



## Christmas In July



# Kidney Dialysis Support Group

A Letter from one of the Task Force Member Anita Reed:  
I believe one voice can make a difference.

One voice was heard and a community that cares showed support for need-- that need was to have a Kidney Dialysis Unit in our town so that the patients in our area would not have to travel miles and miles 3 days a week. Their lives depend on getting to their Dialysis without fail no matter what, weather included.

I was fortunate to be one of the people that heard the voice that has changed my life forever. I worked at our local hospital and I went to administration and asked why we did not have a Dialysis unit and what would it take to get one here. Little did I realize the hard work that was to be ahead of us.

The Marion General Hospital formed a task force including members of the hospital and invited myself and the woman I heard on the radio that fateful morning to be part of it. The task force was to determine the need of a unit for our community. It took from April 1991 to July 1995 to accomplish what a lot of people thought was impossible. At times we thought that might be the case. But with hard work and determination we saw the reality of a a unit here.

I and several other members of the community including the radio commentator formed a Support Group for Dialysis patients, their families and other caregivers. Our goal was not only to support them but very importantly to educate the community as to what Dialysis means to a patient once it is determined that they must have Dialysis to survive. The patient has this treatment 3 days per week for the rest of their lives OR until they become a candidate for a Kidney transplant. Dialysis means that the Kidneys have shut down and they no longer excrete body fluids. The patient has their blood exchanged 3 times a week in order to remove toxins that would normally be done by the kidneys. Their medications alone can cost over \$1,000.00 a month.

We have a very unique Support group. Not only do we meet once a month but we have a fund raiser once a year that we use as an opportunity to educate and raise monies to help the patients with special needs.

Mayor Jack Kellogg proclaimed the first Saturday in June to be known as "Cruisin" For Dialysis Day.

Our yearly fund raiser is a car show where their owners can display them hoping to win a trophy. Also Merchants in the area donate items for raffle. Each and every dollar raised that day is used for our patients. This is a Family Fun filled day. Since the opening of our Dialysis Unit in Marion, Oh the need has grown to the point a larger unit was built and one built in Bucyrus, Oh. The need has been overwhelming.

Our patients in these two units alone come from 7 counties around us. Our monies that are donated cover all patients with special needs within these counties and both Dialysis units. We also have had Turkeys for Thanksgiving donated in the past for our patients. We live in a great community. Thanks for your time to read this and Come on out and visit us on Dialysis Day first Saturday in June.

### "GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE"

"Christmas In July" Kidney Dialysis Support Group

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