



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Kentucky Dialysis Patient Receives National Award Recognizing Her Efforts to Improve Dialysis Care, Empower Her Fellow Patients**

*Dialysis Patient Citizens Hero Award Given to Owensboro Patient in Appreciation of Her Dedication to Improve Kidney Disease Education and Awareness in Her Community*

**OWENSBORO, KY (June 24, 2009)** – Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) – a nationwide, non-profit patient advocacy organization comprised of more than 23,000 dialysis and pre-dialysis patients and family members working to advance the quality of life of dialysis patients – presented 69-year-old Owensboro dialysis patient Anna Fuqua with its June 2009 DPC Hero Award in recognition of her ongoing dedication to educate and inspire her fellow dialysis patients to learn more about their condition and maximize their health.

“In addition to being a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Anna has been a true inspiration and motivator to the patients in her dialysis facility by giving them ongoing friendship, support, and education,” said Chad Lennox, Executive Director of DPC. “By visiting with her fellow patients, informing them about their care and showing them that an active life doesn’t have to stop with dialysis, Anna is making a lasting, positive difference in the lives of those around her, and DPC thanks her for helping patients maximize their care experiences in such a meaningful way.”

Diagnosed with kidney failure 15 years ago, Fuqua has continued to maintain her adventurous and giving spirit, acting as a representative and “chair buddy” for the patients in her facility. She writes children’s books for her grandchildren and great-grandchild while she dialyzes four days a week, and her fellow patients say that Fuqua’s positive attitude is contagious to those around her.

“Everybody in life has trials and difficulties, but what is most important is how you react to situations – it’s about having a positive attitude, the right information and having faith,” said Fuqua. “I am proud to be able to help show dialysis patients in my community that they have the power to effectively manage their care and to remain active and engaged in their lives.”

In addition to her dialysis patient advocacy work, Fuqua is a dedicated wife of 44 years, a mother of five, grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of one. Fuqua has only recently stopped being the primary caregiver for her 98-year-old mother, and has also actively supported women's groups and other causes in the Owensboro community.

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#### **More About the DPC Hero Award**

The DPC Hero award is open to caregivers, nephrologists, family members, patients, and other members of the kidney community who have empowered themselves or others in the kidney community. It is given to reflect the spirit of the thousands of people whose efforts make a difference in the lives of others, whose stories often go untold.

Nominations for the DPC Hero award can be sent to [dpc@dialysispatients.org](mailto:dpc@dialysispatients.org) or by contacting 1-866-877-4242.