Dialysis Provider Forms Public Charity to Help Chronic Kidney Disease Patients, Launches Local 'KAT WALKS' - Walkathon Pilots

Dialysis provider DaVita Inc. has formed a public charitable organization to promote chronic kidney disease education and prevention. The organization, called DaVita Kidney TRUST ("The TRUST"), will provide targeted contributions to organizations that promote kidney disease prevention, awareness and patient advocacy.

(Photo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20020729/DAVITALOGO)

DaVita CEO Kent Thiry explained, "We are doing this because we believe it is our duty as a good corporate citizen to approach kidney disease from a broader perspective. This is a logical extension of DaVita's values and sense of community. The reaction from our teammates and patient ambassadors has been exceptionally positive."

The TRUST's mission is to create a world of hope, health, action and engagement for those affected by chronic kidney disease. It aims to benefit the 20 million Americans estimated to have Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and their families, as well as the 320,000 Americans with kidney failure who are on dialysis and their families.

It will initially focus on increasing chronic kidney disease awareness and support, including education, testing, care and treatment for CKD. In the future, The TRUST will engage in other charitable activities, including grant-making to indigent kidney patients and their families.

The TRUST will be funded by corporate and individual contributions, as well as through various fundraising events. Its first fundraiser is a pilot Walkathon in several local markets across the country in late June called KAT Walks (Kidney Awareness Time).

Thiry said, "We believe The TRUST will inspire new donors and volunteers to become involved in this life-saving work, and will inspire existing ones to give even more. The TRUST will help increase awareness about CKD and help as many kidney patients as possible. We are excited about the new energy, enthusiasm and creativity resulting from the creation of DaVita Kidney TRUST."

For more information about DaVita Kidney TRUST or the June KAT Walks, please visit The TRUST at www.helpkidneypatients.org, or call toll free 877-444-2398.

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SOURCE: DaVita Inc.

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