



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE LINKS, INCORPORATED AND BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC. EXPAND PARTNERSHIP
NATIONWIDE TO IMPROVE KIDNEY HEALTH IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

LOUISVILLE, KY, OCTOBER 31, 2022—As a part of the national expansion of the partnership between The Links, Incorporated and Baxter International Inc., more than 300 resource kits are being given to dialysis patients battling chronic kidney disease (CKD) in the Louisville, Kentucky area. The distribution is one of the latest efforts of The Links, Incorporated’s Black K.A.R.E. (Kidney Awareness, Resources and Education) program that raises kidney health awareness in response to the fact that Black adults in the United States are three times more likely to develop kidney failure than their white counterparts and many are unaware that they have the disease. Baxter has contributed \$1.4 million to The Links, Incorporated in a two-year period, expanding from regional to nationwide support and targeting areas where there is a disproportionately high prevalence of CKD in the Black community.

An international non-profit organization comprised of more than 17,000 influential women of African descent, The Links, Incorporated first joined forces with global med tech leader Baxter International Inc. in 2021 to create intervention-based programs focused on the prevention, detection, and management of CKD. In that year, 36 Links chapters reached out to more than 51,000 community members with kidney health awareness and education information. The Black K.A.R.E. toolkit, a resource developed by the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, incorporates patient, clinician, clinical, and systemic factors contributing to the disproportionate disparities Black Americans face in healthcare and provides actionable tips and guidance for improving kidney health and effectively managing kidney disease.

“With the Black K.A.R.E. program, we are able to bring awareness about kidney health to the communities we serve. By highlighting this important issue, we can start the conversation about what each one of us can do to combat this major chronic health disparity that persists in the Black community,” said Ethel Isaacs Williams, national president of The Links, Incorporated. “We know that awareness, resources and education will make a difference in reducing kidney disease. The support we receive from Baxter will undoubtedly improve and save lives.”

“Baxter, The Links and The National Kidney Foundation are three like-minded organizations with a shared vision and commitment to improve awareness, education and outcomes for kidney health in the United States,” said Guillermo Amezcua, general manager of Baxter’s U.S. renal business. “Our intention with this program is to make a positive impact for the Black community in the U.S. as we combat under representation, under diagnosis and sub-optimal outcomes, specifically in kidney care.”

About The Links, Incorporated

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of more than 17,000 professional women of African descent in 299 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and the United Kingdom. It is one of the nation’s oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. Members of The Links, Incorporated contribute more than 1 million documented hours of community service annually — strengthening their communities and enhancing the nation. For more information, visit www.linksinc.org.

About Baxter

Every day, millions of patients, caregivers and healthcare providers rely on Baxter's leading portfolio of diagnostic, critical care, kidney care, nutrition, hospital and surgical products used across patient homes, hospitals, physician offices and other sites of care. For 90 years, we've been operating at the critical intersection where innovations that save and sustain lives meet the healthcare providers who make it happen. With products, digital health solutions and therapies available in more than 100 countries, Baxter's employees worldwide are now building upon the company's rich heritage of medical breakthroughs to advance the next generation of transformative healthcare innovations. To learn more, visit www.baxter.com and follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

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About The National Kidney Foundation

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is the largest, most comprehensive, and longstanding patient-centric organization dedicated to the awareness, prevention, and treatment of kidney disease in the U.S. For more information about NKF, visit www.kidney.org.

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