

## Overview

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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.

We acknowledge systemic racism has put up barriers to access to quality care. Discrimination has led to distrust of doctors and the health care system. We are committed to removing barriers to care and improving health outcomes for communities and people in the United States who have been historically disadvantaged, marginalized and underserved by the health care system.



## OUR PATIENTS

**2000+**

Patients served a year

**1/2**

Nearly half of patients  
are low income

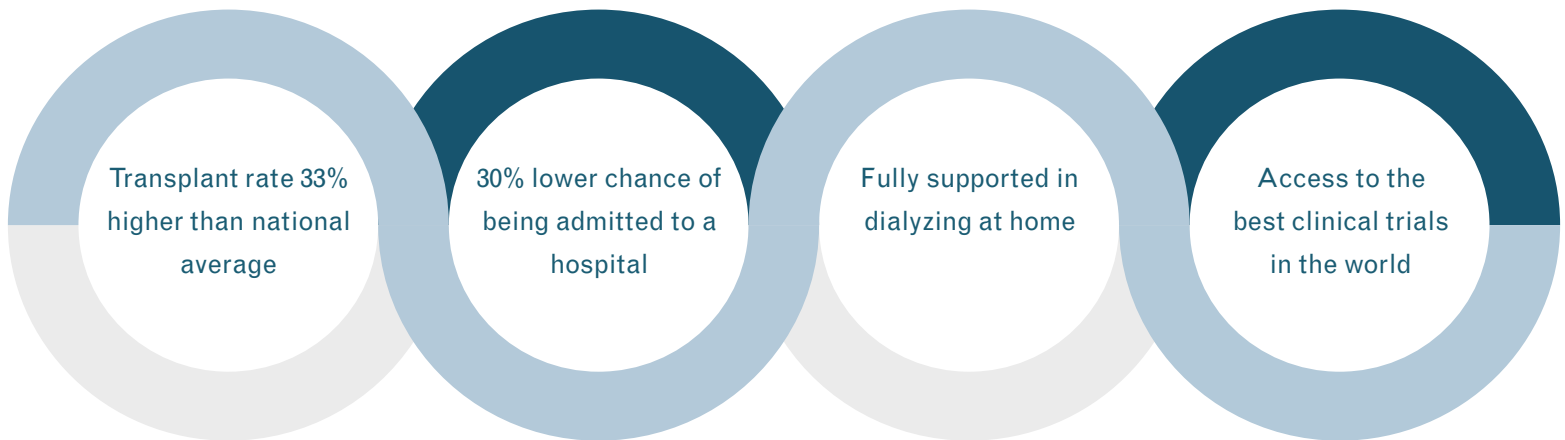
**50%+**

More than half of  
patients identify as  
people of color



## The Northwest Kidney Centers Difference: Better Health Outcomes

Disparate health outcomes are linked to decades of social and economic injustice. 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.



“*Northwest Kidney Centers helped us continue to be a family. They helped me see my kids grow from boys into men. I wouldn't be here without NKC.*”

Steve Woods, patient



### KIDNEY DISEASE BY THE NUMBERS<sup>1</sup>

**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 Black, Native and Indigenous, Asian American, Latine, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities 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

Emergency grants provide support for patients' food, rent and other bills

We provide dialysis for incarcerated patients

Our teams provide referrals to wrap-around services including housing/shelter, religious/spiritual, treatment and counseling for substance use disorders and more

## Achieving Our Vision, Together

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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 teams ensure critical care information is 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.
- All staff are required to complete cultural competency training on an annual basis.



**“ 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  
**INCREASE ACCESS  
TO CARE**

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.

**REACHING UNDERSERVED  
COMMUNITIES**



COST  
**\$25-50k**

**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 topics such as implicit bias. With additional support, we could provide ongoing training for front-line staff.



COST  
**\$50k**

**Communicate effectively to 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**

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 Kin On Seniors' Day, Hopelink Neighborhood Fair, Public Health Seattle & King County Every Month is Black History Month, and Seattle Pride. Your support could allow us to increase our presence in these communities.

**For more information on supporting equitable care, please contact Kyle Franklin:**  
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