

Message from the Chairman



Dr Lim Cheok Peng

Chairman, Kidney Dialysis Foundation

Since its founding in 1996, the Kidney Dialysis Foundation (KDF) has continued to forge ahead and stay true to our mission – to look after needy individuals with end-stage kidney disease through quality care, education, and research.

Our purpose runs in tandem with the lives of the kidney patients that we serve. 80% of KDF's patients belong to the lowest 10% income tier in Singapore, surviving on less than \$800 monthly. To put things in perspective, the full cost of dialysis, excluding medication and other treatments will set a patient back by more than \$2000 monthly. This is an impossible amount for the poor to afford. As such, providing patients with subsidised dialysis treatments

and medication remains as our lifelong commitment to them.

As one of the first non-profit charity organisations that provides specialised care for underprivileged kidney patients, no efforts were spared to ensure that they do not perish from a lack of funds to pursue dialysis treatments. This means that continuous financial support is required to keep our operations running.

Today, we have since expanded to a total of 3 centres – Kreta Ayer, Ghim Moh and Bishan, with a new fourth dialysis centre in Admiralty Link nearing completion. Currently, 80% of KDF patients qualify for fully subsidised dialysis treatments

and medication, effectively relieving their financial burdens. Till date, KDF has helped more than 900 patients over 25 years, and we anticipate an increase once our new centre at Admiralty Link is operationally ready.

In just slightly over a year, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about its fair share of new ills and inconveniences. But this was also complemented by new opportunities and milestones for us. It has forced us to adapt and advance our processes and technologies beyond our plans. Teleconsultations between our patients and doctors, and the use of virtual work tools have become the new normal, and we have seamlessly integrated it into our workflows at the dialysis centres and office.

While we continue to fortify and complement our business continuity plans with remote solutions, the question remains - How can we make our efforts sustainable for the next 25 years?

Our first step is to adopt a forward-thinking mindset. I believe that the answer lies in developing holistic education efforts with our patients and the larger community. While dialysis remains as a form of crucial treatment to sustain the lives of kidney patients, it remains as a stop-gap measure against kidney disease, and is unsustainable in the long run.

Hence, prevention remains as the key direction that we will head towards. Kidney patients who are living below the line face a different set of challenges. They are excluded from common living habits, regular activities, and are unable to afford the benefits of a healthy diet.

KDF will continue to reach out to our patients through our health education efforts, which includes advocating better eating habits and the importance of staying active.

While we take care of our patients' health needs, more can be done for their mental wellbeing. We will closely partner with the community to continue advocating for better kidney health and explore collaborations with different social service agencies to develop a more holistic take on patient care.

The virtual landscape has allowed us to extend our reach to a wider, younger audience, producing transformative results for the Foundation. We are also stepping up our outreach to the wider public through digital community events such as health webinars, and sporting events, where participants can learn the importance of good lifestyle choices and raise awareness about kidney disease.

2021 is a milestone year for KDF, as we commemorate 25 years of serving the needy. We have also learnt to adapt to the ups and downs that COVID-19 has brought and accept the new norms in the way we live, work and communicate. I believe that KDF's strength lies in staying true to our calling and striving to ensure that our patients receive the best possible care, regardless of circumstances. Where KDF is today, it is only made possible by the generous contributions from supporters like yourselves.

KDF's 25 years has been possible with the unconditional support from our partners and donors, KDF has successfully delivered the promise of a second chance at life to the needy patients that we serve all these years, and we will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

Here's to many fulfilling years ahead!



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