistics Center in Burien and this past year she worked tirelessly to ensure that staff and patients had protective supplies and equipment throughout the pandemic. Carrie will continue in a consulting capacity during the transition to a new finance leader.

New technology leader arrives

Danielle Plancich recently joined Northwest Kidney Centers as vice president of information technology. She brings more than 25 years of experience in project implementation and operational management in healthcare information technology. She holds an MBA in Healthcare from American InterContinental University.

Danielle has worked for Deloitte Consulting, Catholic Health Initiatives and Franciscan Medical Group. A native of Los Angeles, Danielle now resides in Puyallup.



Patients and staff receive vaccine

Northwest Kidney Centers was approved by Washington state to be a vaccine provider and has begun vaccinating patients at their clinic appointments as vaccine is available and the patient is eligible according to State guidelines. With allocations received from Public Health – Seattle & King County, we began vaccinating eligible patients and some staff members, with 863 initial doses given. Including those who got vaccinated elsewhere, to date 1,320 of our patients have received their first dose of vaccine; 854 have received their second.



Jane Shigihara receives her vaccination from nurse manager Katrina Collins at the Bellevue clinic.

Volunteer of the Year: Chris Gray

Chris Gray will receive Northwest Kidney Centers volunteer of the year award. When the pandemic began, our nation suffered a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks.

Along with her sewing group, Chris wanted to help. Using their own machines and donating all materials and supplies, they sewed face masks for friends, family and many health care organizations, including Northwest Kidney Centers. Chris and her group stood out because of their infection control practices, concern for quality and ongoing support. Even after the initial need was met, Chris and her sewing group continued to donate and deliver hundreds of masks to us. Staff and patients are deeply grateful to Chris and her group for their tangible expression of concern for their welfare.



Chris Gray (left) and her late husband, Ed (right). Ed received dialysis at our Kirkland clinic and at home. Below: A sampling of the colorful masks sewn by Chris and her sewing group.



Registered nephrology nurse Rufina Laureta gives Lake City patient Robin Hollingsworth his vaccine.

Thanks to our community health care partners, UW Medicine and Swedish Medical Center, about 84% of Northwest Kidney Centers staff who are eligible has been vaccinated.

Our mission: to promote 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

Development office: 206-292-5351



Save the date

HopeBuilders Livestream

Thursday, May 13

12 – 12:45 p.m.

Discovery Gala

Saturday, October 9

5:30 – 10 p.m.

Grand Hyatt Seattle



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HopeBuilders keynote speaker: Steven Pantilat, MD

Palliative care expert Dr. Steven Pantilat will talk about the transformative power and hope that palliative care can bring at the HopeBuilders Livestream on May 13. A palliative care physician, Dr. Pantilat is an internationally recognized expert and inspiring speaker.

A professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Dr. Pantilat is the Kates-Burnard and Hellman Distinguished Professor in Palliative Care. He is also the founding Chief of the award-winning UCSF Division of Palliative Care.

Be inspired; be a HopeBuilder!

Join us on May 13 at www.nwkidney.org/hopebuilders-2021



Can't join us on May 13?

Make your gift to kidney palliative care and charity care today!