

Kidneys for Communities

Tackling the nation's kidney donation shortage by tapping into the power of community

Founded on the idea that communities inherently take care of each other, [Kidneys for Communities](#), a nonprofit, offers the first-ever national community-directed donation program to increase the pool of living kidney donors in the United States.

This new model addresses the significant shortage of kidney donations in the U.S., where more than 100,000 people are in immediate need of a kidney transplant, according to the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

Below are more details about how Kidneys for Communities offers one of the transplant industry's most innovative approaches to end the national kidney shortage.

What Is Community-Directed Donation?

- The vast majority, approximately 96%, of Americans who receive kidneys either know or are associated with the donor through their community network. The community-directed donation model increases living kidney donations by allowing potential donors who belong to membership-based associations to direct their lifesaving donation to someone — even a stranger — based on a community they want to support.

How Kidneys for Communities Works With Member Communities

- Kidneys for Communities works with the communities of individuals in need of a kidney transplant by providing the tools to educate community members and generate awareness about the impact of kidney disease and the importance of living kidney donation. Creating a connective dialogue among community members, Kidneys for Communities links up prospective living kidney donors and those in need of a kidney. Following is a snapshot of the communities the organization is working with:
 - Through Kidneys for Communities' [Kidneys for First Responders initiative](#), more people who want to donate to police officers and other first responders across the country now have a clear pathway to help save the life of someone who is battling end-stage kidney disease. Working with first responder organizations nationwide, Kidneys for Communities recently teamed up with the Police Benevolent Association of the City of New York to help its first kidney transplant recipient, New York City Police Officer Melissa Quinones.
 - Reaching the country's farming and ranching communities, [Kidneys for Communities is working with Mid-States Distributing](#), a consortium of farm, ranch and home retail companies with hundreds of locations across the U.S., to empower its members' 30,000+ associates to support living kidney donation and help save lives.

How Kidneys for Communities Works With Donors

- Kidneys for Communities offers a comprehensive support and benefits package to prospective donors. This includes personalized guidance from the industry's first-of-its-kind Living Donor Connections team, whose members accompany potential donors throughout their kidney donation journey. Benefits for community-directed donors include a convenient at-home donor assessment kit, life and disability insurance and coverage for all out-of-pocket donation costs, a pledge for a future kidney and remote donation, among other benefits.

How Kidneys for Communities Works With Recipients

- Kidneys for Communities helps those in search of a kidney reach deep into their community networks and ask for help.
- Through its award-winning best-in-class online platform, Kidneys for Communities helps those who seek a kidney donor by providing them with resources, best practices and donor campaign support to find a kidney donor within their community networks.

How Paired Donation Works

- Through Kidneys for Communities, a person can donate their kidney on a community member's behalf; the member in need is then entered into a pool, where they're matched with a viable donor.
- This donation has an exponential impact by creating a chain that allows for at least two people in need to receive a kidney: a member of the intended community and another recipient in need. You can learn more about [paired donation here](#). A single living kidney donation can start a chain of donations that saves many more lives, within and outside the community.
- Paired donation is based in part on the contributions of Nobel Prize winner and Stanford economist Alvin Roth, PhD, to algorithms that help match patient-donor pairs to one another, so that each patient receives a transplant of a well-matched kidney.

Who Started Kidneys for Communities?

- Kidneys in Common is a nonprofit started by leaders in the field of renal transplantation and patient/donor advocacy who established the Kidneys for Communities program within the organization to tackle the living kidney donor shortage. Their experience in, passion for and perseverance in increasing living kidney donations led to the creation of Kidneys for Communities.

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