



National Kidney Foundation of Illinois  
39th Annual

# *Gift of Life Gala*

*Celebrating 75 years of NKFI*



NATIONAL KIDNEY  
FOUNDATION®

of Illinois

## **39th Annual Gift of Life Award**

### **Illinois Public Health Association**

With the Gift of Life Award, the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) honors members of the greater kidney community who are passionate about raising awareness for living kidney donation, the importance of kidney health, and the prevention of chronic kidney disease. Since 2019, the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) has supported NKFI in building pivotal relationships across the State of Illinois that have expanded its reach in communities disproportionately affected by or at risk for chronic kidney disease. Additionally, as the lead organization in the development and implementation of a new statewide curriculum for Community Health Workers, IPHA has been instrumental in the pursuit of improved health care, access, and equity for the state's most medically underserved communities. For these reasons, NKFI is proud to honor IPHA with the 39th Annual Gift of Life Award.

## **Harold & Molly Schwartz Founders' Award**

### **Dr. Holly Mattix-Kramer, MD, MPH**

The family of Harold & Molly Schwartz established the Founders Award in their honor, following Harold's death in 2005. Harold was a founding member of the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) and supported the NKFI in its efforts throughout his life. The Founders Award is given, based on merit, to a volunteer or board member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and achievement on behalf of the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois. Dr. Holly Mattix-Kramer is a dedicated clinician, educator, advocate, donor, and volunteer. In addition to treating her patients with the utmost care, Dr. Kramer inspires the next generation of providers to bring kidney health to the forefront. NKFI is grateful to Dr. Kramer for her incredible support and pleased to honor her with this year's Harold & Molly Schwartz Founders' Award.

## **Advocate Award**

**IL State Senator Christopher Belt, IL State Senator Mattie Hunter, and IL State Representative Maurice West**

The Advocate Award recognizes an individual or individuals responsible for significant advocacy promoting NKFI's legislative priorities. Awardees are responsible for significant activity around a legislative issue that has a positive impact on kidney health. Senators Belt and Hunter, and Representative West have been long-time advocates for kidney patients in Illinois and are the driving force behind the Illinois Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force. Senator Belt is even a kidney transplant recipient himself! For these reasons, we are pleased to honor them with the first Advocate Award.

National Kidney Foundation of Illinois  
39th Annual

# Gift of Life Gala

Saturday, the Second of November  
Two Thousand Twenty Four

Hilton Chicago, Continental Room  
720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605

6:00PM Cocktail Reception  
7:00PM Program, Dinner and Dancing

**Emcee** Regina Waldroup, NBC 5 Chicago Anchor, Reporter

## **COCKTAIL ATTIRE**

*Guests are strongly encouraged to wear a splash of orange and/or something diamond-inspired to celebrate NKFI's diamond anniversary.*

**RSVP ONLINE AT [NKFI.ORG/GALA](https://www.nkfi.org/gala)**

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