

PRESS RELEASE
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Hong Leong Foundation backs NKF's fight against kidney failure with new funding

*\$60,000 for expanded kidney screening and
\$2 million for dialysis centre upgrade*

In conjunction with World Kidney Day (WKD) 2025, the Hong Leong Foundation has committed over \$2 million to support The National Kidney Foundation's (NKF) fight against kidney failure. The donation includes \$2 million for the upgrade of NKF's dialysis centre at Aljunied Crescent, completed in early 2024, and a further sum of \$60,000 to expand NKF's chronic kidney disease (CKD) early detection and intervention initiative. This funding will provide at-risk individuals with complimentary kidney screening and follow-up consultation when necessary, enabling NKF to screen 1,500 more individuals, inching closer to its goal of screening 5,000 people annually under its CKD Intervention Programme.

NKF Chairman Arthur Lang emphasised the importance of early detection: "Kidney failure does not happen overnight. It is often the result of years of undetected CKD, commonly caused by diabetes and high blood pressure. Tragically, many patients only discover their condition at an advanced stage when dialysis becomes the only option."

Since the first observance of WKD in 2006, NKF's patient numbers have nearly tripled – from 2,000 then to 5,975 today – highlighting the urgent need for preventive measures.

One such patient is Mr Lim Chee Meng, 55, who only learned he had kidney disease when he experienced extreme fatigue and swelling in his legs. By then, his kidneys were already failing. "If I had done a simple screening earlier and learnt to manage my blood sugar levels, I might not be on dialysis today," he said.

The expanded kidney screening focuses on individuals with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, a family history of kidney failure, or an unhealthy Body Mass Index, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations receive timely intervention. From March to September 2024 alone, NKF screened over 2,000 at-risk individuals, with 17% requiring further kidney evaluation – a clear indication of the need for expanded screening efforts.

With Hong Leong Foundation's support, NKF will expand its network of General Practitioner (GP) partnership, making kidney screening more accessible across Singapore. NKF currently collaborates with over 180 GP clinics to provide early detection services. By identifying high-risk individuals sooner, NKF can intervene with lifestyle guidance and medical follow-ups, slowing disease progression, reducing long-term healthcare costs, and improving patient outcomes.

Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, Governor of Hong Leong Foundation, highlighted the urgency of tackling kidney disease at its roots. "We believe that early detection is key in saving lives. As a tribute to the nation's 60th milestone, we are glad to contribute this sum of \$60,000 that will go towards supporting 1,500 individuals to do early screening. Together, we can battle kidney failure by empowering individuals to take better control of their health."

NKF Chairman Mr Arthur Lang expressed gratitude for the Foundation's ongoing support: "This donation is more than just funding – it is a lifeline for those at risk. By enabling early intervention, we can prevent more Singaporeans from reaching end-stage kidney failure and improve their quality of life."

The funding announcement was made during the official reopening of NKF's upgraded dialysis centre at Aljunied Crescent on 16 March 2025. Established over 28 years ago with the support of Hong Leong Foundation and Hong Leong Group, in memory of the late Hong Leong Group founder, Mr Kwek Hong Png, the centre recently underwent a significant transformation. Its capacity has increased by 56%, expanding from 18 to 28 dialysis stations, and allowing it to serve 168 patients, up from 108. The centre was officially reopened by Mr Seah Kian Peng, Speaker of Parliament.

Hong Leong Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Hong Leong Group of companies in Singapore, including City Developments Limited, Millennium Hotels and Resorts, Hong Leong Holdings, CDL Hospitality Trusts, Hong Leong Finance, Hong Leong Asia and Hong Realty.

In addition to financial support, Hong Leong Foundation has deepened its involvement with NKF by supporting the Befrienders' Programme. Staff volunteers provide companionship and encouragement to dialysis patients during treatment sessions, offering emotional support and fostering a stronger sense of community among patients.

The Foundation is also working with NKF to conduct health talks for Hong Leong Group staff to equip participants with knowledge on the signs, symptoms and preventive measures for kidney disease, empowering them to adopt healthier lifestyles and making informed decisions about their well-being.

Ms Michelle Kwek, also a Governor of Hong Leong Foundation added, "This refurbishment is not just about infrastructure. It is about ensuring that patients receive quality care in a dignified and supportive setting. We believe that no one should have to face their health challenges alone, and we are proud to be a part of this partnership with NKF."

These efforts align with NKF's long-term 'Future Forward 2030' vision, which prioritises prevention, early intervention, and education to reduce kidney failure rates in Singapore. With kidney disease placing an ever-growing burden on the healthcare system, NKF and its partners are committed to breaking this cycle – one screening, one intervention, and one life at a time.

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