

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bean Sisters to share the gift of music, love and a kidney transplant at Northwest Kidney Centers' Breakfast of Hope May 14

Seattle, WA (March 19, 2015): [Northwest Kidney Centers](#) will hold its 13th annual [Breakfast of Hope](#) Thursday, May 14, 2015, to support transplant services and charity care. It runs from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at the Westin Seattle, 1900 Fifth Ave. Retired KING-TV anchor Jean Enersen is the master of ceremonies.

Entertainment will combine with a serious message when the keynote speakers take the stage. Maura Rogers and Meredith Pangrace, folk musicians from Cleveland, will speak and perform. They call themselves "The Bean Sisters" because of the kidney they share.

They met in 2011 when Rogers placed an online ad for someone to join her band, the Bellows. Meanwhile, the single kidney she was born with had begun to fail. Rogers found not only a fellow musician in Pangrace, but a kidney donor as well.

"I found out that Meredith was the donor a week before the transplant," Rogers said. "I had moments when I'm like, oh my God, I feel good and it's because of her. Music led me to Meredith, led me to the person who would really give me more time on earth. I'm forever grateful to her for bringing music back into my life."

"Our everyday business at Northwest Kidney Centers is to keep people alive with kidney dialysis," said Northwest Kidney Centers President and Chief Executive Joyce F. Jackson. "But our mission statement declares that we will promote the optimal health, quality of life and independence of people with kidney disease. Sometimes that means helping them get off dialysis or avoid it entirely by getting a transplant.

"The breakfast will showcase the steps Northwest Kidney Centers has taken to achieve a transplant rate 80 percent higher than the national average."

The event is free to attend, but a \$150 donation is recommended. To register, visit www.nwkidney.org/breakfast or contact Tim Heimerle at 206-720-8544 or breakfast@nwkidney.org.

Why is this event important? It not only helps Northwest Kidney Centers patients, but the community as a whole. Did you know:

- More than 10 percent of adult Americans have chronic kidney disease; most don't know until the damage is severe.
- Chronic kidney disease is progressive and irreversible; its progression can be slowed with nutrition, exercise and medication.

- Philanthropy helps fund Northwest Kidney Centers programs that promote transplantation, educate the public, support kidney research, and offer charity care.
- Forty-three percent of Northwest Kidney Centers' patients meet federal poverty guidelines; 1 percent are homeless. Gifts to charity care help patients whose insurance does not fully cover dialysis or medications. Charity care also provides transportation assistance, emergency grants and nutritional supplements to patients in need.

Northwest Kidney Centers is a regional, not-for-profit, community-based provider of kidney dialysis, public health education, and research into the causes and treatments of chronic kidney disease. Founded in Seattle in 1962, it was the world's first dialysis organization. It remains a model in the field because of its high quality services, community connections and generous donor support. For more information, visit www.nwkidney.org.

Maura Rogers has released two albums, [Get Up Girl](#), and, with the Bellows, [A Good Heart Will Break](#). Learn more at www.maurarogers.com/bean-sisters/.

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