

Overview

Quality care isn't a privilege, it is a right. Everyday at Northwest Kidney Centers we are working to increase opportunities for everyone to live the healthiest life possible, no matter who they are, where they live or how much money they make.

Our work is ongoing. We acknowledge systemic racism has put up barriers for people of color to gain access to quality care. Discrimination has led to distrust of doctors and the healthcare system. At Northwest Kidney Centers, we are committed to removing these barriers to care for anyone with kidney disease.



The Northwest Kidney Centers Difference: Better Health Outcomes

Disparate health outcomes are linked to decades of social and economic injustice rooted in racism. We have made it our mission to address the disparities in health care through early intervention, education about treatment options and support of transformative translational research so that patients who come to Northwest Kidney Centers have the best possible outcomes.

Double the chance
of a transplant

30% lower chance of
being admitted to a
hospital

Fully supported in
dialyzing at home

Access to the
best clinical trials
in the world

“

I wish I would have learned more about kidneys and the role they play in my overall health. Northwest Kidney Centers is doing wonderful work to educate our underserved communities of color.

”

John Mosby, patient



KIDNEY DISEASE BY THE NUMBERS¹

37M

*adults in the United States
live with kidney disease*

3X

*Black Americans are 3X
more likely than white
Americans to experience
kidney failure*

70%

*increase in the number of
Hispanics experiencing
kidney failure since 2000*

1 National Kidney Foundation



Disparities in Care

Whether it is implicit bias in the referral process or inequity in access to education materials, we know people of color are less likely than white people to enter into different treatment options.

- White patients with kidney failure are 4 times more likely to receive a transplant than black patients.
- Black patients are 24% less likely to dialyze at home
- White patients are twice as likely to access palliative care services than are black or Hispanic patients.



OUR SERVICES

Each year, we reach more than 10,000 people through health education outreach to communities of color

We fund emergency transportation costs so patients can safely travel to and from treatment

We provide financial counseling to help patients navigate the costly burden of treatment

2000+

Patients served each year



OUR PATIENTS

1/2

Nearly half of patients live below poverty line

50%+

More than half of patients identify as people of color

Achieving Our Vision, Together

At Northwest Kidney Centers we welcome everyone regardless of insurance. Our vision is to create a world where kidney disease no longer inhibits people from living their best lives. We will only achieve this through inclusive, equitable care.



Our Approach to Creating an Inclusive Care Environment

- Because 90% of people with chronic kidney disease are unaware that they have it, we focus on early detection and education, especially in Black, Asian and Native American populations that are at higher risk for developing kidney disease.
- Two-thirds of people with kidney disease don't know their treatment options. Northwest Kidney Centers offers free classes that explore all care options, including transplant and at-home dialysis.
- Our patients speak more than 80 languages. Our dietitians, social workers and educators work to make critical information available in a number of languages.
- To ensure patients from various backgrounds are receiving guidance on how to live better, healthier lifestyles, our dietitians are trained in culturally appropriate diets.
- We partner with HopeLink, King County Metro Access and ride share companies to reduce barriers for patients to get to treatment.
- When physicians are the same race as the patient, patients report higher levels of trust, which is why we invest in and support diversity in nephrologist fellowship training.



“ We know systematic inequities in society have been a barrier to care for people of color. We are committed to overcoming these challenges to ensure all people impacted by kidney disease have access to safe, high-quality, dignified care. ”

Rebecca Fox, President and CEO, Northwest Kidney Centers

WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN

LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

Donor investment is needed to continue to provide equitable care. We know that with your support, we can grow our services to serve historically marginalized communities more equitably and drive better health outcomes.

SERVING MORE PEOPLE OF COLOR



COST
\$25-50k

Diversity training for direct patient care roles

Patients build strong connections with their dialysis team and we know these connections have a direct impact on the care and outcomes of our patients. This connection can be strengthened through training in diversity, equity and inclusion topics such as implicit bias. With additional support, we could provide ongoing training for front-line staff.



COST
\$50k

Reach more non-English speaking patients

While we pride ourselves in supporting our patient population in more than 80 languages, because of funding and staffing constraints, we are only able to provide materials in a limited number of languages. This means treatment options are not accessible or understood by all patients. Additional funding would allow for translation and printing in the top 10 languages spoken by patients.



COST
\$50-80k

Community outreach and health education

Throughout the year our team participates in local events to raise awareness of kidney disease and provide education in how to cultivate a kidney-friendly lifestyle. Our grassroots efforts are focused on those underserved populations who are at higher risk of kidney disease. Some of the events we participate in include African American Male Wellness Walk, New Holly Community Fair, and the Rainier Beach Back2School Bash. Your support could allow us to increase our presence in these communities.

For more information on supporting equitable care, please contact Jennifer Mounsey:
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