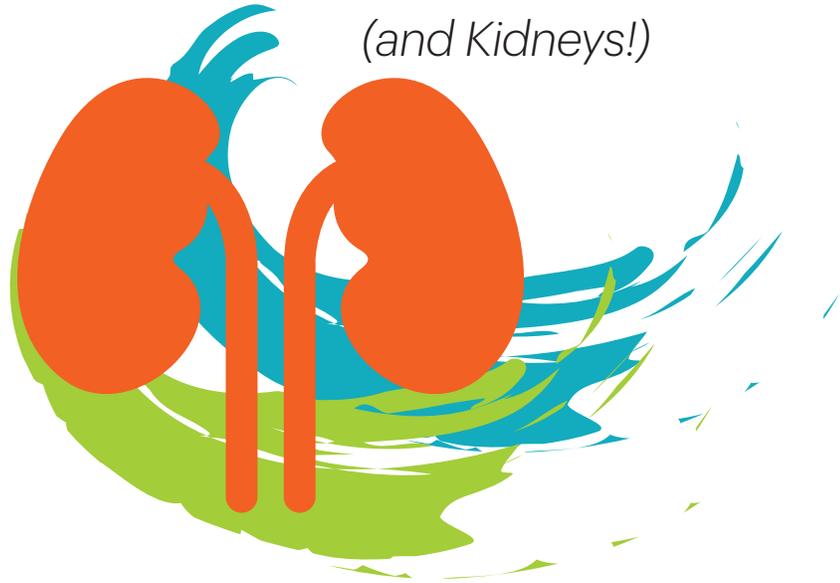


ART

FROM THE HEART

(and Kidneys!)



Harv Toback, age 85, started in-center hemodialysis a year and a half ago after he was diagnosed with kidney failure. He has plenty of time on his hands while the dialysis machine cleans his blood. A former amateur painter and art gallery owner, he started sketching as a way to reflect the emotions that he experiences while on dialysis. He also sketched his surroundings, including other patients, nurses, and even the machinery. According to Harv, “Art is the perfect way to channel my energy and creativity while on dialysis.”

He has acquired a loyal fan club. Fellow kidney patients and dialysis center staff admire his works and this has spurred a dialogue about the power of art and the way it can bring people together. Harv quickly realized that others, too, had an affinity for painting, sketching, photography, collage, and other art forms.

Harv is inspired by the friendships he developed within his dialysis kidney community – who he considers “part of his family,” and they are inspired by him and his artwork as well. “I felt an art exhibit would be the perfect way to channel the simultaneously individual and collaborative nature of art, bringing people together from across the unit. Even the Medical Director of the dialysis unit was drawn towards art,” he says.

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With the help of the dedicated dialysis unit staff, the art show concept was born. Harv created flyers to bring attention to his idea. Quickly thereafter, patients, nurses, friends, and

family members of those on dialysis all began contributing individual pieces of artwork, and within a two month period, an exhibit was formed. Harv helped cultivate the show, but credits its success to the contributions of everyone who participated and to those who helped him set up the exhibit throughout the dialysis center.

He hopes to expand the exhibit to other blank walls within the unit, filling them up on a rotating basis as new pieces are created.



Lito Severino, Nurse Manager.



Harv Toback, kidney patient, artist, and art show organizer.

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