

## **2014 Rich Salick Scholarship Foundation Presented by the Elebash Family and Regions Bank**

A scholarship fund for graduating high school or homeschooled seniors or students currently enrolled in accredited universities who exemplify the characteristics of Rich Salick through active volunteer community service.

**Program Overview:** The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Richard K. Salick Community Awards program is a recognition program based on volunteer community service. The NKF established the program in 2013 in memory of Richard K. Salick to recognize students that have shown a quality of giving back to their community. The program's goals are to provide college tuition assistance to those students who are already making a positive difference in their community, and to inspire others.

### **Background:**

Rich Salick was a tireless advocate for kidney patients. No task was too demanding or too small to gain his undivided attention. He would go anywhere and do anything to assist kidney patients, their families, and kidney disease advocates. As a three time kidney transplant recipient, Rich knew all too well the challenges, disappointments, and triumphs associated with chronic kidney disease.

Prior to be diagnosed with kidney failure at age 23, Rich was a national champion surfer, an athletically fit young man who appeared to be in perfect health. Following his first transplant shortly after his diagnosis, he was told his beloved surfing days would come to an end. However, Rich refused to back down and returned to competitive surfing using a unique padding system he developed to protect his new kidney, winning many contests, a testament to his competitive spirit and an example for his fellow kidney disease patients.

Rich's passion to do everything possible to assist kidney patients is best illustrated by his founding of the annual National Kidney Foundation Pro-Am Surf Festival in Cocoa Beach, now approaching its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Surf Festival has raised millions of dollars to help in the fight against kidney disease and has brought increased awareness to this disease.

Rich set an example of how to meet serious health challenges and how to lead a joyous life, no matter what the circumstances. He was even inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2008. His determined spirit lives on in the memories of all who knew him. Perhaps most telling was his ability to connect with every single person he met; within hours, one came away feeling like they were his best friend!

Rich dedicated his life to helping others who suffered from his disease and touched countless lives. The establishment of the Rich Salick Memorial Scholarship is designed to recognize and encourage the spirit of Rich's life of selfless dedication to the needs of others in those pursuing higher education.