



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®

of Michigan

Welcome to the Fall 2022 edition of the “Kidney Chronicle” – A look inside the happenings of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

The Morris Hood III Initiative

With more than one million people in Michigan having chronic kidney disease (CKD), the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is dedicated to transforming kidney care and CKD disease prevention across the state, particularly for those who were affected by or are at risk for COVID-19. For this effort, Michigan has allotted a portion of state funding from the federal American Rescue Plan to the NKFM for the fight against kidney disease.

The Morris Hood III Chronic Kidney Disease and COVID-19 Complications Prevention initiative is based on the fact that COVID-19 complications and chronic kidney disease (CKD) are closely connected. The pandemic highlighted the challenges faced by populations who ranked high on the CDC’s social vulnerability index. Evidence shows that kidney disease and its precursors—obesity, diabetes and hypertension, which significantly affect older adults—are known risk factors for serious COVID-19 complications up to and including death.

The NKFM will work with partners from healthcare and community-based organizations to meet the multi-year initiative’s goals, which started in June 2022 and will run through September 2024.

Learn more [here](#).

Annual Kidney Ball a Success!



Kidney Ball
National Kidney Foundation of Michigan



More than **400**
guests attended



Volunteers
assisted
at the event



Sponsors
supported the
event



More than
\$411,000
was raised at the
2022 Kidney Ball

#KidneyBallDetroit

November 19, 2022

At our November 19th Kidney Ball fundraiser, the NKFM raised over \$412,000 through a silent auction, donations, and an exciting live auction.

At the event, the NKFM Kidney Crusader Award was presented to John Magee, MD, the University of Michigan Jeremiah and Claire Turcotte Professor of Transplantation Surgery, Section Head of Transplant Surgery, and Pediatric Abdominal Transplantation Director. "I have worked with many health care organizations and the NKFM is one of the most effective," stated Dr. Magee after receiving the award.



Dr. John Magee



Scott LaRiche

Also at the event, the NKFM Kidney Ball Committee surprised local business executive Scott LaRiche with the Cindy Shannon Award for his leadership and outstanding service to the nonprofit organization.

A special award was presented during our Kids Program. In June 2020, a Wixom neighborhood rallied around AJ Kashenider, who was born with kidney failure and needed a kidney transplant.

Neighbor Kyle Munro was a match and, on November 18, 2021, he donated his kidney to 17 month old AJ, who had been on dialysis from birth.

AJ's father, Alex Kashenider, is a Major with the Michigan Army National Guard (MIARNG). He nominated Kyle for the Michigan Army National Guard Legion of Merit Award. This is an award presented to military or civilian personnel that carry out noteworthy service or achievements on behalf of or to advance the state of Michigan.

Alex said he nominated Kyle because he performed an act of selfless service that lifted a substantial burden off his family. His nomination states that Kyle's decision to donate an organ is a display of true compassion, selflessness, and bravery. His actions bring great credit upon himself, his family, his community, and the Michigan Army National Guard.



Congratulations Dr. Magee, Scott, and Kyle!

Kyle Munro

Zaman and NKFM reveal new costume for Regie of Regie's Rainbow Adventure®

Regie's Rainbow Adventure® is NKFM's beloved early childhood health-based curriculum. It is designed specifically for teachers to implement in the classroom with activities that reinforce oral health, physical health, nutrition and more. Students follow Regie, the broccoli superhero, to different islands based on the colors of the rainbow. He meets new fruit and vegetable friends and earns his power stripes by eating healthy and being physically active.



Over the past six months, the NKFM and Zaman International, located in Inkster, have collaborated to update the colorful outfit for Regie. The students of Zaman's Workforce Development program, a program that provides students with apprenticeships and employment opportunities in sewing and culinary arts, handmade every piece of the outfit.



"It was such a privilege to partner with Zaman and share this journey of bringing Regie to life," states NKFM program specialist Shaun Taft, who often plays Regie in public and was behind the initial push for Regie's new outfit. "Zaman's students connected to the excitement about this project and created Regie's costume with love." To see the full progress of Regie's new costume, visit NKFM.org/regiecostume.

If you are interested in bringing Regie's Rainbow Adventure® to a classroom near you, or if you are interested in supporting the program, please visit Regierainbow.org.

2023 Michigan Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo



Registration is open for the 2023 Michigan Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo! Join us on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Each walker over the age of 12 is slated to raise at least \$50 in order to offset the cost of admission ticket, entertainment, parking, etc. Walkers age 3-12 are asked to raise \$15. Walkers 2 and under are free.

Our hope is that each walker will play a significant role in helping us reach our fundraising goal of \$367,000. If each walker raised an average of \$100, we would surpass our goal, and be able to provide even more programs and services to the people of Michigan living with chronic kidney disease. The Michigan Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo provides proceeds directly to our programs and services such as Kid's Camp, Emergency Fund, EnhanceFitness, and many more. Register and begin fundraising today at www.kidneywalk.org/detroitzoo.

A Matter of Balance Program

Taylor resident Mike Deradourian was looking to reclaim the balance he once had while teaching ballroom dancing. He wanted to start some type of “gym” program and started with the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan’s “A Matter of Balance” (MOB) in-person class at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Taylor. Preferring the in-person to the virtual class since he is not fond of computers, Mike says he learned a lot and is ready to go again.

Mike is in his early 90s and lives alone. He has fallen at home several times, once falling in one room and crawling into another room before he could get up. After his most recent fall, he went by ambulance to the hospital. He spent a week there and then 2 months going to physical therapy.

He felt he needed to develop more strength in his legs and work on his balance. He noticed improvement in the class. “I used to get tired when I walked and start wobbling. Now I can walk better and wobble less,” Mike states. He will be taking future MOB classes. For more information on MOB, visit <https://nkfm.org/program-article/a-matter-of-balance/>.



Michigan's Health and Well-Being Assistance Programs

- Health Care Coverage
 - Healthy Michigan Plan
 - Medicaid
 - MICHild
- Food Assistance
- Cash Assistance
- Child Care
- Emergency Services

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