

*Nephrology News and Issues*

***Fifth annual Tour DaVita comes to Mass., Conn.***

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Dialysis provider DaVita Inc began its annual 250-mile bike ride to raise awareness about kidney disease. More than 400 employees, family members and friends from around the country met in Great Barrington, Mass., Sept. 17 to start the 5th annual Tour DaVita. This year the tour will raise money for The Kidney TRUST, a nonprofit organization with the mission to reduce the human and economic cost of chronic kidney disease across the United States.

DaVita volunteers participated in more than a dozen community service projects in Great Barrington as part of the tour kick-off, including completing the remodeling of the Railroad Street Youth Project Drop-In Center. DaVita donated \$25,000 to the youth organization and K.T. Community Foundation, a foundation started by DaVita Chairman and CEO Kent Thiry and his wife, Denise O'Leary, also donated \$25,000.

"Tour DaVita isn't a bike race, but rather a collection of like-minded people from across the country cycling together to spread awareness of a disease that affects one out of six adult Americans," said DaVita Chairman and CEO Kent Thiry, who will also be participating in the ride. "I have ridden in Tour DaVita every year to date because this is too important of an event, and frankly, too much fun, to not participate."

To participate in the tour, riders raised a minimum of \$750 to \$2,000 in donations each and paid their own travel expenses. Their individual fundraising combined with donations from DaVita and other corporate sponsorship is expected to contribute more than \$700,000 to The Kidney TRUST.