

## La Serata Italiana - Outstanding Philanthropic Group

In 1983, Agostino Monteduro suffered a construction accident that led to a kidney injury and needed dialysis treatment. After receiving a kidney transplant, Agostino was inspired to help other kidney patients like himself through their daily challenges.

This was how La Serata Italiana (The Italian Dinner) was born. Since that year, the annual event has raised over \$1 million in support of the Kidney Foundation of Canada

The initial focus of the event was to be able to create an endowment fund that could support kidney patients in Ottawa experiencing financial hardship by paying for medical costs, providing transportation to treatment centers and assisting with emergency living expenses. It also includes funding for peer-support programs which help patients to cope with the emotional burden of their disease, as well as education programs about nutrition, exercise, medical advances, and disease management.

Since 2012, the fund has supported medical research at the Ottawa Hospital and has raised over \$400,000 in support of kidney research in that time.

Agostino passed away in 2010 at the age of 81, and today his legacy and that of La Serata Italiana is carried on by his daughter Anna Monteduro (who helped with whatever duties 2-year-old could at the very first event 38 years ago), as well as event co-chair Wilma Bianco and many volunteers throughout Ottawa.