

# Centers *for* Dialysis Care

FOUNDATION

**2022** Report to the Community





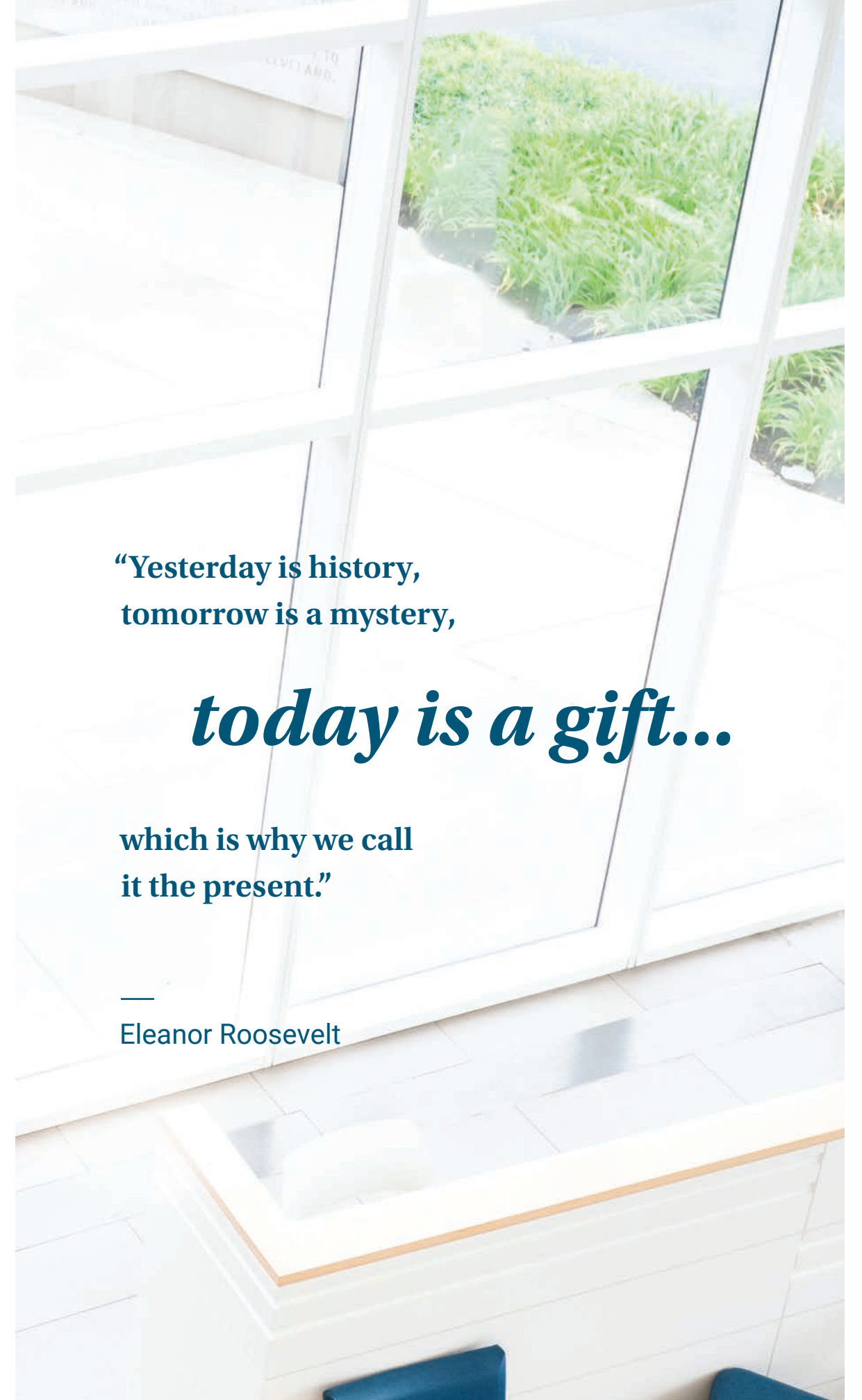
“Yesterday is history,  
tomorrow is a mystery,

*today is a gift...*

which is why we call  
it the present.”

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Eleanor Roosevelt





# Friends of the Centers for Dialysis Care Foundation,

It is often said, **that today is a gift**. This idea has become so much more prevalent following the profound impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenging circumstances, our organization has pushed forward to exemplify our vision: **To be the provider of choice as the most trusted community partner for high-quality, patient-centered kidney healthcare.**

**Supporting our patients.** We are proud to be a leading innovator and provider of outstanding dialysis treatment, education, support and training. While we continue to improve our facilities, technologies and services, the core of what we do remains the same: caring for the whole patient and therefore, meeting individual needs.

**Supporting our providers.** We continue to concentrate on staff training, professional development, internal communications and additional programs that aim to educate, engage and evolve our staff of about 500 healthcare professionals.

**Supporting our community.** While the pandemic challenged the concept of togetherness, we continue to find new ways to maintain a strong sense of community. We take great pride in our local roots and support the Northeast Ohio community through a variety of partnerships and programs.

We thank our team members who show up every day so that our patients can enjoy better health, a higher quality of life and more independence. Today is certainly a gift, and with your support, we look forward to an even brighter tomorrow.

**Gary Robinson,**  
President & CEO



**John Krizansky,**  
Chair/Centers for  
Dialysis Care



**Ron C. Hess,** Chair/  
Centers for Dialysis  
Care Foundation



*Centers for  
Dialysis Care*  
President & CEO



**Gary Robinson**

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Zenobia Earls

*Supporting Our Patients*

## The Art of Patient-Centered Care

Art Therapy uses a variety of artistic materials as therapeutic tools, while Music Therapy involves listening to and creating music to promote a sense of calm and well-being. The creative arts therapies program at Centers for Dialysis Care focuses on the process of creating art and making music, not the finished product. This program, which is offered to patients at no cost, is designed to foster personal growth as well as physical, emotional and mental health.



**D**awn Knez, art therapist at Centers for Dialysis Care, has been working with patients for 25 years. She continually witnesses the positive impact art therapy has on both patients and their caregivers, and how art can nurture a community that ultimately inspires one another.

Case in point, Zenobia Earls and Pat Jackson.

Zenobia Earls is a retired teacher and as a result, has a great deal of patience. During her art therapy sessions, Zenobia thoughtfully selects visual references from which to work, and she paints diligently within the confines of her dialysis chair. Zenobia shares that art therapy and the process of creating opens up a whole new world for her:

“**The art therapy helps so much, because I almost forget I’m getting dialysis.**”

“The art therapy helps so much, because I almost forget I’m getting dialysis. I concentrate on my art, not the clock! It’s not fun being here, so the art therapy makes a positive difference. I enjoy seeing the result of the projects. I didn’t

think I could produce such beautiful works of art!”

“**The development of artistic skills allows for self-expression and affords choice—there is a real emphasis on abilities instead of limitations in art therapy.**”

When Zenobia’s art was displayed in the lobby at Beachwood, Pat Jackson, the mother of dialysis patient Revon Jackson, was so inspired she began to paint as well. Pat has past musical experience, but none in visual arts, but it turns out she is “natural.”

“Art therapy helps build up my confidence, especially doing something I have never done in my lifetime. It also proves to me that I can be creative, and that the artwork does not have to be perfect.”

Creative Arts Therapies at Centers for Dialysis Care began in 1991. Maryann Farago, an intern who was working towards her master’s degree in Art Therapy, incorporated art into sessions



Artwork by: a) Mariann Nickens;  
b) Aletha Kern; c) Imogene Drake;  
d) Keir Pollard

with hemodialysis patients. Over time, these efforts caught the attention of then CEO, Diane Wish, who recognized art therapy’s value toward enhancing patient satisfaction and quality of life. With a vision and unwavering support from leadership, the program thrived. A quarter of a century later, it is now a staple offered at more than a dozen facilities within Centers for Dialysis Care.

“I enjoy helping people and interacting with patients and their loved ones,” shares Dawn Knez, art therapist at Centers for Dialysis Care. “Many of our patients face

challenging restrictions and have experienced losses, and I find it particularly inspiring when they find new creative ways to cope. The development of artistic skills allows for self-expression and affords choice—there is a real emphasis on abilities instead of limitations in art therapy. Seeing the ‘possible’ and the artists’ enthusiasm is truly motivating. I feel fortunate to be a small part of creating tangible good—the results of creative efforts cannot be refuted. To me, and hopefully to them, that is a beautiful thing.”



*Supporting Our Patients*

## Above & Beyond Patient Education

Centers for Dialysis Care provides comprehensive healthcare, support and education to every patient. In the truest sense, we are a safety net for individuals in need of CKD-related health services in the Northeast Ohio community. Our patient programs are designed to support patients at every step of their personal healthcare journey.



*Leonard "Leno" Elfers*

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Our patient programs are designed to support patients at every step of their personal healthcare journey.

Leonard “Leno” Elfers has been a patient of Centers for Dialysis Care since 2011, beginning a healthcare journey with many steps.

After years of in-center hemodialysis, with the support of his healthcare team, Leno received a kidney transplant in 2019. However, in early 2022, Leno became ill with both the flu and COVID-19, which led to a failed transplant.

Leno returned to in-center hemodialysis for a short time but soon made a seamless transition to home dialysis. After discussing options with his

nephrologist, he met with Wendy Underwood, home care registered nurse in the Centers for Dialysis Care Westside Home Care program.

“Knowledge is power and the more practice a patient has with a home nurse the more confident they will be,” said Wendy. “Patients will say on their first day

‘I don’t know if I can do this’ but by the end of training, they feel confident. There is no limit to home dialysis training, and if someone needs more time, we give them more time. I will not stop educating a patient until we both feel that they are ready. Graduation day is the best day of training.”

Home dialysis is a procedure that uses the lining of the abdominal cavity (peritoneal membrane) and a cleaning solution (dialysate) to draw out the waste and extra fluid from the body. This form of therapy is completed in the patient’s home, and the exchanges can be done with or without a partner.



Leno has found that home dialysis provides more mobility than in-center treatments. He believes his training with Wendy gave him the confidence needed to complete his at-home treatments with the nighttime cyclor.

“For home dialysis patients, their quality of life improves as they will have less diet and fluid restrictions, travel becomes easier since they can take the machine with them instead of having to arrange for treatments at other centers, and they have more control over their daily schedule. It’s a feeling of relief that many patients likely have not had since their initial CKD diagnosis,” notes Wendy.

Centers for Dialysis Care offers patients the Kidney Education for You (KEY) program to help support and educate patients on their treatment options, and ultimately improve kidney health outcomes. Our team of physicians and staff believe that informed patients are better equipped to make decisions regarding their health and well-being.

There are two types of home dialysis. One type requires manual exchanges throughout the day, while the other is performed at night while the patient is asleep with the aid of a cyclor machine.

Centers for Dialysis Care offers home dialysis support at six convenient locations in Northeast Ohio: CDC

Beachwood Home Care (Beachwood); CDC Euclid Home Care (Euclid); CDC Middleburg Heights Home Care (Middleburg Heights); CDC Mentor Home Care (Mentor); CDC Westside Home Care (Fairview Park); and CDC Youngstown Home Care (Boardman).

Advantages include: a flexible schedule; two clinic visits per month; the ability to travel; no needles required; no partner required; a registered nurse available 24/7; and treatments performed at work, home or during sleep.

When asked what makes this type of therapy the best option for Leno, he proudly replies: “Every day is mine!”

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*Latasha Wade, RN*

*Supporting Our Providers*

## Defining Excellence in Healthcare Training

The Centers for Dialysis Care team is a motivated and dedicated group of healthcare providers who are committed to excellence and quality patient-centered care. In return, Centers for Dialysis Care offers staff opportunities to gain valuable training and professional development that help the organization continue to drive the success and meet the needs of our patients.



Centers for Dialysis Care is proud to offer the Diane Wish Nursing Scholarship to employees. Named in honor of our previous Chief Executive Officer, Diane Wish, this program grants scholarships to Centers for Dialysis Care employees to promote professional development and career growth in the nursing field.

Wish, who retired from CDC in December 2018, is a nationally known expert in the dialysis industry with more than 35 years of renal care experience.

Latasha Wade received the scholarship in 2020. Latasha has been with the company for 10+ years now, starting as a dialysis technician and currently works as a registered nurse at CDC Warrensville. In 2021, Latasha graduated from Cuyahoga Community College with an associate of nursing degree.

“The Diane Wish Scholarship has helped me tremendously with my nursing career because it allowed me to go to school while working full-time and balancing being a parent,” notes Latasha. “I’m grateful for this scholarship because it showed me how the company that I have worked for the past 10 years was able to give back to me and others by aiding in our education and progression in our careers,” said Latasha.

The scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500, are awarded to caregivers who are currently enrolled in an RN program at an accredited school of nursing, hold a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and are full-time or part-time employees of CDC.

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**The Diane Wish Scholarship has helped me tremendously with my nursing career because it allowed me to go to school while working full-time and balancing being a parent.**

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The scholarship program supports the provider, as well as the mission to ensure quality, patient-centered healthcare.

“When I train new technicians, I tell them that the ultimate goal for a patient’s treatment is to make sure the patient is leaving better than they came in. If not, if something is wrong, and we will try our best to help them or find help for them,” said Latasha.

Centers for Dialysis Care encourages and supports the ongoing education and professional development of each one of our 500 team members.



Left: Diane Wish, Former CEO of Centers for Dialysis Care





*Supporting Our Community*

## Deepening Our Local Roots

As a healthcare leader in Northeast Ohio, Centers for Dialysis Care takes great pride in our local roots and continues to support the Northeast Ohio community through a variety of community partnerships and education programs, extending beyond the reach of our healthcare services, to help cultivate a healthier, more engaged community.

*Left: Tiffany Stately,  
Marketing & Community  
Relations Specialist for  
Centers for Dialysis Care;  
Right: Linda Kimble,  
Executive Director of  
Cleveland MOTTEP*





Established in 1995, Cleveland Minority Organ & Tissue Transplant Education Program (Cleveland MOTTEP) is Ohio's only organization that provides community-based, culturally specific transplant, health and prevention education exclusively to the minority community. The organization's mission is to increase the number of registered organ, eye and tissue donors in the local minority community through health education and promotion. Cleveland MOTTEP obtained 501(c)(3) status in 2001.

"Although Cleveland MOTTEP is a small organization by the numbers, we are a mighty organization in our power and we make a difference in the communities we

serve," said Linda Kimble, executive director of Cleveland MOTTEP.

Linda has served as executive director of Cleveland MOTTEP since 2011 but her journey with the organization began long before then. Linda interned with Cleveland MOTTEP in the late 90s while working on a Master's in Community Health Education from Cleveland State University.

"At that time, my mother recently had a stroke, and one of the things I wanted to accomplish with my career was to improve the quality of life for citizens, especially minority citizens," said Linda.

Under Linda's guidance, Cleveland MOTTEP is well on its way to exceeding

goals outlined in the organization's 2021-2024 strategic plan. Upcoming initiatives include a variety of health and wellness-focused education:

- Host a "How to Visit the Doctor" workshop
- Increase workplace awareness and education programs
- Implement prevention and screening programs for dialysis patients, their families and friends
- Expand the Healthy Teens, Healthy Tomorrow Teen program to include younger children
- Sponsor or co-sponsor local educational and awareness events

Over the years, Cleveland MOTTEP has had many notable successes, including receiving grants and funding opportunities, winning awards as well as touching the lives of thousands of individuals in the local community.

One of the most successful programs is the Healthy Teen, Healthy Tomorrow Teen Summit. This program aims to empower teens, ages 14-18, with education that will better equip them to make positive lifestyle choices. Since its inception in 2008, the program has served thousands of local high school students.

Most recently, Cleveland MOTTEP received funding to support a community engagement campaign that has so far increased vaccination rates by

successfully vaccinating 1,500+ individuals in the community.

Centers for Dialysis Care and Cleveland MOTTEP continue to work together to increase community engagement and improve the lives of patients, patient families and all individuals in our surrounding community.

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**Although Cleveland MOTTEP is a small organization by the numbers, we are a mighty organization in our power and we make a difference in the communities we serve.**

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"Since its inception, Cleveland MOTTEP has been supported by Centers for Dialysis Care Foundation in so many ways. I have seen firsthand how the Centers for Dialysis Care Foundation has supported the organization and its activities," said Linda.

Cleveland MOTTEP's Vision: To be the trusted source of information concerning organ, eye and tissue donation and healthier lifestyles in the Greater Cleveland minority community.

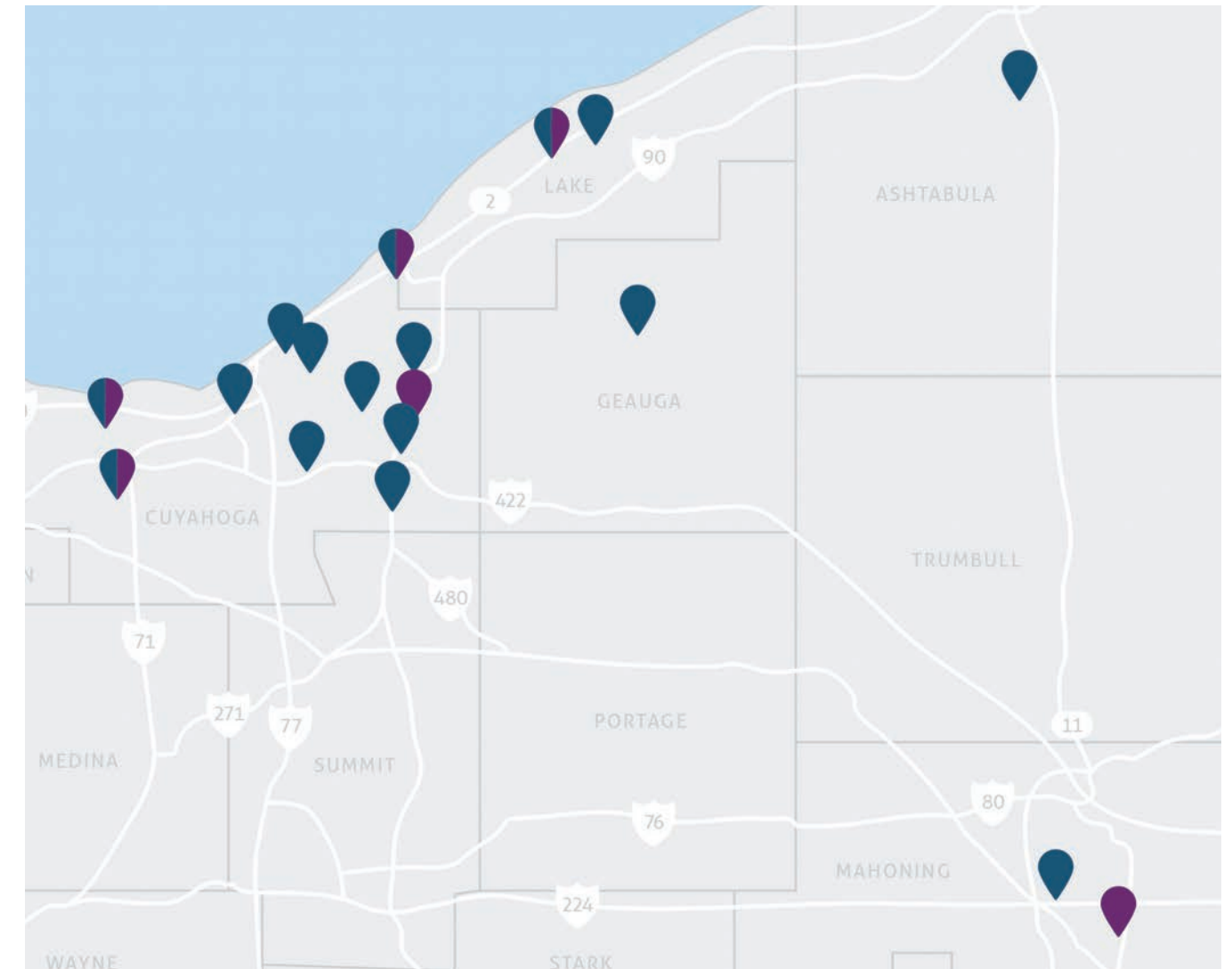
**ClevelandMOTTEP.org**





# About the Centers for Dialysis Care Foundation

Centers for Dialysis Care Foundation has supported additional services and community initiatives of Centers for Dialysis Care since 1974. The Foundation helps provide funding for a variety of patient-centered programs that aim to improve the health and well-being of all our patients. It also provides education to staff and supports programs to reach our communities.



## Nearly 50 Years of Providing Patient-Centered Care

We began serving our first four patients in October of 1974 in the St. Luke's Medical Building. Subsequently, Centers for Dialysis Care has continued to grow, today serving approximately 2,000 patients within 30 different patient care settings.



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