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The Kent clinic team celebrates receiving a special tribute from a dialysis patient's family member. Learn more in the story below.

NEED TO KNOW

March celebrations



March is National Kidney Month.

#KIDNEYEQUITYFORALL

March is National Kidney Month, and next Thursday (March 13) is World Kidney Day. This year's focus is on early detection of CKD and the importance of proactive kidney health checks. To mark the occasion, we're sharing a powerful video about one of our patients, Randy Yim, and his efforts to raise awareness about kidney disease through social media — watch it [here](#).

March is also a time to celebrate our incredible care teams! It's Social Worker Month, with this year's theme, "Compassion + Action," recognizing the vital role social workers play in patient care and in helping address societal challenges like mental health, substance use, and inequality. Stay tuned for the next issue of Staff Update, where we'll share a story that drives home the incredible impact social workers have on our patients.

And on March 12, we celebrate Registered Dietitian Day! Be sure to give a shoutout to our wonderful dietitians (pictured below after their recent team meeting) and check out some of their recommended recipes on our [website](#).



Shout out to our amazing dietitians, shown here after a recent team meeting.

Reminder: new AOC phone number is now live

As of March 5, if you need to call the Administrator On Call (AOC) you will use a new phone number – **206-901-8733**. This new number will go directly to a phone monitored by the AOC.

For more information, see the updated AOC policy available on [PolicyStat](#).

Update on patient tote bags

Reminder for staff: Patients no longer need to pay for an NKC tote bag. If a patient requests one, you can order it through ENVI under the NKC standards template. Tote bags will be expensed directly to your clinics, and each clinic can manage how they are distributed to patients. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chris Matala.

NKC Anniversaries

NKC Anniversaries Feb. 22-March 7

29 YEARS

Tammy Heck

25 YEARS

Kenneth Cheung

24 YEARS

Melody Buchholz

22 YEARS

Rosalinda Barbeau

19 YEARS

Yohannes Amenu

18 YEARS

Sherry Afante

12 YEARS

LaShawn Scherting

11 YEARS

Maire Knott

9 YEARS

Marlene Jaramillo
Jeremy Perkins

8 YEARS

Lailani Pasag
Victoria Reitan

7 YEARS

Jaren Nadong
Nicole Ramos
Lan Trinh

5 YEARS

Carolyne Ndirangu
Feraida Cunanan

3 YEARS

Rekik Yimam
Dean Pasia
Siranee Kanai
Jocelyn Canos
Christy Bien

2 YEARS

Leovardo Ramos
Gabino Soriano
Mary Anne Tusil
Xamantha Lee

1 YEAR

James Terrado
Ashlie Rodrigo
Harlan Fanuiel II
Angela Fabia

1 YEAR

Arianne Balagot
Daniel Wambugu
James Chau-Nguyen

NICE TO KNOW

Highlighting our Grateful Patient Program: Family member gives loving tribute to her late husband

The wife of a former patient, who had been with us since 2020 and passed away in late 2024, recently showed her appreciation with a special gift. She gave handwritten cards and cookies to 14 members of the Kent care team to thank them for the care her husband received, and she gave a generous tribute gift to Northwest Kidney Centers as well. She expressed how truly grateful she was for the compassionate care her husband experienced during his dialysis treatments, and the comfort it brought her during this difficult time.

Thank you to the Kent team for your unwavering commitment to providing such exemplary care! If you have any questions about tribute or grateful patient gifts, or would like to help a patient connect with us, please reach out to Giving@nwkidney.org.



Longtime NKC employee retires

Rod Smith retired in November after working at Northwest Kidney Centers for over 36 years, and officially celebrated the milestone late last month. He began his career in the Materials Management department, and after 15 years moved into a role in the Hospital Services department. During his last 8 years at NKC, Rod was a security officer based out of Seattle Kidney Center. He always made a point of talking with patients who were waiting for rides and tried to bring a smile to them if he saw they were having a rough day. We'll miss his caring nature and smile, and we wish him the best in his retirement.

New business card portal available

The portal to order business cards has been updated. It now includes new location options, and a new interface for easier ordering. Instructions on how to access the portal are available on [K-Net](#).

Former dialysis patient and NKC Volunteer of the Year passes away

Frank Jones, a former NKC Volunteer of the Year and longtime dialysis patient, passed away on Feb. 12 at the age of 67. After starting dialysis at Scribner, he became the very first patient at our Lake City clinic. A professional gardener for over 35 years, Frank generously donated his time and

materials to care for the clinic's grounds, dedicating hundreds of hours each year. His contributions left a lasting mark on Lake City, and he will be deeply missed.



Nutrition and Fitness corner

March is National Nutrition Month and this year's theme is "Food that Connects Us"! Food is a connecting factor for many of us. Food connects us to our cultures, our families, and our friends. Sharing a meal is an opportunity to learn about its preparation, who made it and where the ingredients were sourced. What's more, health, memories, traditions, seasons and access can all impact our relationship with food. Connecting with and through food also can be kidney friendly. Below are some ways we can all connect through food:

- When purchasing food from a store, use a grocery list and pay attention to sales. When food is less processed, it's often more affordable. Also, buying foods in season, shopping locally, and enjoying more plant-based foods help benefit the planet and also keep food costs down.
- Learn about resources in your community that offer access to healthy foods, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women Infants and Children (WIC), and food banks.
- Get expert advice: Good nutrition impacts today's fuel levels and tomorrow's disease burden. Ask your nearest Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) about great ways to connect with food!
- Eat a variety of foods: proteins, grains, fruits and vegetables together provide nutritious fuel for your body. Foods differ in the nutrients they provide, so choose a variety of forms, such as fresh, frozen, canned, and dried.
- Make tasty foods at home: Try new flavors from around the world to spice up your food experience. Learning cooking and meal preparation skills can improve healthy eating.

You can view all past issues on K-Net [here](#).

Did you enjoy this issue of Staff Update?

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