



## The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition

### **FKDC Quick Facts:**

FKDC was initiated in November 2005

### Vision Statement:

FKDC is the model disaster planning and readiness organization for kidney patients by collaborating with community partners to ensure timely access to quality care.

### Objectives:

- Ensure the coordination and communication of care and services between renal care providers, renal organizations, local, state, and federal agencies.
- Educate renal care providers, renal organizations, local, state, federal agencies, patients, families, and the general public about the needs of ESRD patients and of how to implement disaster preparedness and response activities.
- Aid state and local policy makers and emergency management organizations in developing comprehensive disaster preparedness and response plans that address the needs of the renal community.

### Who is the Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition?

End stage renal disease, or ESRD, affects over 19,000 Floridians. ESRD occurs when the kidneys can no longer function well enough to sustain life. ESRD is fatal unless treated with dialysis or a kidney transplant, both of which can have serious risks and consequences. Most patients choose hemodialysis for their treatments, which requires them to visit a dialysis center three times a week. Without dialysis, the patient may require hospitalization or die from fluid overload and other complications.

Disasters, both natural and man-made, can cause major disruptions of life-sustaining dialysis services. The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition (FKDC) emerged to establish and facilitate partnerships that provide a framework for disaster readiness and continuity of care for the kidney community.

Florida represents a unique opportunity for the ESRD community and emergency management



Patient receiving dialysis treatment while speaking with his Patient Care Technician, an integral part of the dialysis team.

stakeholders to join information and resources. The Coalition aims to align with state emergency management objectives to ensure all-hazards preparedness and continuity of operations of dialysis clinics and transplant centers; and to meet basic human needs for all ESRD patients, families, stakeholders and staff.

*(continued on page 2)*

### Community Partner Packets: Community Collaboration is the Key!

"All disasters are local." For years, we have known that local officials are the first responders for their entire community. Mayors issue evacuation orders; local fire, police, and emergency management officials prepare for and respond to disasters in each of Florida's 67 counties.

In order to better bridge the gap between these important decision-makers, the 310 dialysis and transplant providers, 19,000 dialysis

patients, and over 5,000 kidney transplant patients in Florida, FKDC developed the *Community Partner Packet*.

The *Community Partner Packet* includes information to help emergency management leaders and policy makers understand and incorporate the special requirements of the kidney community into their jurisdiction's emergency and disaster plans.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Who is FKDC? *(continued from page 1)*



A building destroyed by Hurricane Charley.

Since 2005, the Coalition has worked diligently to provide education and outreach to all Florida dialysis patients, providers, and community stakeholders, both renal and non-renal. Coalition members regularly travel to professional meetings in order to exhibit, provide resources, and recruit new members.

The Coalition has also created and disseminated several educational and resource tools to the provider community, including the *Best Practices Tool Kit*, the *Disaster Drill Instructional Guide*, and the *Emergency Communications Kit*. Additionally, the Coalition has worked with several counties in an effort to open an important dialogue between

the dialysis community, emergency responders, and other important stakeholders, such as the Police Department and utility companies.

The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition is dedicated to the purpose of providing public education and public awareness for all Florida stakeholders regarding the needs of kidney patients during emergencies. If you are interested in becoming involved and making a difference, we encourage you to contact FKDC at [fkdc@nw7.esrd.net](mailto:fkdc@nw7.esrd.net).

Through partnership and dedication, we are working to create a community better prepared for disaster.

## Community Partner Packets *(continued from page 1)*

*“One of the best, most effective information packets! Will greatly assist in our ongoing planning for ESRD members of our community.” - Volusia County Emergency Management*

*Community Partner Packets* were sent to all county emergency managers, Florida Senators and Representatives, and mayors of seven major cities within the state of Florida.

Along with history and membership information, this educational packet included a list of all Florida hemodialysis providers; a list of the total numbers of ESRD patients, categorized by zip code and modality; and a County Support Form, which is intended to assist officials in collecting data from ESRD providers. Also

included was *ESRD For Policymakers*, a publication provided by the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) that provides a comprehensive overview of kidney failure, co-morbid conditions, and treatment options.

Based on the positive feedback received from the *Community Partner Packets* thus far, the Coalition hopes to work with other community stakeholders to create a similar packet in the future. Potential groups to work with include hospitals and special needs shelter nurses.

## The “All-Hazards” Approach to Education



View of Lake Mary, Florida after a tornado swept through in February 2007.

During the Fall of 2007, the Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition was pleased to announce a unique and exciting opportunity for disaster education: *The All Hazards Educational Series*.

This series of faxblasts was created in an effort to inform Florida dialysis providers about disasters that are likely to happen in our area and to educate them that there are more dangers to Florida than just

hurricanes! Some of the topics for the series included flash floods, National Preparedness Month, fire safety, radiological emergencies, pet preparedness, and extreme cold.

Some specific hazard topics, such as floods and epidemics, were based upon their likelihood, tendency and/or history of occurrence. The topics of National Preparedness *(continued on page 3)*

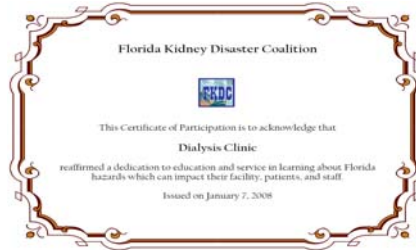
## The “All-Hazards” Approach to Education *(continued from page 2)*

Month and fire safety both coincided with existing national programs.

An initial letter explaining the series was sent to all Florida providers in August 2007. Additionally, prior to the weekly faxblasts, a pre-quiz was distributed to providers in order to assess a baseline level of knowledge. Thirty-two percent (100) of Florida facilities completed the pre-quiz.

After the last educational topic was disseminated in December, a post-quiz was distributed. Facilities completing both the pre and post quiz, regardless of their scores, received a certificate of participation from FKDC.

Due to the success of this activity, an



online course is being developed based upon the *All Hazards Educational Series* content. The course will offer free CEUS and will be available during the 1st quarter of 2008.

Being knowledgeable and prepared and can be easy and fun. FKDC congratulates those providers that participated in the series and in raising awareness about all Florida disasters.

### Save the Date!

**FKDC will be exhibiting at the 5th Annual Renal Professionals Forum, hosted by the National Kidney Foundation of Florida.**

**The event will be held in Orlando, Florida on February 21 & 22, 2008.**

**We hope to see you there!**

**RENAL  
PROFESSIONALS  
FORUM**

## Member Spotlight

Sarah Knott has been a member of FKDC since January 2006. Sarah has been involved in providing dialysis both as a social worker and an administrator. She currently serves as the lead social worker for Fresenius Medical Care, NA.

Sarah's personal experience with disaster response came from her time in South Florida (Lee and Collier counties) during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons.

Sarah is a dedicated advocate for the needs of kidney patients during disasters. She has worked with the national coalition, the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition, to revise their manual and has developed in-services on disaster preparedness for FMC Area Managers. In addition, Sarah has presented on kidney disease and disasters to the Florida Department of Health and county Emergency Operations Centers,

hoping to have dialysis patients included as eligible patients for Special Needs Shelters in the event of a disaster.



Sarah is never too busy to assist her fellow Coalition members in any way and has been instrumental in helping to disseminate Coalition tools and resources.

Because of her ongoing commitment to the kidney community, FKDC honors Sarah Knott in our Member Spotlight.

*“The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition has focused on developing a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan to address the needs of the 26,000 Floridians with kidney failure who require dialysis.” - Sarah Knott*



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**We're On the Web!**  
[www.fkdc.org](http://www.fkdc.org)

### Member Organizations

Agency For Healthcare Administration  
American Association of Kidney Patients  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Renal Associates  
Central Florida Kidney Center  
Council of Nephrology Social Workers  
DaVita  
Family Physician's Group  
Florida Department of Health  
Florida House of Representatives  
Florida Renal Administrators Association  
Florida Society of Nephrology  
FMOAI: The Florida ESRD Network  
Fresenius Medical Care, NA  
Hillsborough County Emergency Management  
Kidney Group of Clearwater  
LifeLink Healthcare Institute  
Manatee County Emergency Management  
National Kidney Foundation of Florida  
North Beach Dialysis  
Orange County Emergency Management  
Palm Beach County Emergency Management  
Pinellas County Emergency Management  
Polk County Emergency Management  
Sarasota Physician's Dialysis  
Seminole County Emergency Management  
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital  
TECO Energy

## **FKDC Raffle a Huge Success!**

The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition was very pleased to exhibit a booth at the Network 7 Annual Forum. The meeting, which was held at the Hilton Bayfront in St. Petersburg, had more than 300 attendees from the renal community in attendance including administrators, nephrologists, nurses, technicians, transplant facilities, pharmaceutical companies, and dozens of exhibitors.

The FKDC booth featured some of our most successful toolkit materials, as well as topics from the *All Hazards Educational Series*. The big incentive to visit the FKDC booth was the "Party or Paw Draw," a raffle drawing for one of two gift baskets: a hurricane party basket or a pet preparedness basket. Winners were drawn and the baskets were given away at the Annual Awards Luncheon.

A special thanks is extended to FKDC volunteers Susan Kreuter and Linda Carroll, who helped with the "Party and Paw Draw," and staffed the

booth at the meeting.

Due to the success of the raffle at the Network meeting, the same concept will be applied for the FKDC exhibit at the Renal Professionals Forum. This meeting, which is hosted by National Kidney Foundation of Florida, will be held on February 21—22 in Lake Mary, Florida.

FKDC is excited to be a part of such a growing success in the ESRD community! We look forward to many more successful exhibits in the years to come.



Cheryl, the winner of the Pet Preparedness Kit at the Network 7 Annual Forum.