



SPRING 2026

MNITE

MAGAZINE

MENDEZ NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRANSPLANTATION FOUNDATION

ERIC ROBERTS

The Academy Award-nominated actor shares why storytelling matters in health and organ donation.

Inside: Celebrity voices, medical insight, and real stories of second chances



A LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The Mendez National Institute of Transplantation Foundation (MNITF) is thrilled to launch the first issue of our almost-quarterly magazine! We plan to release three issues each year to provide updates on what's new at MNITF, tips on healthy living, kidney disease prevention, and information about transplantation and organ donation.

What better month than March to launch this magazine, as it is National Kidney Month. Did you know kidney disease is the 9th leading cause of death in the U.S.? It is estimated that about 37 million adults in the U.S. have kidney disease, and most do not even know it, as symptoms usually do not appear until the disease is advanced. The good news is that kidney disease can be prevented and kidney failure can be delayed—however, awareness is key. Diabetes and hypertension are the two leading causes, followed by heart disease and family history of kidney failure. I invite you to join MNITF in helping to raise awareness this month among family and friends. To learn more, visit MNITF.org and follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok.

I am also thrilled that the extremely talented, Academy Award-winning Eric Roberts is featured in this first issue. He has been a wonderful supporter of MNITF, from having a role in our first feature film, *The Christmas Chain*, to participating in our newest PSA about organ donation, which can be seen on our website, as well as on television and streaming platforms.

In this issue, we also feature actor and physician Rico Simonini, who discusses hypertension and the importance of early screenings, as well as an inspiring transplant story from Allen Kelly — a post-production colorist who also worked on MNITF's newest PSA campaign.

Please share this issue with family and friends. Together, we are creating a future where kidney disease awareness, transplantation advancement, and patient empowerment remain at the forefront of medical progress.

Warmly,
Nicole Mendez

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A MESSAGE THAT SAVES LIVES: MNITF Launches Nationwide 2026 TV and Radio PSA Campaign



In 2026, the Mendez National Institute of Transplantation Foundation is amplifying its mission in a powerful new way—through a nationwide television and radio public service announcement (PSA) campaign focused on kidney disease prevention, organ transplantation, and the life-saving importance of donor registration.

Airing throughout the year on broadcast, cable, streaming platforms, and radio stations across the country, the campaign is designed to reach millions of Americans with one clear message: awareness saves lives, and every individual has the power to make a difference.

The PSAs spotlight themes of hope, generosity, and second chances, while encouraging viewers and listeners to take action by learning more about kidney disease prevention and registering as organ donors.

This year’s initiative is strengthened by the participation of respected and recognizable voices from the entertainment world. Academy Award-nominated actor **Eric Roberts**, Academy Award winner **Wes Studi**, and cult film and action star **Michael Paré** each lend their visibility and passion to the campaign, helping the message resonate with broader and more diverse audiences.

**Keep an eye out for
MNITF’s 2026 PSAs on
cable and streaming,
and take a moment to
watch and share them
online at:
MNITF.org/psas**

(continued on next page)

New PSA Campaign

“Every donor has the potential to save and heal multiple lives,” said Nicole Mendez, Executive Director of MNITF. “With the support of these remarkable artists, we are able to reach broader audiences and deliver a message of hope, compassion, and action.”

Beyond traditional media placements, the 2026 PSA campaign is supported by digital outreach and community engagement initiatives, extending its reach even further. By meeting people where they are—on screens, on the airwaves, and online—MNITF aims to spark meaningful conversations and inspire informed choices around kidney health and organ donation.

“Our goal is to ensure that more families never have to hear the words, ‘there is no organ available,’” Mendez added. “Public awareness is a critical step toward saving more lives.”

Through this campaign, MNITF continues its commitment to education, prevention, and advocacy—working toward a future where more lives are saved, more patients receive second chances, and more families are spared unnecessary loss.

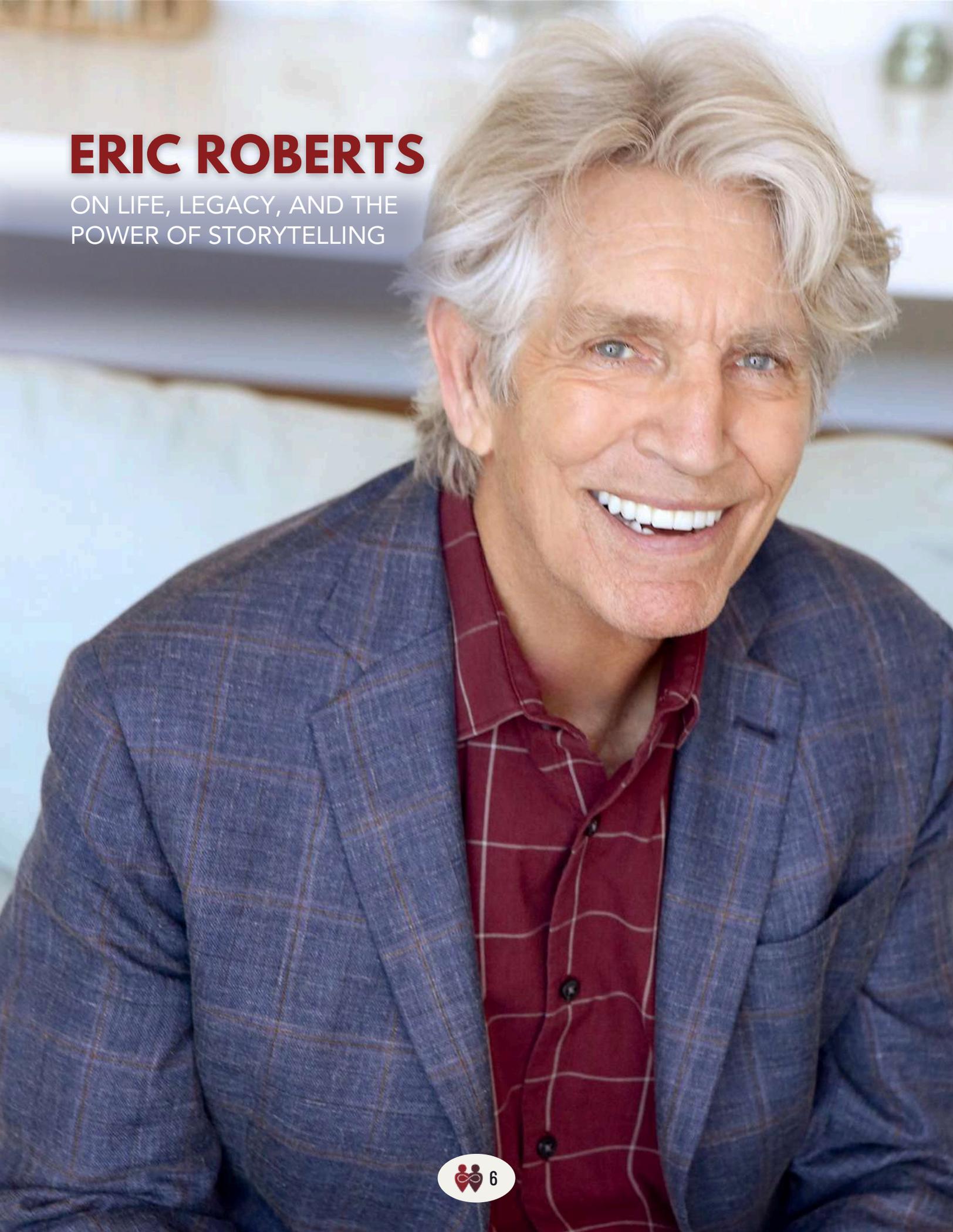
To learn more about MNITF’s 2026 PSA campaign or find out how to become an organ donor, visit mnitf.org.

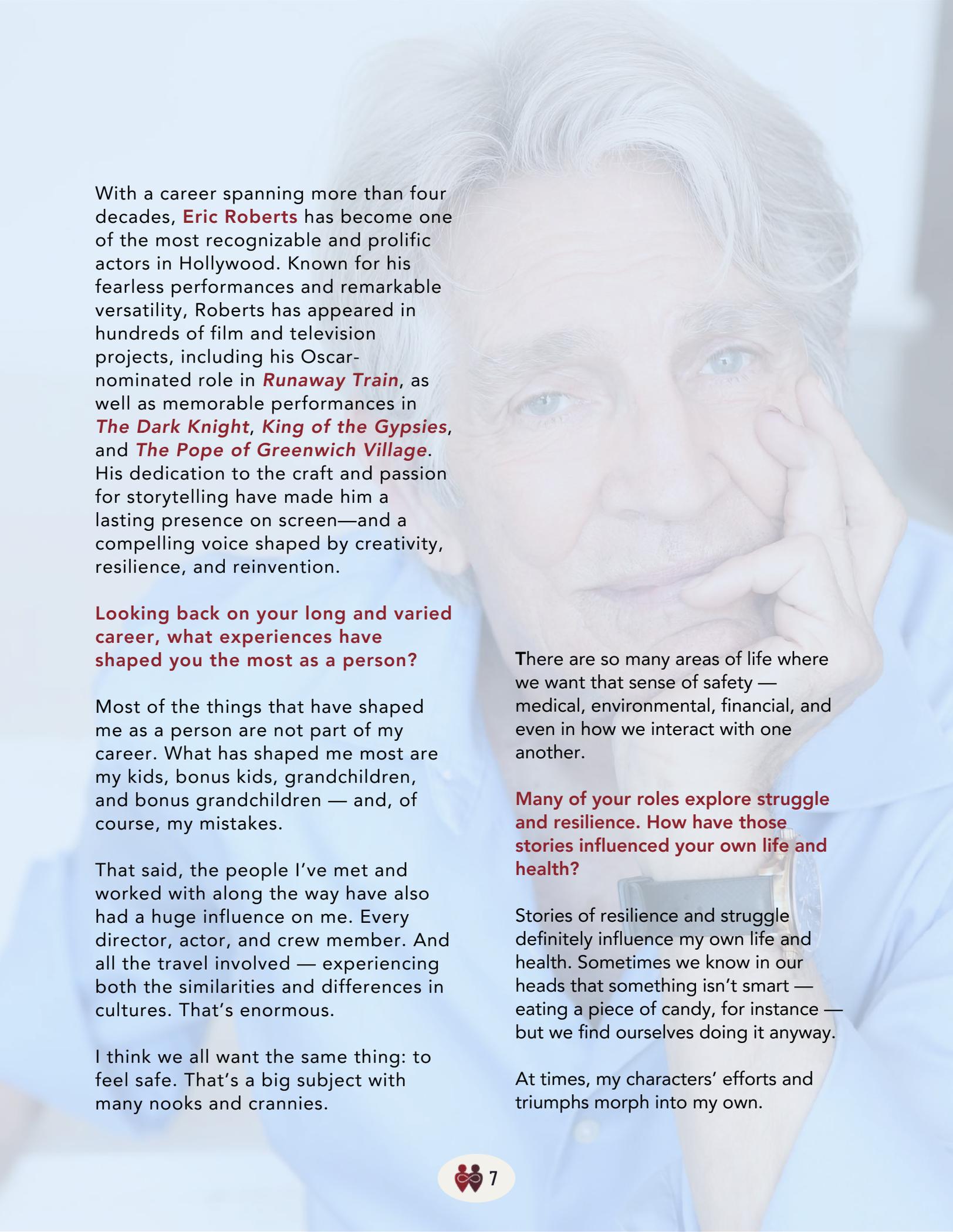


AWARENESS SAVES LIVES.

ERIC ROBERTS

ON LIFE, LEGACY, AND THE
POWER OF STORYTELLING





With a career spanning more than four decades, **Eric Roberts** has become one of the most recognizable and prolific actors in Hollywood. Known for his fearless performances and remarkable versatility, Roberts has appeared in hundreds of film and television projects, including his Oscar-nominated role in *Runaway Train*, as well as memorable performances in *The Dark Knight*, *King of the Gypsies*, and *The Pope of Greenwich Village*. His dedication to the craft and passion for storytelling have made him a lasting presence on screen—and a compelling voice shaped by creativity, resilience, and reinvention.

Looking back on your long and varied career, what experiences have shaped you the most as a person?

Most of the things that have shaped me as a person are not part of my career. What has shaped me most are my kids, bonus kids, grandchildren, and bonus grandchildren — and, of course, my mistakes.

That said, the people I've met and worked with along the way have also had a huge influence on me. Every director, actor, and crew member. And all the travel involved — experiencing both the similarities and differences in cultures. That's enormous.

I think we all want the same thing: to feel safe. That's a big subject with many nooks and crannies.

There are so many areas of life where we want that sense of safety — medical, environmental, financial, and even in how we interact with one another.

Many of your roles explore struggle and resilience. How have those stories influenced your own life and health?

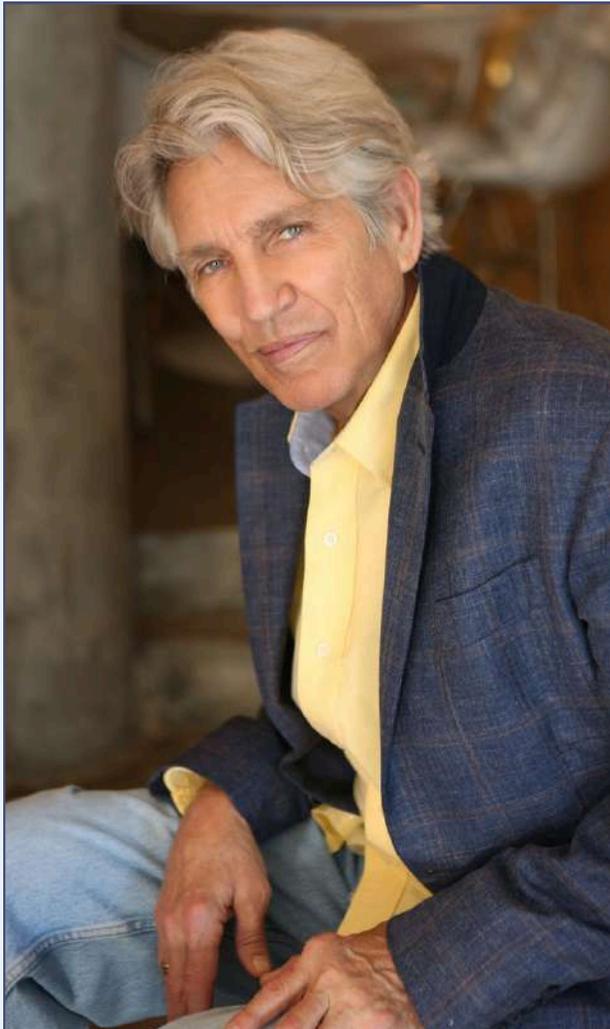
Stories of resilience and struggle definitely influence my own life and health. Sometimes we know in our heads that something isn't smart — eating a piece of candy, for instance — but we find ourselves doing it anyway.

At times, my characters' efforts and triumphs morph into my own.

What inspired you to get involved with MNITF and support organ donation awareness?

Eliza and I were invited to an MNITF event by Suzanne DeLaurentiis, and we were committed from the moment we walked through the door.

We have never been able to fathom anyone making the decision not to be an organ donor. In those rooms, you really learn that this is a powerful way to contribute to that feeling of safety I was talking about earlier.



“

Stories of resilience and struggle definitely influence my own life and health.

- Eric Roberts

”

Why do you believe storytelling is so effective in educating people about transplantation and kidney disease?

Storytelling has proven to be the most effective way to teach — whether in a classroom or anywhere else. When a story’s tone is set, rather than delivering an off-putting, boring lecture, we receive information on an emotional level. And that’s what prompts action.

Having the opportunity to make such a significant choice is rare, and it needs to be embraced.

What projects do you have coming up in the future that you can share with us?

My IMDb page gives a good picture of what’s coming up. If there were a truly mind-blowing project I was about to start, I’d definitely tell you. For now, there’s steady work, and for that, I’m incredibly grateful.



TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE ON
MNITF.ORG

Upcoming Edutainment Projects

AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
PRESENTS

The Fighting
QUAKER

JOIN US AS WE HONOR AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH A STIRRING 1-HOUR LIVE DRAMA THAT BRINGS THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TO LIFE. THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES WITH A FESTIVE FOOD RECEPTION AND AN EXCLUSIVE 'MEET THE CAST' EXPERIENCE AFTER THE SHOW.

THE FIGHTING QUAKER

PLAY | PRE-PRODUCTION

Debut date: Summer 2026 | Location: Los Angeles

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with a 1-hour live drama that brings the signing of the Declaration of Independence to life!

The Fighting Quaker explores the life of Timothy Matlack, the man who inscribed the original Declaration of Independence in 1776. Framed through an intimate portrait session late in Matlack's life, the play reflects on his transformation from a struggling young merchant to a pivotal but largely forgotten figure of the American Revolution.

Along the way, Matlack's journey intersects with icons such as Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, revealing the personal sacrifices behind the nation's founding ideals.

For MNITF audiences, the play's focus on Matlack's later years offers a poignant reminder of the physical toll carried by those who endure long, demanding lives—at a time when chronic illness, including kidney disease, often went unnamed and untreated.

The Fighting Quaker invites reflection on resilience, legacy, and the importance of advancing medical care so that future generations can live longer, healthier lives.

Stay up to date on all MNITF projects at [MNITF.org](https://www.mnitf.org)



A Thanksgiving Miracle:

ALLEN KELLY'S SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

For career film colorist and post-production artist Allen Kelly, Thanksgiving 2025 will forever hold a meaning far deeper than turkey, tradition, or gratitude lists. It was the night that changed his life.

After seven years of living with kidney failure and enduring dialysis, Allen received the call he had been waiting for — one that came unexpectedly at 11:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving night.

"They said, 'This is so-and-so from the Connie Frank Kidney Center at UCLA. We have a kidney for you,'" Allen recalled. "I froze. It didn't register at first that this was really happening."

Moments later, reality set in. Allen shared the news with his family, and their quiet holiday evening instantly transformed into one filled with tears, hugs, and disbelief.

"They were jumping up and down," he said. "We were hugging each other. And they told me, 'You need to come down as soon as possible.'"

Within minutes, Allen and his family were in the car, arriving at UCLA around 1:00 a.m. Doctors immediately began running tests, checking his creatinine, potassium,



Post-production artist Allen Kelly and his family

hemoglobin, and other levels to prepare him for surgery. Even then, the journey wasn't over yet.

"I actually had to go into dialysis again that night," Allen explained. "My potassium levels were too high, so I had dialysis for a couple of hours to bring them down."

By 6:00 a.m., Allen was being prepped for surgery.

"Shortly after that," he said simply, "I came out with a new kidney."

A Long Road to That Call

Allen's journey with kidney disease began in 2019, after what he thought was a routine blood test.

"They looked at my creatinine levels and said, 'Your levels are creeping up. It looks like you're going into kidney failure,'" he said. "That was devastating."

Doctors told him he needed to begin dialysis immediately — news that hit even harder because Allen had no idea what dialysis truly involved. Fortunately, his wife, a nurse, helped him understand what was coming.

Still, nothing could fully prepare him for the reality. For seven years, Allen underwent dialysis three times a week, often starting at 3:15 in the morning.

"I went that early because there was room available," he said, "and I thought maybe if I slept during dialysis, I'd still be able to work."

Allen's career had him working across films, television, commercials, trailers, and music videos. Known in the industry for his artistry, precision, and calm presence, he continued working as much as his body would allow — even when dialysis left him exhausted.

"They would regularly take out two to three liters of fluid at a time," Allen said. "That, on top of the medications, really wiped me out."

Yet he kept going — balancing work, medical appointments, strict dietary restrictions, and constant lab tests to protect his heart, organs, and overall health.

"He Never Gave Up"

Allen's longtime friend and collaborator, David Courtice, witnessed that perseverance firsthand.

"Even when he was worn out, Allen brought such a positive spirit into every moment," David said. "He's the warmest, sweetest guy — someone you want to have around."

David remembers exactly how he learned about Allen's transplant.

"It was a text in the middle of the night on Thanksgiving," he said. "I woke up and thought, 'Oh my God — Allen's getting a kidney.' It was phenomenal."

David shared that Allen had recently been working on public service announcements for MNITF, making the moment feel especially profound.

"He was literally working on PSAs for kidney awareness," David said, "and then suddenly, he's the patient."

Gratitude, Perspective, and the Gift of Life

Today, Allen is recovering well, and his doctors are thrilled with his progress.

"They're really happy with my lab values and how the kidney is functioning," he said. "The surgeon even told me the operation usually takes three to four hours — and mine took an hour and a half."

But beyond the medical success, Allen speaks most passionately about gratitude — especially toward the donor and their family.

“I’m eternally grateful,” he said. “They didn’t have to make that decision.”

That gratitude has reshaped how Allen views life.

“I’ve lived my life,” he reflected. “My kids are grown. But I still feel like there’s so much more I can do.”

He now dreams of traveling again — visiting friends in New Zealand and returning to Japan, where his mother is from.

“That will mean even more to me now,” he said, noting that his grandfather, who died at 54 from suspected kidney failure, never had access to treatments like dialysis or transplantation.

I’m 64 now,” Allen added. “I’ve outlived my grandfather. And I wonder what the future still holds.”

A Message to Future Donors — and Patients

Allen understands that organ donation can be a difficult, emotional decision — but he hopes people see it for what it truly is.

“They are lifesavers,” he said. “People can pass on the gift of life — vision, heart, lungs, liver, kidneys. It’s something money can’t buy.”



Allen with his daughter post-transplant surgery.

He also offers encouragement to those currently on dialysis or facing serious illness.

“I chose not to give up,” Allen said. “I followed my doctor’s advice. I stayed on my meds. I watched what I ate. I exercised.”

“Because you never know when you’ll get the call,” he added. “You have to be ready — physically and mentally.”

For Allen, that readiness made all the difference.

Now, every Thanksgiving will serve as a reminder of what he calls his second chance at life — made possible by science, resilience, and the selfless gift of organ donation.



THE SILENT CONNECTION:

RICO SIMONINI

On Heart Health, Kidney Disease, and Early Detection

Rico Simonini is an Italian-American actor and cardiologist whose life's work bridges two demanding worlds: medicine and the dramatic arts. A graduate of New York University, where he earned his bachelor's degree and the John Parkes History Award, Simonini's early journey began in Brooklyn and carried him through some of the nation's most respected medical institutions, including Bellevue Hospital and leading centers across San Francisco, Boston, Ann Arbor, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

As an actor, he has enjoyed the opportunity to perform in film and television, as well as on theater stages across the country.



After being recruited to one of Los Angeles' most prestigious medical centers, Simonini's artistic pursuits flourished alongside his cardiology practice. Like Anton Chekhov, Somerset Maugham, and Arthur Conan Doyle before him, Rico remained married to medicine while pursuing his paramour—acting—wherever his career would take him.

Today, his story stands as a testament to the profound connection between heart, health, and humanity—both on stage and in real life.

Why is early detection of hypertension and chronic kidney disease so critical?

Hypertension and chronic kidney disease are often called “silent conditions” because they can progress without symptoms. Nearly half of U.S. adults have high blood pressure, and rates increase significantly with age, particularly among African Americans.

Early detection is crucial because untreated hypertension can lead to kidney disease, heart disease, stroke, and vascular complications. Studies show that controlling blood pressure significantly reduces the risk of developing chronic kidney disease, while untreated hypertension more than doubles that risk.



How does chronic kidney disease influence cardiovascular health?

Untreated hypertension greatly increases the risk of chronic kidney disease progressing to end-stage renal disease, while also driving cardiovascular conditions such as heart attacks, heart failure, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease. The heart and kidneys are deeply connected, and damage to one often accelerates damage to the other.

Has your medical career influenced how you approach acting?

Absolutely. Medicine requires intense focus, presence, and attention to what's needed in the moment—skills that directly translate to acting.

(continued on the next page)



When approaching a role, I apply the same discipline and precision: understanding what the character needs, what they want, and what's happening in the moment. The professional mindset is identical.

What lifestyle habits or screenings make the biggest difference for heart and kidney health?

Simple, accessible screenings can save lives. Regular blood pressure checks, urine tests for protein, and awareness of family history are essential starting points. Additional tools—such as cholesterol tests, hemoglobin A1c for diabetes, ultrasounds, EKGs, and coronary calcium scans—can provide early warnings. These screenings help prevent devastating outcomes like heart failure, stroke, or dialysis, allowing people to live longer, healthier lives.

What misconceptions do you see most often about hypertensive heart and kidney disease?

The biggest misconception is believing that feeling well means being well. Hypertension is a silent killer—damage can occur long before symptoms appear. Many people live seemingly normal lives until a sudden, fatal event occurs.



Hypertension is a silent killer—damage can occur long before symptoms appear.

- Dr. Rico Simonini



Regular screening and follow-up care are essential; feeling good isn't enough—you have to be sure you are good.

How do you manage balance while working in medicine and entertainment?

Both careers demand dedication, empathy, and a deep understanding of humanity.

Acting has allowed me to connect with people who may benefit from medical guidance, particularly around prevention and early detection. Medicine, in turn, strengthens my ability to listen, stay present, and connect—skills that are equally vital on stage and in the clinic. Together, these paths have shaped a life centered on service, awareness, and healing.

New Breakthroughs in Kidney Research

Advances in IgA Nephropathy

IgA nephropathy (IgAN), sometimes called Berger's disease, is a kidney condition caused by a buildup of an immune protein called immunoglobulin A (IgA) in the kidneys.

Over time, this buildup can lead to inflammation that affects how well the kidneys filter waste from the blood. For some people, the disease can progress to chronic kidney disease or kidney failure—but research is bringing new understanding and new options.

For many years, treatment for IgA nephropathy focused mainly on managing symptoms, such as controlling blood pressure and reducing protein in the urine.

While these steps remain important, recent advances in research have opened the door to therapies that go beyond symptom management and begin to address the underlying causes of the disease.

A Clearer Picture of IgA Nephropathy

Researchers now understand more about how IgA nephropathy begins. In people with the condition, the immune system produces a form of IgA that the body recognizes as abnormal. This triggers immune complexes that travel through the bloodstream and settle in the kidneys, where they cause inflammation and gradual damage.

This clearer picture of the disease has been a turning point—allowing scientists to design treatments that target specific steps in the disease process.

New and Emerging Treatment Options

One major breakthrough involves targeted steroid therapies that focus on the gut, where abnormal IgA is believed to originate. By acting closer to the source of the problem, these treatments aim to reduce harmful IgA production while limiting the side effects often associated with traditional steroids.

Researchers have also developed medications that block parts of the complement system, an immune pathway involved in kidney inflammation. In clinical studies, these treatments have shown the ability to reduce kidney inflammation and slow disease progression.

Another promising approach includes medications that help reduce protein leakage in the urine and protect the kidneys from long-term scarring. Lowering protein in the urine is an important marker of disease control and is linked to better kidney outcomes.

What This Means for Patients and Families

These advances represent a meaningful shift for people living with IgA nephropathy. For the first time, treatments are becoming available that are designed specifically for this disease—rather than relying only on general kidney-protective care.

While IgA nephropathy does not yet have a cure, newer therapies may help preserve kidney function and slow progression for many patients. Ongoing research continues to explore additional treatment options, combination approaches, and ways to personalize care based on individual risk factors.

For patients and families, this progress brings something important: more options, more knowledge, and more hope for the future.

Researchers now understand more about how IgA nephropathy begins.

COOKING CORNER

Shamrock Pie

(Kidney-Conscious & Dairy-Free)



A cool, creamy March favorite—reimagined with kidney health in mind.

This Shamrock Pie is a minty, frozen dessert inspired by the classic mint chocolate chip flavors many of us grew up loving. With thoughtful, plant-based swaps and mindful portions, it offers a festive way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day while being gentler on kidney health.

- ✓ Dairy-Free
- ✓ Plant-Based
- ✓ Kidney-Conscious Ingredients
- ✓ Celebration-Ready

Cool. Creamy. Nostalgic. ♥

Because special occasions should still include dessert.



Sandy Lo is a food blogger, writer, creative entrepreneur, and the founder of The Merry Bake Shop, where she creates nostalgic, plant-based desserts inspired by comfort and celebration. Her work focuses on approachable recipes that balance indulgence with mindful ingredient choices. Through MNITF Magazine's cooking column, Sandy is proud to share kidney-conscious recipes designed to bring joy to the table while supporting overall wellness and the foundation's mission of education and hope.

Kidney-Friendly Shamrock Pie Recipe



INGREDIENTS:

Crust

- 1½ cups chocolate cookie crumbs (vegan Oreos or chocolate grahams)
- 3 tbsp neutral oil (avocado oil preferred)

Mint “Ice Cream” Filling

- ¾ cup unsalted sunflower seed butter or 1½ cups silken tofu, blended smooth
- 6–8 oz low-sodium vegan cream cheese
- ⅓–½ cup maple syrup, to taste
- ½ tsp peppermint extract (a little goes a long way!)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Optional: pinch of salt (or omit entirely)
- ⅓–½ cup mini dairy-free chocolate chips, lightly chopped (Kidney-friendly swap: use ¼ cup of mini carob chips instead!)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Crust

1. Mix crumbs, oil, and maple syrup until the mixture holds together.
2. Press firmly into the bottom and sides of a pie pan.
3. Freeze while preparing the filling.

Mint “Ice Cream” Filling

- Blend all of the filling ingredients, except for the chocolate chips, until smooth.
- Fold in chocolate chips.
- Pour into the prepared crust and smooth the top.
- Freeze 4–6 hours, or until fully firm.

Serving Notes

- Optional: Once set, garnish with chocolate chips on top or mint leaves.
- Let sit at room temperature 10–15 minutes before slicing.
- For clean slices, use a knife dipped in warm water.
- Enjoy mindfully – smaller slices still deliver big flavor.

Why This Recipe Works for Kidney Health

Dairy-Free

Eliminates dairy, which can be high in phosphorus and potassium for those with kidney disease.

Carob Chips Swap Instead of Chocolate

Carob is naturally caffeine-free and lower in phosphorus than cocoa, making it a gentler option for kidney health.

Lower-Potassium Creamy Base

Using sunflower seed butter or silken tofu in place of cashews helps reduce potassium and phosphorus levels while keeping the texture smooth and rich.

Reduced Sodium

Choosing low-sodium vegan cream cheese and minimizing added salt helps support blood pressure and kidney function.

Portion-Forward Dessert

This frozen pie is rich and flavorful, meaning smaller slices still feel indulgent – an important part of kidney-friendly eating.

MNITF Tip:

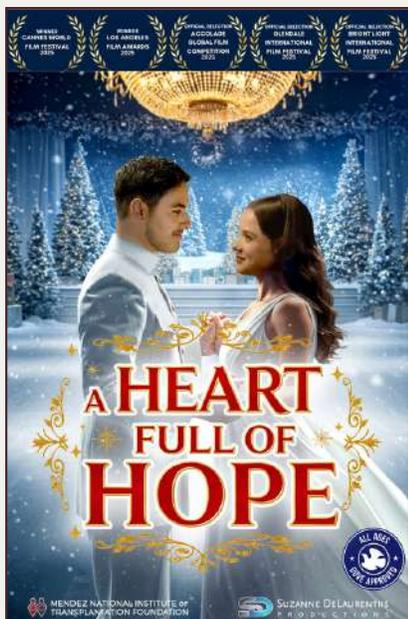
If you’re managing kidney disease, enjoying desserts occasionally is possible when ingredients and portions are chosen thoughtfully. Always follow personalized guidance from your healthcare provider.

MNITF'S STREAMING LIST



Check out some of MNITF's past edutainment projects! These movies and series are not only feel-good stories, but they raise kidney disease awareness and stress the importance of organ donation.

A Heart Full of Hope



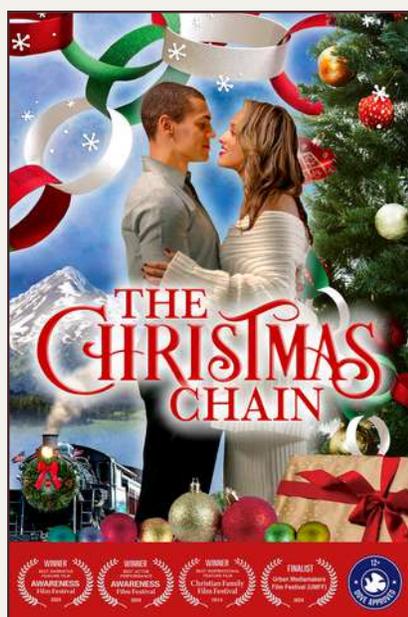
Whitney (played by Julia Taylor) is a determined woman in her 30s who refuses to let renal failure or the demands of regular dialysis stand in the way of her dream to earn a college degree. Supporting her is her vibrant younger sister, Lynette (Chelsea Cook), whose unwavering love masks the heartache of knowing she isn't a match to help Whitney through a kidney transplant.

The story takes an uplifting turn when Whitney forms a unique bond with Sebastian, played by Sebastian Armani. Sebastian is a charismatic teacher who has recently returned home to teach at her college. As Whitney introduces Sebastian to Lynette, sparks fly between them, bringing unexpected joy into their lives.

A Heart Full of Hope tells an inspiring story of resilience, love, and the transformative power of kindness while shedding light on the challenges faced by individuals battling renal failure.

Streaming on Tubi and Amazon Prime

The Christmas Chain



The Christmas Chain follows twin brothers Dez and Jerome on their journey home for Christmas after Jerome suffers a life-threatening kidney injury. Along their journey, they meet Sabrina, a compassionate musician who selflessly offers to donate her kidney to Jerome.

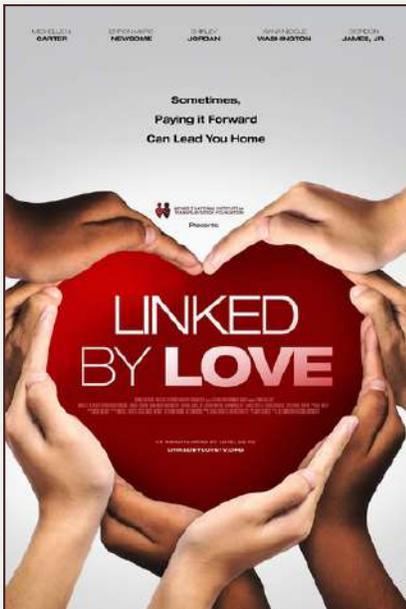
Through this remarkable act, the film highlights the beauty of giving and the impact one person's kindness can have on many lives.

The film stars Stephen Green, Tyler Andrews, Carissa Murray, Michael Paré, Chelsea Gilson, and features a special cameo by Eric Roberts.

Streaming on Tubi, Amazon Prime, AppleTV, Fandango, and YouTube.

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Linked By Love



Beverly Morris is a woman who seems to have it all. With a loving husband, two teenagers, a spunky grandmother, and a flourishing bakery business under her roof, she is constantly on the go, until a family history of kidney disease catches up to her.

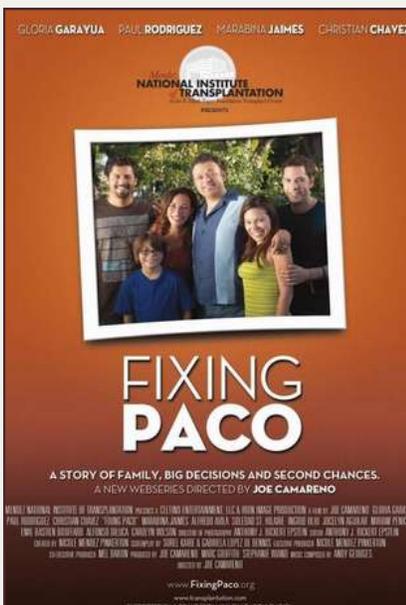
Exploring one Black family's experience with end-stage renal disease, *Linked by Love* follows the Morris family as they confront Beverly's illness and make the decision to do things differently, together.

Addressing the unique cultural barriers and significant medical disparities that affect the Black population, each relatable episode of *Linked by Love* follows the Morris family as they pursue help for Beverly and discover avenues for treatment, including transplantation and paying it forward through a living donor kidney chain.

As they go along, Beverly and her family discover that sometimes it takes a big dose of self-care and paying attention to one's healthcare to change your family for the better.

Streaming on Tubi, Amazon Prime, AppleTV, Fandango, and YouTube

Fixing Paco



Paco Fuentes is a man with a full life. As a loving husband, father of four, and a handyman with a thriving business, Paco's motto is always, "You broke it. I fix it!" But when his health begins to decline due to kidney failure, Paco must confront the disease that will change his life, and finally accept that he is now the one who needs to be fixed.

Following the Fuentes family's very real trials and tribulations in dealing with Paco's illness, each episode of *Fixing Paco* educates dialysis patients and their families about the treatment option of kidney transplantation, living donation, and being proactive in healthcare.

Shot in English and Spanish, *Fixing Paco* is a groundbreaking series that cuts through language barriers, delivering a message of hope, as Paco triumphs in battling his disease and learns to live again.

Streaming on YouTube.

WAYS TO GIVE

You can be an important part of continuing the mission of MNITF and helping to save and improve the lives of so many. Financial giving to MNITF creates unique opportunities for us to devote necessary resources to further advancing research and education. Below is a list of ways that you, your family, and friends can help keep the flame of hope alive for potential transplant recipients.



DIRECTED GIVING

With a planned giving strategy, you can earmark your contribution for any area of MNITF's work that you choose, including the Research Grant Program and Education projects.



GIFT OF CASH

This is the simplest and most common type of support. You can make a one-time gift, monthly payments, or pledge to donate over a one- to five-year period.



MEMORIAL OR HONORARIUM GIFTS

This is a gift made in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. A notification of your gift, with the amount undisclosed, is sent to the recipient indicated.



LIFE INCOME GIFTS

The most common type of life income gifts are charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.



LIFE INSURANCE

Donating a no longer needed policy entitles you to an immediate tax deduction for the policy's current cash value. This applies to whole life and not term life insurance policies.



BEQUESTS

You can provide a donor's estate with a charitable deduction to offset federal taxes.

If you would like to discuss giving, please contact

Nicole Mendez, Executive Director, at **(424) 358-4450** or via email at **Nicole@MNITF.org**.



WANT TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THOSE WITH END-STAGE ORGAN DISEASE?

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION OF ANY AMOUNT

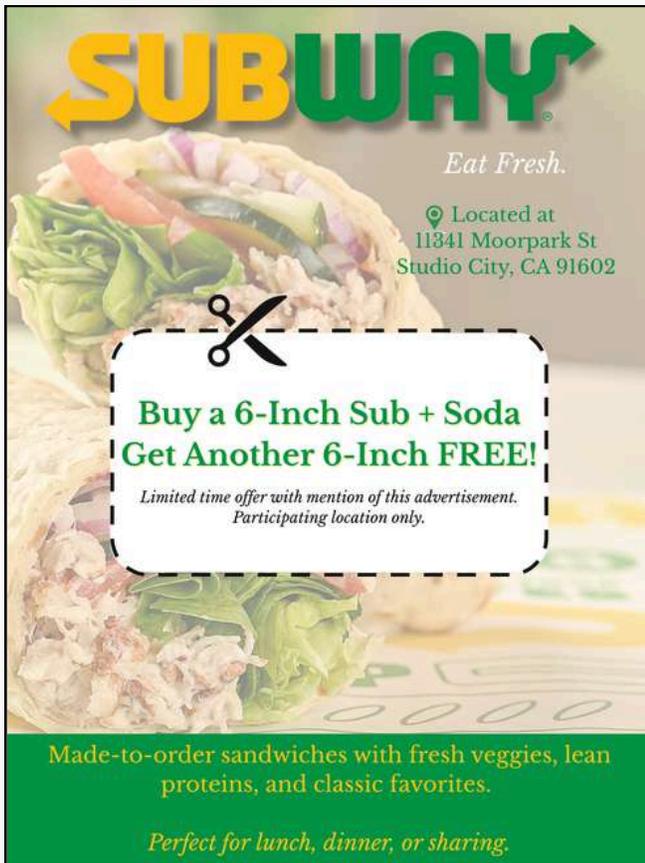
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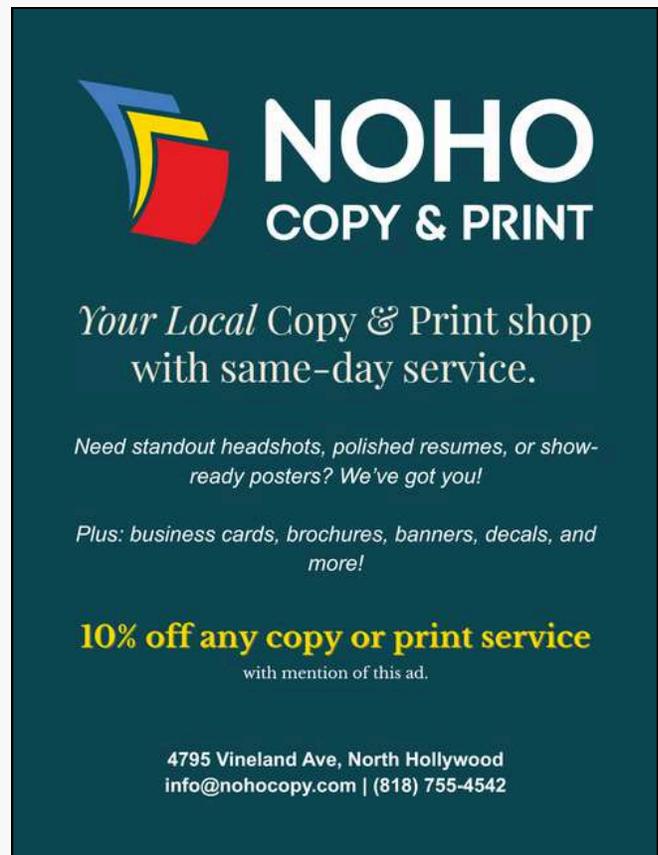
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