Kidney & Urology Foundation of America (KUFA) is a major voluntary nonprofit health organization. It is our mission to develop and support programs that improve the lives of those suffering from kidney and urologic diseases and those who wait for organ or tissue transplants. KUFA addresses the concerns of the patient and family, identifies those at risk, advocates expanding the availability of organs for transplantation, and acknowledges the role of the nephrology, urology and transplant professional in the fight to save and improve lives.

Our goal at Kidney & Urology Foundation of America is to mitigate the exhaustive human toll on patients and their families: to help improve individual quality of life and to support better health outcomes for pediatric and adult patients.

Originally founded in 1953 as the Nephrosis Foundation, the foundation was committed to raising money for medical researchers seeking a cure for pediatric kidney disease. Over many decades and iterations, KUFA has evolved into a pre-eminent health care organization for the renal, urology, and transplant communities. We stand proud of our historic accomplishments:

- Established the first full dialysis unit in the United States.
- Successfully lobbied the Federal government to provide Medicaid funding for dialysis and transplantation.
- Secured placement of the universal donor card on the back of all drivers’ licenses.
- Established the first Pediatric Registry in the United States, a database of clinical information on children with renal and urologic diseases.

Today, with our dedicated Council on Pediatric Nephrology; Medical Advisory Board, Urology Board and Urology Board, committed staff, and volunteers, we focus on the care and support of the patient, the concerns of those at risk, education for the community and medical professionals, methods of prevention, and improved treatment options in our mission to strive to ensure excellence in patient care.

Possessing a large database and institutional knowledge, we are a national (at times international) resource for people affected by diseases and conditions including pediatric kidney disease, urinary tract infections, diabetic nephropathy, kidney stones, enlarged prostate, nephritis, polycystic kidney disease, urinary incontinence, and prostate cancer.
Larger institutions and other health-related non-profits refer hundreds of patients to KUFA on an annual basis because KUFA has had a long tradition of working personally with patients and families to guide them through the hard times.

- We offer up-to-date medical information, physician referrals, literature, an online support group at Inspire.com
- Host kidney and organ transplant awareness events for patients and at-risk populations.
- Appreciating the challenges that physicians, nurses, social workers and other medical professionals face to stay current on the latest developments in science, medicine, technology, policy and health, we support their continuing education. We present significant conferences and workshops in a variety of focus areas and disciplines - such as pediatrics, pathology, cardiology, transplantation, genetics, neonatology, emergency medicine, and rare diseases. Conference planning is driven by prominent, recognized medical professionals from our pediatric, nephrology and urology medical boards and guest faculty includes nationally, if not internationally, recognized leaders from major medical institutions.
- KUFA also partners with clinicians and researchers at major medical institutions around the country, supporting their efforts to advance understanding of the diseases.

KUFA offers the renal and transplant populations opportunities to improve their lives through a variety of resources:

- Scholarships and achievement awards for college students with health concerns and financial need; older returning students who deferred their higher education due to treatment of illnesses; younger students who strive to succeed at school despite dealing with illness; and for caregivers who assume many burdens while matriculating.
- Summer camperships for pediatric dialysis and transplant patients
- Patient emergency grants

Some little known facts:

- Almost 10,000 children and adolescents in the U.S. are living with End-Stage Renal Disease.
- Hospitalization rates are 12 times higher for children with Chronic Kidney Disease than for all children.
• Over 5,700 children (younger than 18-years-old) in the U.S. live with End Stage Renal Disease in 2016 and they are 30 times more likely to die prematurely than healthy children.

• There are approximately 100,000 individuals in the U.S. waiting for a lifesaving kidney transplant (and almost 2,000 more who wait for a kidney and pancreas transplant).

• And every ten minutes, someone is added to the national transplant waiting list. In average 18 patients die every day while waiting for a transplant.

*Good news:* There were more than **36,500 transplants** performed in 2018 – the 6th consecutive record breaking year. This included 21,167 kidney transplants.

Data sourced from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Surveillance System; 2018 United States Renal Data System Annual Data Report on Epidemiology of Kidney Disease in the United States; National Institutes of Health; National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; and the New England Journal of Medicine.

This incredible development is possible only because of donors and their families who make the generous decision to share life through donation!

“The overall burden of kidney failure in the United States is among the highest in the world, with many areas and specific populations being disproportionately affected,” says Rajiv Saran, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan and Director of the USRDS Coordinating Center from 2014-2019. “Despite the beginning of an early decline in the high rate of kidney failure, there is no room for complacency – vigorous, multi-sectoral efforts and greater attention to prevention of kidney disease will be vital to the continuation and even acceleration of this early success.”

In summary, KUFA does its part for patients and their families when they have nowhere else to turn and for caregivers, health and service providers who depend on our unique services. We continue to provide the services so desperately needed in our communities.