

ALLIANCE FOR PAIRED KIDNEY DONATION

Passion. Leadership. Innovation.

In 2024, the Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation team worked to facilitate a record number of kidney transplants—the most since our founding nearly twenty years ago. Whether it's a two-way swap or a paired donation chain that saves many lives, every life saved is a triumph which we celebrate.



When Jenna Kovacic met Raleigh, NC musician Jason Adamo and learned of his need for a healthy kidney, she was motivated to step forward and offer to be his donor. She

was disappointed to discover she was not a match for Jason, but soon learned there was a way to donate her kidney and save not only Jason's life, but two others through Paired Kidney Donation. By working with APKD and Duke Health, Jenna was matched with Bo in Colorado. Bo's donor matched Morten Birktoft, and Morten's donor, Pieter Wichmann, was matched with Jason. In August 2023, Morten and Pieter traveled from Denmark to UofM Health where their surgeries took place. Jenna says that donating her kidney was one of the most rewarding things she has ever done. *"I wish I had more kidneys because I would do it a hundred times if I could. It only made my life better,"* said Jenna. She found it especially rewarding to meet everyone in the paired exchange face-to-face in November 2024, and says she has gained lifelong friends in Morten, and Pieter, Bo, Jason, and his wife Lisa. Lisa introduced Jenna to her fiancé, and Jenna jokes, "I traded a kidney for a husband." As a sweet addendum to this story, Jason will be officiating Jenna's wedding this spring.

Jason has been busy writing and performing music while making the most of each moment with his wife and two children. "I'm so grateful for this new lease on life," he says, "a chance to see my daughters grow up and spend many more years with my partner in crime, Lisa."

Each transplant facilitated by APKD represents a mother, father, brother, sister, friend who is no longer dependent on dialysis and is given a second chance at life. But every transplant means even more than the restoration of one life—it symbolizes reunited families, the courage of selfless kidney donors, and the hope given to patients facing uncertain futures.

As a 501c3 non profit, every dollar counts, and each financial gift has a direct impact on kidney patients and

generosity inspires generosity

Jenna's life-saving generosity inspired her future mother-in-law to save lives through a financial gift to APKD.

kidney donors. The most visible example is our DonorProtect® Benefits Program, which supports kidney donors and their families, relieving any financial strain associated with donation. Since its inception, our DonorProtect® has provided more than \$1M to support the lost wages, travel expenses, and the cost of dependent care for APKD kidney donors during their post-donation recovery. "2024 was a great year for helping donors through the reimbursement process! It's truly such an honor to help them during a stressful time. It's incredible to hear their

Making an impact

Key Technological Advancements in 2024

Improved Data and Analysis Tools:

- LKDPI & KDPI calculator
- Eplet registration inclusions
- Streamlined Workflow and Communication

Enhanced Matching Capabilities:

- Internal explorer
- Auto-bridging
- Custom scorecards
- MFI Tolerances
- New unacceptable/MFI import options
- Matching exclusions
- Split-rejoin registration capability
- Real-time chat on offers



Paired Pals: APKD kidney donor and DPP beneficiary Kirk Cox (far right), along with his recipient, Chip, Kirk's nephew Brian, and his donor Brady.

stories, learn why they're giving this amazing gift, and be a small part of their journey." says Elizabeth Sherrill, DonorProtect® Benefits Coordinator.

But there are many other ways APKD puts philanthropic dollars to work. Our commitment to innovation extends beyond just transplantation: APKD's vision for the coming year is to serve 25% of the world's population by 2025—and we are well on our way serving patients in 15 countries. Our proprietary matching software, one of our core tools in achieving our goals, underwent significant enhancements in 2024. Our dedicated tech team continuously refines and optimizes the platform, ensuring secure and efficient kidney matches for patients in need. This year's upgrades focused on improved functionality, enhanced security, and streamlined processes for our transplant partners.

\$1.2M

DonorProtect benefits given to APKD kidney donors.

DonorProtect® per donor Benefits

\$4,000

73%

Increase in number of kidney transplants through APKD in the last year.

As APKD's network grows, so does our ability to broaden access to kidney exchange from coast to coast. Our team is constantly working to expand our reach through bringing more transplant centers into our network. "It is so exciting to bring on new partners in order to

provide more living donor transplants for more patients," says Betty Crandall, APKD Director for Center Administrative Relationships. "It is also very satisfying to be able to offer transplant hospitals a value proposition: excellent clinical service and a very competitive cost."

Connections

APKD helps facilitate more than kidney transplants: It was our privilege in 2024 to arrange for pairs to meet in person and via Zoom. Donors and recipients often form lasting bonds, keeping in touch across the miles and through the years.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jason Adamo, Morten Birktoft, Pieter Wichmann, Christopher Graf, Jenna Kovacic, and Bo

"It was an amazing weekend."

—Jason Adamo, who met everyone in his donation chain for the first time in November 2024

Our partnership with MedSleuth and the addition of two transplant coordinators has helped APKD experience exponential growth over the last two years. External transplants increased by 24 percent, while internal transplants surged by 336 percent. As we continue to build on this strong foundation, we expect to facilitate 500

transplants within the next 12-18 months. "Our primary focus is expanding our network and ensuring customer satisfaction. We want to personalize the paired exchange experience while maintaining standards of efficiency and excellence," says APKD Lead Transplant Coordinator Krista Sweeney.



While 2024 was an extraordinary year, there's so much more to do. We have set bold initiatives for 2025:

- Expand the Military Share Program to provide life-saving transplants for more of our nation's heroes.
- Continue to provide financial support for living donors during their post-donation recovery.
- Launch life insurance for living donors, offering peace of mind to those who give so selflessly.
- Broaden global access to kidney exchange programs, saving lives in underserved regions.
- Expand our Health to Hope program for kidney patients.

But we can only achieve these bold initiatives your help.

A note from our founder



Leading Innovation: APKD at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

In 2024, your support enabled APKD's leading role in developing innovative transplant solutions. We've now completed 12 Military-Share Deceased Donor-initiated chains in partnership with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the US Military. This has allowed us to multiply the gift of one deceased donor kidney: one such kidney helps two or more people by starting a chain that ends with an active duty member of the US armed forces. We continue to help overcome financial barriers to transplantation, increasing access to living donor kidneys. To date, the APKD has invested more than \$4M to build the software the connects a Nobel Prize-winning algorithm to serve patients in 15 countries around the world. In 2024, we amplified our impact and became a leading provider of KPD services in the Middle East. We also expanded in India and our software put together the first 3-way kidney exchange ever performed in Brazil. Our Global Kidney Exchange program (in partnership with the Niels Due Jensen Foundation) made Pieter and Morten's transplant possible (see p.1). **Your generosity has been crucial to our success.**

Mike Rees

Dr. Michael Rees,
APKD Founder and CEO



YOU CAN

make an impact



“Every dollar you give ensures we can do more—for patients awaiting a kidney, for the heroes who step forward to donate, and for the families who find solace in the life-saving gift of a loved one.” –APKD Chief Operating Officer, Susan Rees

THE JOURNEY OF YOUR GIFT

You give a tax-deductible
\$200 donation to APKD

APKD puts dollars to work
thru services & technology

Kidney patients and their
families receive support

More kidneys are
transplanted, lives saved.

You don't have to be a kidney donor to save the life of a person in need of a transplant. Financial donations from people like you empower APKD to continue our vital work and accomplish our mission of finding a living donor kidney for every patient who needs one. Together we are saving lives, one kidney at a time. Your compassion brings light to families in their darkest hours and transforms sorrow into hope.

Thank you for your continued support!

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By Mail: 3245 Levis Commons Blvd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551 419.740.5249



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3245 Levis Commons Blvd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551
419-740-5249

