



2017 Melissa Daniels Team Spirit Award

What does Having Kidney Spirit Mean to You?

Melissa Daniels was a long-time volunteer and patient advocate with the Northeast Kidney Foundation. She lived with chronic kidney disease for many, many years (from the time she was a child) but never let it define who she was as a person. Serving as an inspiration to many, she was a passionate patient advocate, always encouraging those with CKD to live fuller lives.

She received her Bachelor's Degree from the College of St. Rose and later her Masters from the University at Albany. She performed many volunteer activities with the Foundation, including raising funds for the annual walk (a tradition her family continues today), volunteering at kidney screenings, at our annual pediatric holiday party and serving as a patient advocate. She also served as a delegate for the Foundation to the 2004 American Conference of Kidney Patients and spoke before a number of organizations and also conducted a number of media interviews to help educate the public about kidney disease and organ donation. She also volunteered with the Center for Donation & Transplant, educating about the importance of organ donation.

In keeping with Melissa's passion of being a patient advocate, Melissa's family has introduced the Melissa Daniels Team Spirit Award. In the form of an essay contest, submissions should focus on the meaning of kidney spirit to those affected by CKD and organ donation.

Those submitting essays should submit them no later than May 15. We encourage essays to be no more than two pages in length. They should also include information on how the individual or family has been affected by chronic kidney disease or organ donation and what this journey has meant to you and your family. It should focus on how an individual has embraced the kidney journey and also speak to what living positively with chronic kidney disease means to you. The winner of the essay contest will receive a recognition plaque to be presented at the Kidney Walk/Run on June 11 and will have their essay published in the Foundation's newsletter. Melissa's family will also make a contribution of \$500 to the kidney walk team or the personal fundraising effort of the individual.

For information, call 518-533-7880 or email info@healthykidneys.org

Essays can be emailed to info@healthykidneys.org or mailed to NeKF, Melissa Daniels Team Spirit Contest, 501 New Karner Road, Albany, NY 12205. Please submit your entries by May 15, 2017.