

## Patient Care America IDPN Patient Success Story: DeAnna Chekouras

While I have been blessed in many ways, like most people I have had my share of the tough times. Kidney failure has been one of the toughest.

I started dialysis on September 11, 2014 after running from kidney disease for 2 ½ years. My kidney function was down to 5%. By November, I kept reporting that something was wrong...I felt awful. I was also losing weight without trying. Having walked around most of my life weighing 300 pounds, this was a new experience. By January, my family had to come over and clean my house, do my laundry and shopping and run my errands. For three months, I didn't move out of bed except for dialysis and prayed to die. I really and truly did not want to live anymore.

I was told about IDPN and was willing to do whatever anyone told me. When I first started it, everyone kept asking me how I felt and I said "no different." Then, about 10 days later, I got up one morning and thought, "I actually feel pretty good today! I don't hurt!" In the next few weeks, I became almost euphoric at starting to feel better. In May, I made my first trip to the basement to do my own laundry after 5 months. I also went to the grocery store and the drug store. I took someone with me and they were short trips, but it was an improvement.

During those first three months of dialysis, I could not keep food down (or up for that matter) and dropped to 96 pounds...a weight I had not seen since grade school. My legs swelled so huge that they constantly leached water, soaking my bedding and even street clothes (mighty cold in the winter). I was spending \$40 to \$50 a week in bandages trying to keep my clothes dry.

When I got the IDPN and started to feel better, I was able to do more, go see a few friends and accomplish a little housework.



*DeAnna Chekouras, bottom left pictured, is proud to be able to do more thanks to her NutriRite® IDPN therapy provided by Beloit Dialysis Center in Beloit, Wisconsin.*

And, I am glad God didn't grant my request to die yet because I have 2 new great-grandchildren this year, the engagement of a grandson and the impending graduation and new job of a great granddaughter. While I miss work terribly, my boss has repeatedly told me he would have me back in a heartbeat. I can no longer do what I used to, but I am back just a few hours a week decorating cookies and doing cheese and veggie trays.

There are not enough words to express my gratitude for the IDPN and those who saw to it that I got it. I am beyond grateful.