

KIDNEY TRANSPLANT/ DIALYSIS ASSOCIATION RENALGRAM

Fall 2016

KT/DA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the KT/DA offers two scholarships to renal patients or their family members who are attending an accredited college or school.

The application deadline is January 31, 2017.

For more information and eligibility please visit our website at www.ktda.org.

Patient Assistance Grants

KT/DA is one of the few organizations that makes direct grants to kidney dialysis patients, kidney transplants recipients and kidney donors in New England.

Any individual who has a financial need can submit an application. Their Social Worker has to verify eligibility and helps process the application. Grants are given to help pay overdue utility bills or rent, transportation to medical appointments, buy gasoline, and help purchase food.

In 2016, through the end of July, The KT/DA has distributed 75 grants to renal patients for more than \$15,000.

Fundraising

In 2016 the KT/DA has already received \$11,635 through fund raising efforts and donations. Several generous individuals made testamentary gifts through their wills and we have also received cash donations. In addition, we have received generous contributions from --

The Emblem Club of Massachusetts

The Emblem Club has been supporting the KT/DA for more than 30 years. Through their hard work and dedication, the KT/DA received a check for \$8,867.32 at their 2016 annual meeting in Marlborough. We want to especially thank Doris MacDonald who was the KT/DA Chairperson last year for all her efforts. That's Doris in the picture holding her sign.



Dinner at the 99 Restaurant in Stoneham

In June, Kristin Moccia, our Communications Chair, whose family has a long history helping support KT/DA, helped organize a gathering at the 99 Restaurant in Stoneham. The event included drawings for gift cards and for every dollar spent the 99 contributes 15% back to the KT/DA. Let us know if you are interested in hosting a dinner at the 99.

In addition -- [Westwood Dialysis](#) makes contributions each year that are designated for patients in their facility (these are in addition to the KT/DA grants).

Thoughts and contributions from KT/DA members

“Choice” by Daniel deStefano

The Chinese say -- “Not to choose is to make a choice.” I want to share a story about my choice with you.

Years ago I knew a young woman. We were both kidney patients receiving hemodialysis at the same unit. I was 27 years old and new to the renal failure game, she was a couple of years older, taller (who isn't?) and emotionally strong.

Even now, it's difficult for me to write about that sick young woman. Youth should be about good health, vitality and the future. She was unwilling to accept life as a hemodialysis patient. Weakened by illness, she longed for a healthy life filled with friends, activities, love, and time. The discipline imposed by hemodialysis was too much for her to bear and the doctors told her she was not a candidate for renal transplant.

Yet she persisted, finally finding a surgeon who would consent to place her on the transplant list. Euphoric, she told all who would listen that she had been accepted for the transplant list. “I can't keep living like this,” she happily told me, “I'd rather try and die, than live like this on hemo.” And that's precisely what happened: She tried, and died on the operating table. “Never woke up,” a nurse said.

Seeing what happened to that young woman crystalized my decision to take control and fight for my life. I would learn what I needed to know. I would not surrender willingly even one step.

Thanks to the support I receive from my wife, Robin, I have been able to live a full life. I worked full-time for four decades. Now retired, I have written and illustrated several books, and painted many pictures. I enjoy my retirement thoroughly. And I have no doubt that had I decided to surrender many years ago I would have certainly died.

Through it all I have had excellent medical care. Now I use the NxStage machine, and Robin dialyzes me at home, as we have done since the beginning. I am followed by the magnificently competent and compassionate Dr. Christopher Ying, and likewise the staff at the Wakefield Dialysis Center.

I still walk the path of my life's journey. Sometimes I am irritated by a life constrained by dialysis, but I work to dispel such feelings—and contentment does require work!

Recognition

Norm LeDeux has been an active member of the KT/DA for almost 20 years. During that time, he has been President, Vice President and Secretary. He also helps review requests for financial assistance and has represented the KT/DA at many conferences and The Emblem Club meetings.

Norm joined the KT/DA when he was diagnosed with renal disease. He spent 5 years on center based hemodialysis before receiving an organ transplant in 2003.

He earned a Master's degree in Social Worker and worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in child welfare, adoption and licensing. Norm has one son and has been with his partner Jane for 17 years.

How can you help?

- Spread the word by sharing this newsletter with friends, family and co-workers
- Volunteer your time to help us run the KT/DA or help facilitate local meetings
- Make tax deductible cash donations to help fund grants and/or the scholarship fund
- Include a donation to the KT/DA in your will or estate plan

Remember, every contribution helps a renal patient or their family. The people who receive our grants are really struggling to make ends meet.

About the Kidney Transplant Dialysis Association

The KT/DA was founded in 1964 and is an all-volunteer non-profit (501c) organization. Our members include kidney dialysis and transplant patients, kidney donors, their families and friends, and related care health professionals. With over 4,000 members across New England the **KT/DA** is dedicated to providing financial aid, information, and emotional support to chronic renal disease patients, donors (including those thinking about it) and supporters. With no salaries or rent and minimal operating expenses donations go directly to benefit kidney patients or kidney donors.

For more Information

Visit our webpage at www.ktda.org

Look for our Groupon

Find us on Facebook

Send an email to – info@KTDA.org

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