
News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tamara Ruggiero, 301.984.6657, truggiero@kidneyfund.org

American Kidney Fund Providing Disaster Relief to California Dialysis Patients

Rockville, MD, October 24 – The American Kidney Fund, the nation’s No. 1 source of direct financial assistance to kidney patients, has activated its Disaster Relief Program to provide emergency grants to help dialysis patients who have been affected by the California wildfires.

The American Kidney Fund is able to provide disaster relief block grants to dialysis centers. Social workers at those dialysis centers assess individual situations and allocate funds to those in greatest need. Dialysis patients may receive help from the American Kidney Fund for emergency expenses such as:

- Transportation to treatment
- Replacement of lost medications
- Food and shelter assistance
- Replacement of household necessities

Social workers or dialysis centers with patients in need of emergency assistance may call the American Kidney Fund’s Patient Services Department at 800.638.8299.

“Our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by this disaster, particularly those who have lost their homes, as well as the nearly 1 million people who have been displaced. And we are particularly concerned about the impact on people who depend on dialysis treatment to survive,” said LaVarne A. Burton, CEO of the American Kidney Fund. “Being forced from home can make it extremely difficult for dialysis patients to continue on their normal, scheduled treatment regime. Through our Disaster Relief Program, we are able to help with some of their most basic needs.”

One hundred percent of contributions to the American Kidney Fund’s disaster relief program are used for disaster relief. Anyone wishing to contribute may visit www.kidneyfund.org to make an online contribution. In addition, contributions are accepted via telephone at 800.638.8299. Checks may be mailed to American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 1010, Rockville, MD 20852. Please indicate in the memo line that the contribution is for disaster relief.

The American Kidney Fund’s website, www.kidneyfund.org, also contains a page of disaster relief resources for dialysis patients in Southern California.

The American Kidney Fund’s Disaster Relief Program has been providing help to dialysis patients faced with emergency situations for over a decade. Most notably, in 2005 the American Kidney Fund provided

over \$226,000 in emergency assistance to more than 5,100 Gulf Coast dialysis patients affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The American Kidney Fund is the nation's #1 source of financial assistance to kidney patients. Last year, the American Kidney Fund provided \$81.9 million in grant assistance to more than 63,500 patients nationwide, helping them to maintain their health insurance coverage and helping them to pay for treatment-related necessities that insurance would not cover.

Ninety-six cents of every dollar the American Kidney Fund spends goes directly to programs and services for kidney patients. The American Kidney Fund has been named a Gold Star Charity by Forbes Magazine, one of America's Best Charities by Reader's Digest, and has received Charity Navigator's highest four-star rating for the past six years in a row. For more information, visit www.kidneyfund.org.

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The American Kidney Fund provides direct financial assistance to kidney patients in need and education for those with and at risk for kidney disease. Last year, AKF provided \$81.9 million in grant assistance to 63,500 kidney patients. All AKF grant programs are subject to strict eligibility guidelines. AKF provides assistance to people who have exhausted every other means of aid. AKF also maintains a robust program of kidney disease education and prevention. In the past three years, AKF has provided free kidney health screenings to nearly 14,000 people in Atlanta, Chicago and Washington, D.C.—three cities with very high rates of kidney failure. The organization runs public awareness campaigns and offers a brochure series and toll-free HelpLine (866-300-2900) to promote public understanding of kidney disease.