

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2026



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®

of Illinois

37 MILLION

adults in the U.S. have
chronic kidney disease (CKD)



Source: CDC

808,000+

are living with end-stage kidney disease



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The pages within highlight NKFI’s efforts between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026, our fiscal year 2026.

MESSAGE FROM

LEADERSHIP



Curt Anliker
NKFI Board President



Jacqueline Burgess-Bishop, FACHE
NKFI Chief Executive Officer

Dear Colleagues and Supporters,

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 was a year of transforming commitment into measurable impact. With the support and collaboration of public and private funders, community and health system partners, generous donors and valued insights from persons with lived experience and caregivers, the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) is working to change the chronic condition trajectory toward kidney health in Illinois.

Three sections of our FY2026 annual report guide you through how NKFI is Closing the Gap, Living the Mission, and Meeting the Need, along the kidney health continuum. We demonstrate our commitment to the mission to improve the health and well-being for the 1.4 million persons in Illinois at risk for kidney disease. Approximately 90% of at-risk persons are not even aware they have kidney disease, and 34,000 are directly affected by end stage kidney disease. We engage through actualizing strategies for prevention, education and empowerment.

Closing the Gap: Our year-long KidneyMobile® Technology Project examined how to strengthen the program through enabling electronic delivery of screening results to community providers. We launched this project with planning and design supported by 2025-2026 Golub Kellogg Board Fellow, Robin Gairns, and Technology Partner EC-United and are grateful for the support of Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) partner Chicago Family Health Center and our research partner, Miles Square Health Center. In FY25, over 1,000 people were screened throughout Illinois by the KidneyMobile program, and 55.5% had at least one abnormal result. Seventy percent of participants said having results sent directly to a doctor would be helpful, supporting our focus on electronic referral strategies and our new FQHC Partnership Playbook, to expand and

improve care coordination.

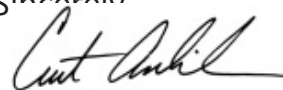
Living the Mission: In FY26 we celebrated with one of our own valued employees. Monica Fox, NKFI Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs, received her second kidney transplant in October donated by her daughter Olivia, a transplant outreach coordinator at UI Health.

"I'm living proof this works," stated Olivia Fox. Their story shows what living donation makes possible — a shorter wait, better timing, enhanced health and quality of life and one more person off the waitlist. It is also why we invest in transplant education, living donor resources, demonstrated through our Finding a Living Donor program held in partnerships with Rush Medical Center and UI Health.

Meeting the Need: Our family program gave children and caregivers hands-on learning on medication, nutrition and coping. We focused on the future with the Illinois Public Health Association and other partners. NKFI facilitated the onsite training for the initial cohort a first-of-its-kind Chronic Kidney Disease Patient Navigator Training for Community Health Workers, equipping trusted navigators to promote prevention and reduce emergency dialysis starts.

Technology and programs continue to matter most when they connect people to care. Across Illinois, these stories continue to inspire our work. We express our appreciation and invite you to join us in advancing kidney health for every Illinois family.

Sincerely,



Curt Anliker
NKFI Board President



Jacqueline Burgess-Bishop, FACHE
CEO- NKFI

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KIDNEY DISEASE

AT-A-GLANCE

30% OF ALL PATIENTS

with kidney failure (ESKD) are Black/African American, even though this group is 13% of the U.S. population



Black/African American people are

4X

MORE LIKELY

to have ESKD than white people

Hispanic/Latino people are

2X

MORE LIKELY

to have ESKD than white people

Sources: USRDS, CDC

**ABOUT
3,900
PEOPLE**

are on the waitlist for a kidney donation in Illinois

**1,354
PEOPLE**

in Illinois received
kidney transplants
in 2025



283 PEOPLE

in Illinois received a
kidney from a living
donor in 2025

Sources: OPTN/HRSA

MORE THAN A QUARTER

of all kidneys (living and nonliving donors) procured
for transplant are unable to be transplanted.

Source: American Society of Nephrology, 2025

12 PEOPLE

in the United States die each day
while waiting for a kidney transplant

Sources: HHS/OPTN



NKFI IMPACT

AT-A-GLANCE

50 KIDNEYMOBILE

screenings held state-wide



2,046 PARTICIPANTS
screened for kidney disease,
diabetes & hypertension

56.9%
had at least one abnormal
result and were given
recommendations for
follow-up care

.....

**508 RENAL
CLINICIANS**
attended continuing
education events



89% of participants reported that the
programs provided skills they can use in
their work and improved the quality of
their care/services

**336* PATIENTS
& CAREGIVERS**
attended educational
events free of charge



*Includes 13 Kidney Campers

95% of participants reported
satisfaction with the programs

\$129K AWARDED
in research grants



1,800 WALKERS
attended the
Walk for Kidneys



NKFI.ORG IN FY 26

77K

users on
nkfi.org



102K

page views
on nkfi.org

TOP 3 PAGES:

- Find a KidneyMobile Screening
- NKFI Home Page
- Middle Market Open

62K

unique page
visitors on
nkfi.org

15.8K LISTENERS

reached with valuable information
about kidney health through
The Journey Continues podcast



7.5K PEOPLE reached through
150 community partner outreach events



7,147

FACEBOOK
followers



1,440

TWITTER
followers



3,046

INSTAGRAM
followers



1,820

YOUTUBE
subscribers



1,802

LINKEDIN
subscribers



CLOSING

THE GAP

The “On the Road to Accelerating Impact: KidneyMobile® Technology Project” was a year-long project led by Kellogg Board Fellow Robin Gairns. The project examined how the NKFI can strengthen the KidneyMobile® program and improve how we communicate its impact on communities.

KIDNEYMOBILE® TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

THE PROJECT

The KidneyMobile® brings screenings directly into communities, pairing blood pressure, blood sugar and kidney function testing with education from volunteer clinicians and connections to community supports. In FY25, it screened over 1,000 people, and 55.5% had abnormal results, against a backdrop where kidney disease is the 9th leading cause of death in the U.S.

The problem is that strong work hasn't translated into demonstrable impact. Data-sharing infrastructure gaps and HIPAA constraints have historically limited visibility into what happens after someone walks out of a screening. Patients with concerning results receive follow-up calls to make sure they received care but those calls are often unanswered.

MAP METRICS IN THE KIDNEYMOBILE® JOURNEY

The project focused on map metrics across the KidneyMobile® journey, strengthening impact measurement and reporting, and improving the partnership development process. The journey itself has four stages: select host sites, run screenings, build partnerships, and report outcomes. Diagnosing measurement maturity across those stages showed a clear pattern: screening is well established with strong, consistent metrics; host site selection has some processes but inconsistent metric use; and both building partnerships and reporting outcomes are the greatest opportunities, with limited, inconsistent measurement today.

STRENGTHEN IMPACT MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The participant survey. A post-screening follow-up survey found that 97% of participants felt welcome and respected and 79% said community screening felt more comfortable than a clinic. 82% said it made taking care of their health easier and 56% would not have gotten these tests elsewhere. 74% reported at least one behavior change — rising to 95% among those advised to follow up, and 68% had already seen a doctor or scheduled care. The program is also reaching the right people:

56% face health literacy challenges and 18% have no insurance, with respondents predominantly Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American. Most tellingly for the technology thesis, 70% said having results sent directly to a doctor would be helpful or very helpful.

Mobile Health Map. The map is a tool developed by Harvard Medical School that translates clinic-level mobile screening results to measure system-level impact. Uploading KidneyMobile® screening data allows the team to estimate broader outcomes.

Data transfer technology. Electronic referral makes follow-up completion visible to NKFI for the first time, but its value depends entirely on building partnerships and negotiating access to the right follow-up data.

EXPAND THE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The partnership workstream produced a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Partnership Playbook designed to connect screening participants with follow-up care while building sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships. FQHC partners will provide outcome updates, designate a partnership champion, and participate in screenings to support warm handoffs. In return, NKFI provides clinician education, community health worker-supported care coordination, distribution of partner materials, and connections to NKFI programs.

Using Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) public data, NKFI identified five high-priority Illinois ZIP-based areas based on community need and partnership potential. Chicago Family Health Center was selected as the first partner.

BOTTOM LINE

Technology alone doesn't solve the measurement challenge. Electronic referrals can improve visibility, but only when partnership agreements provide access to follow-up data. The outcomes that matter most—behavior change and partnership effectiveness—remain the least well measured, even though they are precisely where funders and FQHCs are focusing their attention.



LIVING

THE MISSION

For most of our employees, supporters, board members, and sponsors, this mission is more than just a cause we support - it's a personal calling to save lives and improve kidney health for all. In FY26, we celebrated one of our own, Monica Fox, receiving her second kidney transplant. Her story is so special because it underscores the importance of increased education, early intervention, and elevated awareness.

LIVING PROOF

When NKFI Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs, Monica Fox, needed a second kidney transplant, her daughter Olivia knew the decision in front of her was both deeply personal and familiar. As a transplant outreach coordinator at UI Health, Olivia has spent her career helping patients understand the transplant process. This time, the conversation about living donation was happening inside her own family.

Their story is a powerful example of what living kidney donation can make possible, not only for one recipient, but for the many Illinois families waiting for a lifesaving transplant. It also underscores the importance of education, support and practical guidance for people considering donation and for patients trying to navigate the waitlist.

After a sudden diagnosis in 2013, Monica learned that she would eventually need a kidney transplant. Her daughter, Olivia, then in her early 20s, was evaluated as a potential living donor and was found to be a match. At that point in their lives, however, Monica hesitated to accept a kidney from her daughter.

In 2016, Monica received a deceased donor kidney transplant. That precious gift lasted nine years, giving her nearly a decade of renewed health and opportunity. In 2022, however, Monica became seriously ill with COVID pneumonia. The illness took a significant toll on her health and caused her transplanted kidney function to begin declining. Over the next three years, that decline progressed, eventually leading to kidney failure and a 4-month return to dialysis. Once again, Monica found herself facing the uncertainty and emotional toll of needing another kidney transplant.

This time, Olivia brought both love and professional insight to the decision. Since joining the UI Health Kidney Transplant Program, she had worked with patients and families as they explored transplant options, learned about living donation and managed the steps required to move forward.

For patients with kidney failure, a living donor

transplant can mean a shorter wait, better timing for surgery and a kidney that may function better and longer than one from a deceased donor. Just as importantly, when one person receives a kidney from a living donor, that recipient can come off the waitlist, helping preserve deceased-donor kidneys for others still waiting.

That ripple effect is central to the work of the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, which helps patients, families, caregivers and potential donors find reliable information and take the next step. NKFI connects people to transplant education, Illinois transplant center information, living donor facts, donor registration resources and support for navigating questions about treatment, insurance, diet and emotional well-being.

For someone considering living donation, NKFI's resources explain the different paths to giving and our podcast, ***The Journey Continues***, features dozens of interviews with living donors who all echo the same sentiment: I would do it again if I could. For people waiting on a transplant, NKFI offers tools like ***The Big Ask, The Big Give*** (now known as ***Finding a Living Donor***) to make a complicated and often overwhelming process easier to understand. In FY26, we partnered with Rush Medicine to host in-person sessions in English and Spanish and with UI Health to host virtual sessions in English and Spanish in winter.

Monica's own work with NKFI gives that mission added meaning. As a kidney patient, transplant recipient and advocate, she understands the questions families ask when they are weighing treatment options or waiting for a call that could change everything.

On Oct. 20, Monica received her second kidney transplant with Olivia as her living donor. "I would do it again for my mother to give her this result," Olivia said. "To make her feel the way that she is feeling now. I mean, I would go through anything to give her that, so I'm grateful for what I've been able to do."



MEETING

THE NEED

In FY26 our efforts focused on meeting the needs of the youngest, most vulnerable, and most disenfranchised individuals affected by kidney disease. Through targeted initiatives, expanded education, and stronger community-based support, we are working to ensure that children, families, and underserved communities have equitable access to the treatment, resources, and trusted guidance they need to achieve better health outcomes.

TOUCHING PATIENT LIVES

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS PATIENT NAVIGATOR TRAINING

The Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) launched the Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Patient Navigator Training, a specialized project designed to equip Community Health Workers (CHWs) with the knowledge and tools needed to support vulnerable communities affected by kidney disease. The training focuses on helping CHWs educate community members about CKD, promote prevention and self-care, slow disease progression, and reduce emergency hospital dialysis starts through earlier awareness and intervention.

Developed in collaboration with NKFI the initiative represents a first-of-its-kind kidney disease education curriculum within the CHW training framework. By pairing clinical knowledge with community-based outreach strategies, the project strengthens the role of CHWs as trusted navigators who can help individuals understand risk factors, interpret next steps after diagnosis, and connect with appropriate care and support.

The program uses a hybrid format that combines self-paced online learning with an interactive workshop. Participants complete six digital modules through the IPHA Training Portal, covering topics such as kidney basics, CKD awareness, self-care for kidney health, disparities in kidney disease, diagnosis and treatment, and coping with diagnosis, trauma, and grief. A final live session provides an opportunity for applied learning and is required for participants to earn a certificate of completion.

Beyond the IPHA-led training, the project connects to a broader ecosystem of kidney education resources, including open-access tools from the National Kidney Foundation. These resources give CHWs additional ways to support prevention, disease management, transplant education, and patient navigation. Together, the IPHA training and related national resources create a practical pathway for building community capacity around kidney health, especially in populations that face higher barriers to early diagnosis and treatment.

LIVING WITH KIDNEY DISEASE AND TRANSPLANTATION: FAMILIES

This family-centered program provided children ages 17 and under and their families with a welcoming, supportive space to learn more about kidney health while participating in hands-on activities designed for different ages and learning styles. Through interactive stations, creative activities, breakout sessions, and family learning opportunities, participants were able to explore important topics such as medication organization, nutrition, genetics, and coping strategies in ways that felt approachable and engaging.

At the program in FY26, held at the Museum of Science and Industry, children and teens benefitted from education that was age-appropriate, activity-based, and empowering. The program helped them better understand their own health experiences, build confidence in asking questions, and participate in activities that connected learning with creativity, science, and everyday routines. For parents and caregivers, the sessions offered valuable information and practical tools to support their child's care, including opportunities to learn from knowledgeable professionals and apply that information at home.

Just as importantly, the program creates a sense of community for families navigating similar challenges. Meeting other children, teens, parents, and caregivers who understand the experience of kidney disease helped reduce feelings of isolation and encouraged families to share questions, stories, and support. By combining education with peer connection, the program strengthened both knowledge and confidence while reminding families that they are not alone.



OUR FINANCIAL

OVERVIEW

Thousands of people like you across the state have given their time, talents, and treasures all year to raise millions to fund important work led by NKFI. Our mission is now more important and critical than ever before, which is why we are so thankful for our many patrons who continue to support kidney patients.

AUDITED FINANCIALS FOR NKFI - FY26

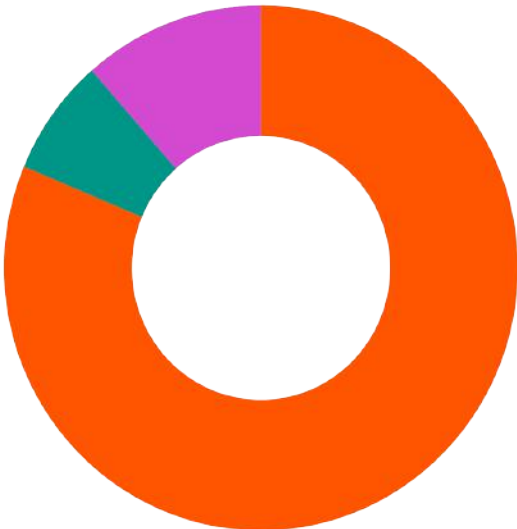
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE



15.2% Grants \$525,638
13.7% Contributions \$471,959
22.1% Program Sponsorships \$763,197
23.1% Special Events \$797,703
25.8% Other Income \$888,646*
100% Total Income \$3,447,143

*Includes net investment income of \$796,985

EXPENSES



81.3% Program Services \$2,527,534
11.4% Fundraising \$355,707
7.2% Management and General \$225,094
100% Total Expenses \$3,108,335

Assets

Cash.....	\$548,816
Investments.....	\$6,312,243
Grants and Contributions Receivable	\$402,027
Prepaid Expenses	\$169,171
Property and Equipment..	\$106,845
Other Assets.....	\$356,350

Total Assets \$7,895,452

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses.....	\$129,727
Deferred Revenue.....	\$284,759
Net Assets w/o Donor Restrictions	\$1,399,765
Net Assests w/ Donor Retrictions...	\$6,081,201

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$7,895,452

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Keenova

The Keystone Group

Novo Nordisk, Inc.

NxStage Medical, Inc.

Opko Pharmaceuticals, LLC

Organ Recovery Systems

Outset Medical

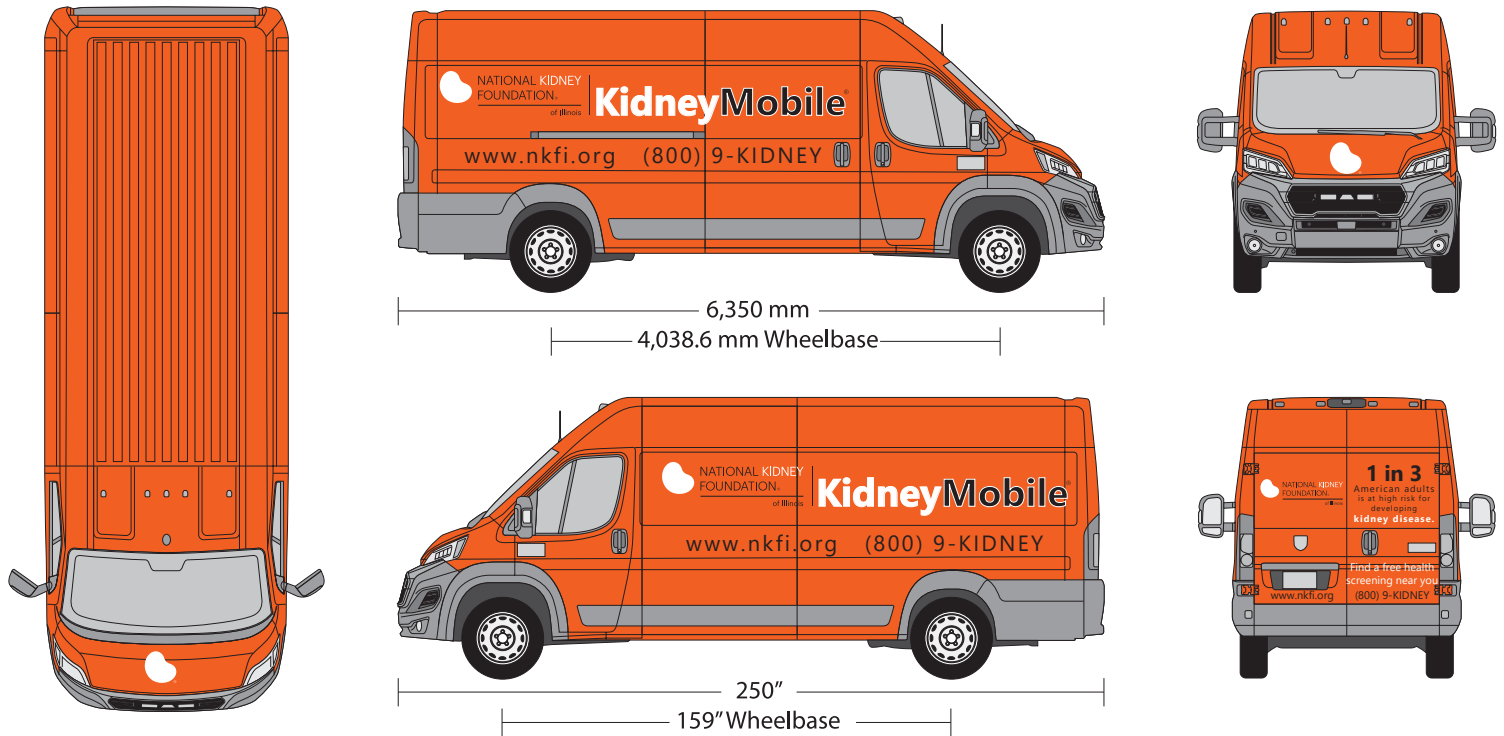
Patient Care America

Rediehs Family Foundation

S&S Automotive Group of Companies

ScPharmaceuticals

United Health Group (UHG)



LOOKING TO

THE FUTURE

In FY27, we continue to build on the momentum of FY26 with new initiatives designed to reach new audiences while deepening our support for the individuals and communities we already serve. By expanding partnerships, strengthening education and prevention resources, and exploring innovative ways to meet people where they are, we will continue advancing equitable access to kidney care for everyone in Illinois.

LOOKING AHEAD, MEETING THE NEED

A SECOND KIDNEYMOBILE®: EXPANDING THE LIFELINE

Over the years, the KidneyMobile® has screened more than 60,000 people, many of whom did not know they were at risk for kidney disease. At each stop, participants receive free testing, education, and the opportunity to review their results with trained medical professionals, giving them information they can use to take action for their health.

Rural communities, remote areas, and underserved neighborhoods across Central and Southern Illinois needed more frequent access to free kidney health services. To meet that need, NKFI set its sights on expanding the program with a second KidneyMobile®.

The 2025 Gift of Life Gala helped make that vision possible by raising critical funds to support the operations of a second KidneyMobile®. Thanks to the generosity of gala guests, sponsors, and supporters, NKFI was able to purchase a new van in spring 2026. It officially hit the road in August 2026, expanding NKFI's ability to bring prevention, early detection, and support to more Illinois families.

With two KidneyMobile®s on the road, NKFI can reach deeper into rural and remote areas, return more often to communities across Central and Southern Illinois, and expand access in neighborhoods where early detection can change lives. More screenings mean more people learning their risk, more opportunities for prevention, and more families connected to the care and resources they need.

The second KidneyMobile® represents more than another van. It is a promise to go farther, serve more people, and bring kidney health to every corner of Illinois.

BROADCASTING TO A BIGGER AUDIENCE

Since its launch in 2021, *The Journey Continues* podcast has developed a dedicated following, generating roughly 14,000 listens per year. In the spring of 2026, the podcast moved to a video format, tapping into a new audience. Each episode, available on YouTube, generates tens of thousands of views, in addition to the listens and downloads from its existing audience on audio-only podcast platforms.

Episodes now air on CanTV one Thursday evening per month. Video episodes are available on YouTube, cantv.org, and the CanTV+ app the next day. Audio episodes are available the follow Tuesday on all podcast platforms. In the first month after the transition, our episode was viewed over 39,000 times. Having the episodes on YouTube allows future viewers to find and enjoy them.

While remaining faithful to the interview style episodes listeners came to love, the video episodes also allow us to feature a deceased organ donor in the Donor Spotlight segment each month. Each episode also includes a PEE Break which allows us to highlight one portion of the NKFI mission: Prevention, Education, and Empowerment.



Check out new episodes by scanning the code.





The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois improves the health and well-being of people at risk for or affected by kidney disease through prevention, education and empowerment.

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