



# SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

November 2014

## Dialysis Support Group

High Desert Kidney Hope has a support group every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.  
(FIRST TUESDAY CANCELLED THIS MONTH)

November 25th 6:00 to 7:30 pm

The Dialysis Support Group is held at the Desert Community Bank on Hesperia Rd and Silica on the Northwest corner. Please join us!

## RMS Healthcare Surveys

Desert Cities Dialysis had contracted with RMS Healthcare to conduct surveys for quality improvement. Please return calls and/or mailings to help us continually make Desert Cities Dialysis the best it can be. We need your honest input!! Please respond to our surveys. As always, your responses will be anonymous. This third party surveying service does not include any names with the results of the survey.

## Holiday Assistance

If you have children in your life who do not receive Christmas gifts due to limited income the time to apply is now. There are limited applications accepted.

### Christmas Toys

Catholic Charities: (909) 880-3625  
Toys for Tots: (703) 910-0259  
[www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org) (Appl. Start 10/1)  
Salvation Army: (760) 245-2545  
Victor Valley Rescue: (760) 955-5958

## New Kidney Allocation System

Effective next month, December 2014, the new allocation system for cadaver kidneys is going into effect. There are minor changes into who receives kidneys and the quality of kidney received. For most people, very little will be affected. The highlights of the changes are as follows:

- 1) Persons with high antibodies will be given preference for an excellent match.
- 2) Overall, an excellent match will supersede wait time on the list.
- 3) Each person on the waiting list will be scored according to age, health and other factors.
- 4) Each kidney received will receive a score according to age of deceased donor and their health status.
- 5) Kidney score and recipient score will be matched so that the person receiving a kidney will theoretically receive a kidney that will live as long as the recipient
- 6) No longer will our local area have to "pay back" kidneys received from out of area.
- 7) All wait lists nationwide will be based on start date of dialysis.

## Desert Cities Dialysis AMETHYST

Desert Cities Dialysis celebrated the grand opening of the unit near the corner of Bear Valley Road and Amethyst St. This October 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a well attended affair and certainly cause for excitement for all those on the west side of town. Medicare and Medi-Cal pending insurance approvals. So far we



# SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

November 2014

have about 15 patients at Amethyst and the waiting list is growing.

## **Dialysis Resources**

---

For those starting dialysis or those interested in resources, please talk to your social worker. There are some key points about dialysis that may change your previous disabled status:

- 1) ESRD (end stage renal disease) is an automatic disability with social security. You may qualify for income from social security and Medicare part A and B even if you are under 65 and you weren't considered disabled before now.
- 2) You now have a life threatening illness and can receive utility discounts from Southern California Edison and Southwest Gas. This is called "Medical Baseline" it is specifically for people with life threatening illnesses. This discount IS NOT INCOME BASED.
- 3) DMV placard applications can be completed by your doctor if you are finding ambulation in and out of buildings difficult for any reason. Talk to your social worker.

## **Car Wash and Pancakes for Kidneys**

---

High Desert Kidney Hope is hosting a fundraiser on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 1pm. It is a car wash and all you can eat pancake breakfast at Johnnie D's. The cost is \$10 and proceeds go to help persons with chronic kidney disease. Johnnie D's is located on the corner of Bear Valley and Apple Valley Rd. next to the Home Depot. Go to High Desert Kidney Hope's facebook

for more information or look at [highdesertkidneyhope.org](http://highdesertkidneyhope.org)

## **Travelling on Dialysis**

---

Just because you are on dialysis does not mean you must be at your home unit at all times. If you want to travel or have an emergency out of town, dialysis can be setup in most areas. It requires as much notice as possible, at least 2 weeks to establish. Important to keep in mind is that around holidays and in highly desirable travel locations (Hawaii, Las Vegas, Bullhead City) more notice may be needed to ensure you have a reservation at the local dialysis clinic.

To see where dialysis clinics are located for yourself, go to

[www.dialysisfinder.com](http://www.dialysisfinder.com). Contact your social worker to setup travel arrangements today!

In addition, there are also cruises that feature dialysis treatment and treatment staff for your convenience. Typically these cruises and treatments received on the cruise ships are not covered by insurance. For more details go to [www.dialysisatsea.com](http://www.dialysisatsea.com).

## **Incontinence and Wound Supplies**

---

If you or a loved one requires briefs, pads, gauze, or other supplies they may be covered by your insurance. Go to [www.shieldhealthcare.com](http://www.shieldhealthcare.com) or call 1-800-765-8775 to see if the supplies are covered.

## **HUMOR**

---

