



Contact:

Julia Kersey

[Julia.Kersey@heart.org](mailto:Julia.Kersey@heart.org) / 312-476-6684

## **SIXTH ANNUAL COUNSEL FOR A CAUSE EVENT RAISES \$525,000 TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**

**CHICAGO, June 1, 2021** – The American Heart Association’s sixth annual Counsel for a Cause event raised a record \$525,000 to support life-saving medical research and community outreach programs. The event, which was held virtually in November 2020, brought together members of the legal community in Chicago and New York City in support of the Heart Association’s mission.

Funds raised during Counsel for a Cause helped to create a comprehensive blood pressure management program in under-resourced communities in Chicago and New York City. High blood pressure, or hypertension, is the most significant risk factor for heart disease and stroke, and it contributes to hospitalization and death from COVID-19. May was High Blood Pressure Education Month, a time to focus on the more than 100 million Americans who are living with high blood pressure.

Through Counsel for a Cause, the American Heart Association is working with four local clinics to provide support and training for clinicians, and tools and resources for patients, including self-monitoring blood pressure cuffs. In total, the clinics serve a patient population at nearly 200,000 people.

In Chicago, the blood pressure management program was implemented at Beloved Community Family and CommunityHealth.

“CommunityHealth clinical staff and volunteer providers were excited and grateful to hear about the donation of BP monitors as they will help many of our diabetic patients with elevated BP monitor their BP at home and reported to their PCP during Telehealth visits,” said Fatima Khaja, PharmD, PhD., co-director of Pharmacy Operations at CommunityHealth. “One of the patients receiving this donation was in tears as she was able to monitor her health from home while taking care of her three children who are doing remote learning.”

The 2020 Counsel for a Cause campaign was chaired by Michael Gray of Jones Day and Daniel Lee of Blackstone. During the program, the Hasbrouck Heart award was presented to Nancy Borders, former general counsel at Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. Ms. Borders was recognized for her leadership in the formulation of strategic initiatives to address the developing needs of the community and the changing trends in healthcare.

Launched in 2014, the Counsel for a Cause initiative has raised nearly \$2 million to support the American Heart Association. To learn more, please reach out to AHA staff partner [Taylor.Oliver@Heart.org](mailto:Taylor.Oliver@Heart.org).

## **About the American Heart Association**

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – the two leading causes of death in the world. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke.

###