

## **NKFNC & The Eastern Band Team Up To Fight Kidney Disease**

**Cherokee, N.C.** – The National Kidney Foundation of North Carolina (NKFNC) has received its largest gift ever, a \$150,000 pledge from Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel, to support a new mobile kidney education unit. Key educational messages will illustrate the link between chronic kidney disease (CKD) and its leading contributors, diabetes and hypertension. The unit also will include a display highlighting Native American cures and philosophies for wellness of body and soul. In acknowledgement of the gift from Harrah's Cherokee, the Kidney Mobile will be introduced to the public at this year's Indian Fair Parade. Following the parade, the unit will be on display at the fairgrounds entrance until Saturday night, Oct. 11.

The Eastern Cherokee Tribe has long recognized that diabetes disproportionately affects American Indians; more than 15 percent of the Cherokee population has been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. "We have helped this cause because it is very near and dear to our hearts. Slowing the progression of CKD among American Indians is especially important to our tribe. We recognize the importance of early detection and look forward to our partnership with the NKFNC," said Principal Chief Michell Hicks.

Joyce Dugan, the casino's Director of External Relations, is "thankful that we have the capability to make such a contribution. It will not only benefit our tribe, but has the potential of reaching every citizen of this state. The Kidney Mobile will travel across the state, carrying the tribe's message of prevention through exercise and diet."