



NATIONAL KIDNEY  
DONATION ORGANIZATION



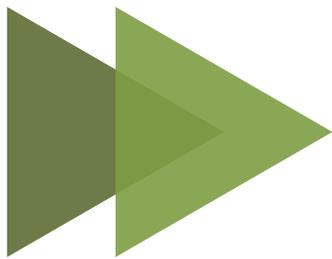
# SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022 | [NKDO.ORG](https://www.nkdo.org)

 COMMUNITY

 ADVOCACY

 EDUCATION



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## NKDO MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National Kidney Donation Organization is to save lives by making living kidney donation more accessible through education and awareness, and to remove obstacles to such donation. NKDO also works with kidney patients to assist in navigating the route to kidney transplantation.

## BECOME A MEMBER OF NKDO!

National Kidney Donation Organization is the largest living donor advocacy organization in the country. We need your help to increase our ability to effect changes which benefit donors and recipients alike. All donors have the right to be properly informed so that they can donate effectively and with the most protections available.



### You can help by becoming a member of NKDO!

- No cost associated with becoming a member.
- You will be enrolled in our new Facebook members group
- You may opt-in to be notified of developments in transplant that may impact you.
- You will receive the NKDO Newsletter
- You will be invited to participate in periodic Zoom meetings with industry experts.

<https://www.nkdo.org/nkdo-membership>

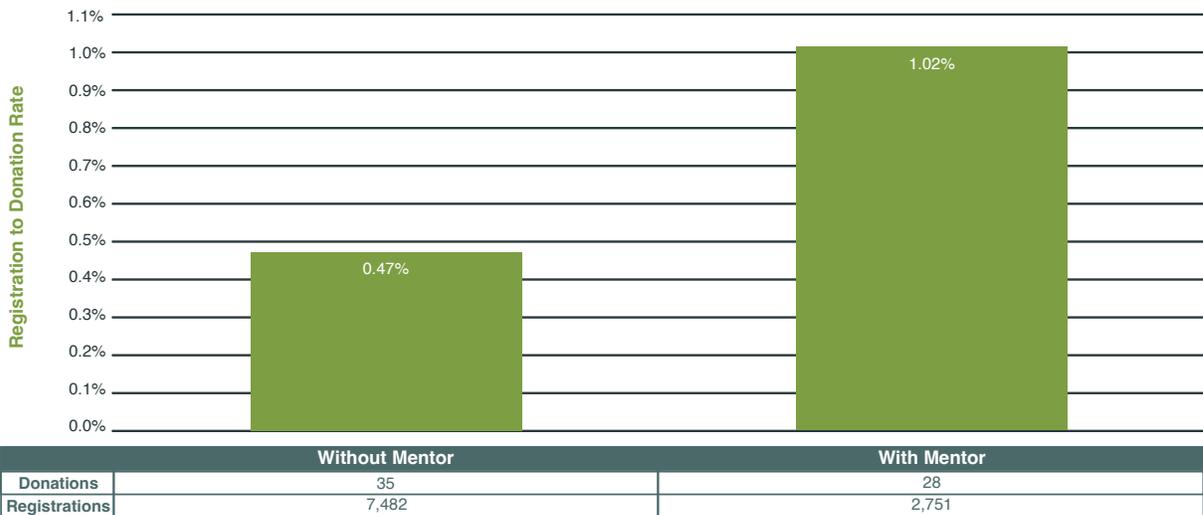
# DONOR CONNECT MENTOR PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW

The NKDO Donor Connect program pairs a trained mentor with a living kidney donor candidate to provide support, direction, and encouragement. These mentors are donors who have been through the testing, surgery, and recovery process.

In addition to partnering with applicants through the National Kidney Registry (NKR), over 50 NKDO mentors work directly with 20 transplant centers, with more being added monthly. Based on an initial review of program success, the number of NKR donor candidates who become living donors has doubled as a result of this program.

## DONOR CONNECT REGISTRATION TO DONATION RATE

4/1/2021 - 3/31/2022



As of 4/20/2022  
Includes donor registrations from all NKR websites.

## PARTICIPATING TRANSPLANT CENTERS

<b>AHN</b> Allegheny	<b>Georgetown</b>	<b>Intermountain Healthcare</b> Intermountain	<b>NewYork-Presbyterian</b> NYP Weill Cornell	<b>Piedmont</b> Piedmont	<b>Keck Medicine of USC</b> USC
<b>Brigham and Women's Hospital</b> Brigham & Women's	<b>Hartford HealthCare</b> Hartford Hospital Hartford	<b>LOYOLA MEDICINE</b> Loyola	<b>NYU Langone Health</b> NYU	<b>RUSH</b> Rush	<b>utmb Health</b> UT Galveston
<b>centura</b> Centura	<b>THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM</b> Hawaii	<b>Maine Medical Center</b> MaineHealth Maine	<b>Penn Medicine</b> Penn	<b>St David's HEALTHCARE</b> St David's Texas	<b>Virginia Mason Franciscan Health</b> Virginia Mason
<b>Ascension</b> Dell Seton	<b>Hackensack Meridian Health</b> Hackensack	<p>NKDO communicates regularly with transplant center staff, and these interactions help donor candidates remain fully informed and moving through the intake process as smoothly as possible.</p>			

# KIDNEY DONOR ATHLETES ASCEND MT. KILIMANJARO



Approximately 75% of Americans believe that you cannot lead as healthy or as active a lifestyle after kidney donation. Kidney Donor Athletes (KDA) enjoy disproving that idea! This amazing group of living kidney donors routinely demonstrate that you can live a full and active life with just one kidney. A few of these members have an robust view of active - 22 KDA members traveled to Tanzania in March to climb to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, a height of over 19,000 feet. Of the 22 who made the trek, 20 reached the top, which is a higher percentage than most groups who make the trip. Steve Wilson, NKDO mentor and board member, Shannon Catalano, NKDO mentor, and Patty Graham, NKDO team member and mentor were all part of this epic trip. Congratulations to all!

# DAVID ASHLEY SUMMITS MT. EVEREST

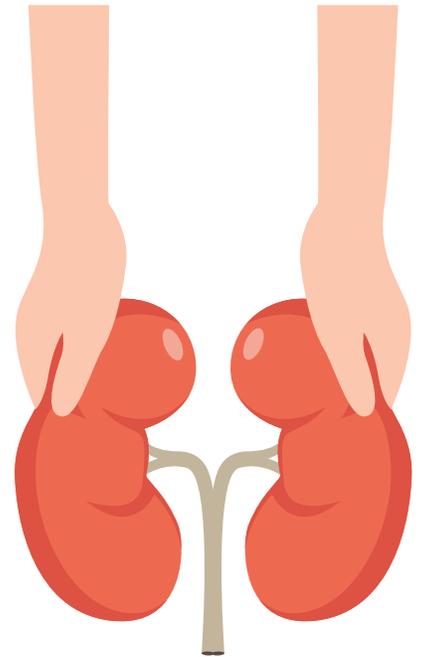


Meanwhile, with his successful summit of Mt. Everest, living kidney donor David Ashley becomes the first living donor to conquer the Seven Summits. Does anyone need more proof that living donors are a healthy lot?

# LIVING DONOR PROTECTION ACT GAINING TRACTION

NKDO President Michael Lollo testified in March at the Georgia State Senate and House hearings in support of increased protections for living donors. The bill was introduced by Georgia State Senator John Albers, who donated a kidney to his son, and easily passed in both legislatures.

NKDO team member and mentor Elaine Perlman organized a May trip to Albany, New York to testify in support of the New York State Living Donor Protection Act. Elaine was joined by Michael and virtually by NKDO team member Leesa Thompson. NKDO will continue to support donor protection legislation at the state level. The pace of these initiatives will likely accelerate as states lacking these protections see the progress made in the other states.



## NKDO SPONSORS CHICAGO SYMPOSIUM ON DONOR COMPENSATION

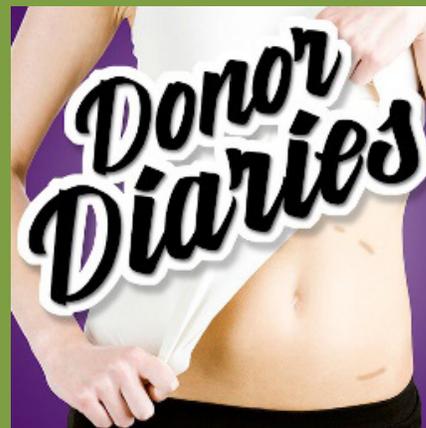


Laurie Lee, NKDO board member and mentor, partnered with Philip Held, PhD, and was instrumental in organizing a May symposium where distinguished participants discussed and debated the ethics around the issue of compensating living donors. There were presentations reviewing the pain and suffering of patients dealing with organ failure and the significant financial burden which kidney failure puts on the economy. Presentation videos are on the [NKDO YouTube channel](#). Nobel prize-winning economist Alvin Roth, PhD, was among the presenters, as was NKDO team member Cody Maynard.

The event was intended to be a debate, pro and con, of the ethics of compensation, but the organizers were unable to find an ethicist willing to argue against compensation.

# DONOR DIARIES PODCAST WRAPS UP SEASON ONE

In addition to running her own company, serving as an NKDO board member and mentor, and actively engaging with Transplant Village at Northwestern Transplant Center, Laurie Lee produces and emcees the Donor Diaries podcast which just completed its first season. It's an entertaining and thoughtful look at transplant from the perspectives of different stakeholders.



Mark Scotch is pictured here with Dr. Caroline Jadowiec, MD, of Mayo Clinic Arizona

## THE ORGAN TRAIL EXTENDS TO TOT 4.0

Mark Scotch, NKDO team member and winner of USA Today's Humankind Award, continued his cycling adventures with a trip from Los Angeles, California to Lubbock, Texas in March and April. Mark has been able to advocate in multiple media formats, and his latest trip generated 50 interviews of various kinds. Check out The Organ Trail FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/hughsmithmarkscotch>.

## NKDO CEO NED BROOKS AND PRESIDENT MICHAEL LOLLO TO SPEAK AT THE ATC CONGRESS

The annual American Transplant Congress is the premier transplantation annual event. Co-sponsored by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and the American Society of Transplantation, the venue alternates each year between Boston and California. At this June's event in Boston, the ATC invited Ned and Michael as the first laypeople to address the participants, the vast majority of whom are transplant medical professionals. Michael will talk about his recipient's circumstances and the campaign to find Marc Weiner a kidney. Ned will discuss Donor Connect and the ways in which that program is reshaping transplant.



## SPONSORS

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We want to thank our charitable donors and our corporate sponsors, [Transplant Genomics, Inc \(TGI\)](#) and [NxStage](#). TGI is sponsoring the NKDO YouTube channel and we will continue to build this library of expert interviews as a resource for both donors and transplant recipients.

Thank you,  
Ned Brooks, CEO  
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