

KIDNEY TRANSPLANT/ DIALYSIS ASSOCIATION RENALGRAM

Spring 2017

KT/DA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

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

For more information, an application and eligibility requirements please visit our website at www.ktda.org.

Patient Assistance Grants

The KT/DA is one of the few organizations that makes direct financial grants to kidney dialysis patients, kidney transplant recipients and kidney donors who live in greater New England.

Individuals who have a documented financial need are encouraged to submit an application. KT/DA grants are given for many reasons including -- to help pay an overdue utility bill or rent, pay for transportation expenses to and from medical appointments, as well as to purchase food or gasoline.

The KT/DA has been helping patients since 1964. Over the past year the KT/DA has distributed more than 100 grants to help renal patients and their families.

Fundraising Activities and Donations

- A generous gift from an estate that named the KT/DA as a beneficiary. The estate asked to remain anonymous.
- A Bowl-A-Thon, to raise funds for the Scholarship in memory of Nancy Collins-Mann, was held in Peabody, MA.
- Dinner for a Cause at the 99 Restaurant.
- The Emblem Club of Massachusetts which has been supporting the KT/DA for more than 30 years. We want to especially thank Cindy Parent (in the photo) who was the Emblem Club's KT/DA Chairperson last year for all her efforts and the \$8,867.32 contribution in 2016.



How The KTDA works

Social workers are important advocates in making patients aware of the KT/DA. To request and receive financial assistance a renal patient or family member, with the assistance of a social worker, has to complete and submit an application. Without the support of social workers, the KT/DA would have a difficult time reaching applicant's and verifying their eligibility.

We recently spoke with Susan Dansker, a Social Worker at Westwood Dialysis Center in Westwood, Massachusetts. Susan attended Hunter College and earned a MSW from the Boston University School of Social Work. She was a pediatric medical social worker at Children's Hospital Boston, from 1969-82. During her final 5 years at Children's, she was the social worker for the dialysis unit and kidney transplant team. After taking a few years off she joined Westwood Dialysis Center (1988-Present)

Susan has been working with the KT/DA for many years and in our conversation had several interesting insights about her position. Susan explained how --

- She enjoyed being a Social Worker based at a dialysis clinic because it allows her to develop close long term relationships with her clients as compared to other settings where patients transition through very quickly.
- Her role has changed over the years to include more health education and helping patients manage a healthy lifestyle while on dialysis. Her job has also expanded to include helping patients find resources, such as programs to help pay for the cost of medications or treatments as well as provide access to nutrition, including meals on wheels and local food banks.
- In a time of changing health care options, social workers are an important resource who can help patients interpret and understand the potential impact of these changes on their care.

Westwood Dialysis serves 85 chronic dialysis patients and also supports a small number of patients who do peritoneal dialysis at home. Over the years, patients at the center have ranged in age from 18 to over 90. Susan is the only Social Worker and collaborates with a Dietician as well as nursing & medical staff.

Most of the Patient Assistance Grants that Susan helps patients submit to the KT/DA are for --

- Food and nutritional supplements to help improve patients diets
- Gasoline or transportation costs to and from treatment
- Paying a portion of a utility bill or other basic living expenses
- Purchasing specialized equipment, such as a slide board that is used to help amputee transfer or a tray table for patient to use bedside

Recognition



Ed Sternfeld has been a member of the KT/DA since 1988. He was President in 1993 and has held numerous other positions over the years. Ed has also been active in fund raising events and reviewing PAC requests.

Ed received a kidney transplant in 1989, after spending more than a year on hemodialysis. For part of that time he did home hemodialysis.

He is self-employed and owns a business that provides equipment to restaurants, supermarkets and specialty stores.

Ed has one son and enjoys travelling to sunny locations and taking cruises in the Caribbean.

We need your help! How can you support the KT/DA?

- 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

Find us on Facebook

Send an email to – info@KTDA.org

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