

APKD impact ²⁰²⁵

2025 was a year of growth and exciting new developments

After nineteen years, 2025 marked Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation's most successful year yet—providing 450 kidney exchange transplants worldwide. Every transplant we facilitate represents more than one life saved; each transplant means a family restored, more time with loved ones and friends, more dreams fulfilled, more memories made. Since APKD's founding, we have been leaders in paired donation. But what about those who do not have a willing donor? In September of 2025 we launched an innovative new program designed to support those



Dr. Hilary Baude,
Director of Living Donor Services

Wish upon a donor

ALLIANCE FOR PAIRED KIDNEY DONATION

seeking a kidney donor. This program is called Wish Upon A Donor, and is the brainchild of our new Director of Living Donor Services, Dr. Hilary Baude.

Hilary gave her kidney to a stranger in 2021 and soon became passionate about donation. Since then, she has completed 13 marathons and three IronMan races with the purpose of dispelling myths about the physical limitations of living donors.

Hilary became aware of patients in need of kidney transplant struggling to share their story. Asking for a kidney donation is no small request, and many in need feel overwhelmed and unsure of how or where to find a willing donor. While numerous tools are available to create online media, many require users to be proficient in technology. After joining the APKD team in 2025, Hilary created Wish Upon A Donor (WUAD) to create resources for those needing a kidney, but without a donor. "I became determined to find a way to honor patients' unique stories and increase their chances of finding a living donor," says Hilary.

Through WUAD, patients and their families can easily create a video about their child through a user-friendly online template. In addition to hosting these stories on our website and social media, APKD will then create a car magnet and postcards with a QR code for families to share with friends, neighbors, and community.

"Our experience with the Wish Upon A Donor registration was very smooth and straightforward, and we truly appreciate how easy you've made everything during what can be a challenging time," says Radwa, mother of Saleem, a ten-year-old enrolled in WUAD.

"We're thankful for the positive impact you're making for families like ours."



I need a lifesaving transplant!
you can help me share my story

My name is Paisley and I'm 2 years old.

I have so many wishes for my future, but I need a kidney transplant. My best hope is to find a living donor. We don't have to be a match with paired kidney donation! Can you help? To learn more visit [paireddonation.org](https://www.paireddonation.org)

Wish upon a donor
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Paisley, our first Wish Upon A Donor participant.

What began as a pilot program for two pediatric transplant centers has grown to include adult patients as well. Since the program launch in September, we have received a tremendous outpouring of community interest in kidney donation through donor registration form completion. Notably, five individuals whose intended recipient chose to continue as nondirected donors — reflecting the power of mentorship, education, and personal connection.

The completed interest forms include four new nondirected donors, and our APKD donor mentors are working with these potential donors. Donor interest has been boosted by our ad campaign through social media, and our most recent potential donors have indicated they learned of WUAD through Instagram and Facebook.

"This demonstrates that our program does more than filter inquiries — it cultivates sustained donor commitment and increases the likelihood of continued participation in living donation pathways," Hilary says.

Mentorship, education, and personal connection.



Kidney recipient Jonathan (Northwestern)

Building Bridges

With the generosity of a non-directed kidney donor, The University of Kansas Health System built a donation chain that will help over a dozen kidney recipients. Ten out of 13 have already taken place, and the last two are scheduled to be completed later this spring. Two recipients were six-year-olds, both of whom were sensitized, and one of whom was highly sensitized. These transplants took place in ten transplant centers across nine states. **“What I’m most proud of in 2025 is our growth and our relationships. We’re building transplant partners all over the country,”** says Krista Sweeney, APKD Director of Transplant Services.

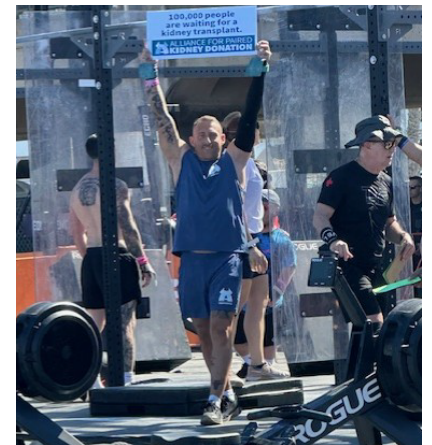
DDIC (deceased donor initiated chains) has been an integral part of that growth. Military shares from 12 donor heroes have resulted in 33 transplants. Two of these chains are still in the process of being built, and may continue to grow—meaning even more lives can be saved from the original 12 hero gifts.



Natalie Simmons, Andrés Falco, and Susan Rees

Wodapalooza

APKD had the opportunity to serve as a vendor at the Wodapalooza CrossFit competition in Southern California, where we connected with thousands of attendees through swag bags and meaningful conversations about paired kidney donation. We also proudly sponsored a kidney transplant recipient competing in the CrossFit Games, demonstrating that life after transplant can be active, strong, and full of possibility.



Kidney recipient Andrés Falco represents APKD at Wodapalooza CrossFit Games

Global Growth

After 10 years of promoting Paired Exchange in India, APKD is finally seeing exponential growth. The APKD India team has established a network of more than 65 transplant centers across the country to expand access to “Swap Transplants.” APKD has helped India become one of the top five countries in the world for providing kidney exchange transplants. In 2025, we helped the IKDRC center deliver 90 kidney exchange transplants, one of the highest single-center volumes in the world. Overall in India, we transplanted 130 patients.

In November, APKD recognized the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) and five outstanding centers for their leadership and collaboration—saving lives and advancing the Indian Government’s “One Nation–One Swap” program.

We have established three intercity exchange programs in three states, and the first statewide program in Karnataka involving 30 transplant centers.

In Saudi Arabia, Atul Agnihotri helped secure a contract with the Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation (SCOT). Working across multiple countries in the Gulf region, we transplanted 61 patients.

Across the globe in Brazil, we are making progress in changing the law to allow kidney exchange and have established a kidney exchange clinical research program to demonstrate what is possible.



Engagement

APKD services offer transplant centers progressive value: excellent clinical service at a very competitive cost. “It is so exciting to have helped add new partners to provide more living donor transplants for more patients,” says APKD Director for Center Administrative

Relationships Betty Crandall. “These new partners are generating lots of enthusiasm and helping APKD to achieve our goals.”

Through our DonorProtect® Benefits, APKD continues to provide financial assistance to living donors to help cover

“With DPP we are able to support donors financially and make the process just a little smoother.”

–DPP coordinator Elizabeth Sherrill

their lost wages, travel, and lodging—removing financial barriers so a generous stranger can step forward and give the gift of life. In 2025 DPP expanded to offer additional support for APKD donors such as child and pet care reimbursement. We also collaborated with NLDAC (National Living Donor Assistance Center) to ensure that all wages and travel costs were covered for our donors.

2025 by the numbers

\$1.5 M in DonorProtect Benefits

450 kidney transplants

12 DDIC Donor Heroes

50% increase in Transplant Center participation

Palo Alto Summit, Stanford University

APKD was proud to host the **Palo Alto Summit for Extending Kidney Exchange** with Nobel Laureate Professor Alvin E. Roth, Stanford Impact Labs, and the Stanford Department of Economics. A global convening on policy, practice, and partnerships in kidney transplantation, it brought together 32 leaders and thinkers in transplantation from The Transplantation Society and from Brazil, India, South Africa, the UAE, Qatar, Italy, Canada, and the United States to share ideas.



Dr. Mike Rees



Atul Agnihotri



Krista Sweeney

A note from our founder

In 2025, your support enabled APKD’s leading role in developing innovative transplant solutions.

Through our programs and initiatives, we continue to help overcome financial barriers to transplantation, increasing access to living donor kidneys. We have now provided more than \$1.5M to support the travel cost, lost wages and other expenses that previously prevented some living donors from being able to give the gift of life.

Here in the United States, **we facilitated 263 kidney exchange transplants and now have more than 50 partner transplant centers.** Globally, the APKD has invested more than \$3.5M to build the software that connects a Nobel Prize-winning algorithm to serve patients in 15 countries. APKD has made an impact across the world, from India and Saudia Arabia to Brazil, where we are working to change the law to support kidney exchange. Our Indian “Swap Transplant” program grew so quickly we hired a Director of Transplant Operations who oversaw 130 kidney transplants and added 60 partner transplant centers. It has been a great year, and we are grateful to supporters like you, whose generosity has been crucial to our success.

Mike Rees

Dr. Michael Rees, APKD Founder and CEO

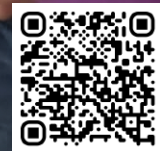


ALLIANCE FOR PAIRED
**KIDNEY
DONATION**

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**Ashley,
Age 15**



**You can
help share
her story.**

“The generosity of one person can change the trajectory of an entire family. With your continued partnership, we can make sure every child who needs a kidney receives one. Thank you for walking this mission with us.”

–APKD Chief Operating Officer, Susan Rees

The impact is yours!

Nothing we do or accomplish is possible without you.



Donate Online:
Scan QR code or visit
paireddonation.org/donate-today

That’s the simple truth. Your generosity and commitment to our cause is the only reason we are able to produce and share results like this. In many ways, this impact report is a celebration of everything YOU accomplished.

As a reminder, every dollar given directly supports our mission to end the kidney transplant waitlist. Thank you in advance for continuing your support and spreading the word.

We have so much more work to do together.

SUPPORT APKD

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