



## Hong Leong Foundation Backs Fight Against Kidney Failure With New Funding

Stresses importance of early kidney screening

*With the completion of NKF Dialysis Centre Supported By Hong Leong Foundation, let's battle kidney disease together!*

Some 28 years ago in 1997, Hong Leong Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Hong Leong Group, joined efforts with the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) to establish the NKF Dialysis Centre in the Aljunied Crescent area in Singapore's central region. It was set up in memory of the late Group founder, Kwek Hong Png, and aid NKF's fight against kidney failure.

Today, the Foundation has committed over S\$2 million to upgrade the centre, and a further sum of S\$60,000 to expand NKF's initiative on early kidney screenings across Singapore. The centre officially re-opened on 16 March 2025 with Guest of Honour, Speaker of Parliament Mr Seah Kian Peng and special guest, Member of Parliament Ms Tin Pei Ling.

"The 1990s was a period where there was an urgency for accessible life-saving dialysis treatment for kidney failure patients. This urgency to save lives remains today. Over the years, this dialysis centre has played a vital role in supporting patients and their families by providing life-saving care in an environment that promotes dignity and comfort," said Hong Leong Foundation Governor Mr Kwek Eik Sheng in his speech at the re-opening event.

It was in 1997 when Hong Leong Foundation first donated S\$1.5 million to establish the dialysis centre in Aljunied.

With its recent S\$2 million support, the centre's upgrade (completed in 2024) that included refurbishing works and replacing of dialysis equipment, has now enabled the centre to increase its capacity from 18 dialysis stations to 28 stations today. It can also serve 168 patients, up from 108 previously, allowing NKF to focus on personalised care for patients.



*The memorial of the late Hong Leong Group founder Kwek Hong Png was an independent structure when the dialysis centre first established in 1997 (left photo). It is now a modern stainless-steel plaque located at the centre's entrance (right photo).*

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 honoured proud to be a part of continue this partnership with NKF."



*Hong Leong Foundation donated S\$2.06 million to the refurbishment of the dialysis centre and free early kidney screenings for 1,500 at-risk individuals.*



*Also at the Also at the unveiling ceremony was CDL Group and Hong Leong Asia Executive with NKF Vice Chairman Mr Ang Hao Yao, Member of Parliament and special guest Ms Tin Pei Ling (in yellow); and Guest of Honour, Speaker of Parliament Mr Seah Kian Peng.*





## Expanding early detection services

In conjunction with Singapore's 60th birthday this year, Hong Leong Foundation has also contributed a further S\$60,000 to NKF's intervention programme and help expand early detection screenings across Singapore.

The expansion focuses on individuals with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, a family history of kidney failure, or an unhealthy Body Mass Index – conditions that damage kidneys.



*The expanded Aljunied centre is now a modern and comfortable space, with an increased capacity from 18 dialysis stations to 28 stations today, serving 168 patients from 108 previously. (Photo credit: NKF)*



*Guests taking a pose at the centre's feature wall depicting Hong Leong Group's companies, including City Developments Limited, Millennium Hotels and Resorts, Hong Leong Holdings, Hong Leong Finance and Hong Leong Asia.*

With the Foundation's additional sum of S\$60,000, NKF will be able to screen 1,500 at-risk individuals for free with follow-up consultations, closer to its goal of screening 5,000 individuals yearly under its early intervention programme.

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.



*NKF CEO Ms Yen Tan conducting a tour of the refurbished centre for guests and media and gave a demonstration of the dialysis process.*



*The group taking a selfie with Mr Seah and NKF staff and management.*



### Participating in NKF Befriending Programme

Besides financial support, Hong Leong Foundation also participated in NKF's Befriending Programme, where staff volunteers provided companionship to dialysis patients during their treatment sessions.

Mr Kwek highlighted that staff volunteerism and community engagement is essential for more meaningful impact and positive changes in communities.



*As part of NKF's Befriending Programme, our staff volunteers helped to pack goody bags and spent time with patients during their dialysis treatments.*

"We were grateful to have spent time with the patients during their treatments. It was especially touching to witness their resilience and optimism. Their strength inspires not only the other patients, but us befrienders as well. We also witnessed the caring nature of the nurses and staff at the centre which plays such a critical part in a patient's journey. It was a humbling and rewarding experience for all of us," he said.

The Foundation is also working with NKF to conduct health talks for Hong Leong Group staff about the leading causes of kidney failure, diabetes and hypertension, and to emphasise the importance of adopting healthier lifestyle choices.