

American Kidney Fund Providing Hurricane Relief

Contributions Urgently Needed for Dialysis Patients

Rockville, MD, Sept. 1 - The American Kidney Fund's Disaster Relief Program is providing emergency grants to help dialysis patients who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Anyone wishing to contribute to disaster relief for dialysis patients may visit <http://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.

"We are urgently seeking contributions to help the dialysis patients who are in the midst of this unprecedented disaster," said Don Roy, Interim Executive Director of the American Kidney Fund.

Patients with kidney failure must undergo lifesaving dialysis several times a week to remove the toxins from their blood. However, many dialysis clinics are unable to treat patients due to lack of electricity, running water and damage from winds and flooding. Many patients have been displaced from their homes and many are receiving dialysis at outlying centers.

The Disaster Relief Program provides block grants to dialysis centers, where social workers assess individual situations and allocate funds to those in greatest need. 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.

The Disaster Relief Program provides emergency funds for dialysis patient necessities, such as:

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

In addition, Genzyme has donated Renagel to the American Kidney Fund. This medication, which helps dialysis patients control the phosphorus levels in their blood, will be distributed to kidney patients who lost their medications in the disaster.

The American Kidney Fund has delivered support to patients affected by previous catastrophic events. The Fund provided grants to dialysis centers in response to major hurricanes; the September 11 attack on the Twin Towers; Mississippi River flooding in the Midwest; and the Northridge (Calif.) earthquake, among others.

The American Kidney Fund is the nation's #1 source of financial assistance to needy kidney patients.

Ninety-five 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 four years in a row.

The American Kidney Fund is our nation's leading source of direct financial assistance to kidney patients. The Fund has been named a Gold Star Charity by Forbes Magazine, one of America's Best Charities by Reader's Digest, and has earned top ratings from Charity Navigator and the American Institute of Philanthropy