

New Kidney Group Seeks Organ Donors

By John Dash

Marilyn Frank needs kidneys. Not one, or two, but 40. And she needs them immediately so that 40 people in the Rochester area may live.

Marilyn Frank is the executive director of the newly opened local office of the National Kidney Foundation on East Avenue in Rochester.

One of the objectives of that organization is to promote an active organ donor program for kidney transplanting.

She said last week that a pool of 400 persons is needed to find 40 acceptable kidneys for transplant.

As a corollary to the active donor program, her office also

sponsors an organ donor program in which a person signs a card, in the presence of witnesses, which instructs that organs or the entire body are to be given at the time of death, "for the purposes of transplantation, therapy, medical research or education."

The ethical value of organ donation was recently debated by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the first national religious body to endorse such action.

In the Rochester area, more than 290 people are on dialysis, a mechanical process whereby the blood is filtered of toxins and wastes. In the natural process, such action is performed by the kidneys.

There are presently 100 patients who have received kidney transplants. Strong

Memorial Hospital, the transplant center in the area, completes between 20 and 25 kidney transplants a year.

Mrs. Frank's office is responsible for providing an organization to represent kidney and urologic disease in Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Livingston, Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Yates counties.

The objectives of the organization include educating the public on the health, social and economic dimensions of kidney disease; increasing early detection of these disorders; providing such patient services as drug banks, counseling, emergency funds, transportation, information and referral service; and supporting research.

Mrs. Frank said last week that she also was anxious to hear from persons in other



MARILYN FRANK

counties interested in forming other kidney foundation chapters.

The foundation has plans for two fund-raisers: a golf tournament August 24 at Midvale Country Club, and a benefit performance of "Annie" Oct. 30 at the Auditorium Theater.



Friendship Fair

Clowns are a regular part of the annual Friendship Fair for residents at Newark Developmental Center, slated this year for Sunday, Sept. 13. Each developmentally disabled person is accompanied to the festivities by a volunteer escort, and a call for volunteer escorts has been issued by the center. Persons wishing to give their time to the effort are asked to contact the center at (315) 331-1700, ext. 535, for further information.

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