American Heart Association.

IMPACT REPORT

Greater Boston 2026

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Our Mission

For more than a century, the American Heart Association has fought for longer, healthier lives. That work has helped cut deaths from heart disease and stroke by half. But progress is not a straight line, and today the need is still urgent.

Here in Greater Boston, too many families are living with high blood pressure. Too many communities lack access to healthy food, preventive care, or lifesaving tools like CPR training and AEDs. And too often, where you live still determines how long you live.

We refuse to accept that.

Across Boston and the surrounding communities, we are investing in local organizations that are improving food access, helping residents manage their blood pressure, and teaching people how to save a life when every second counts. We are also advocating on Beacon Hill for policies that give everyone a fair shot at good health.

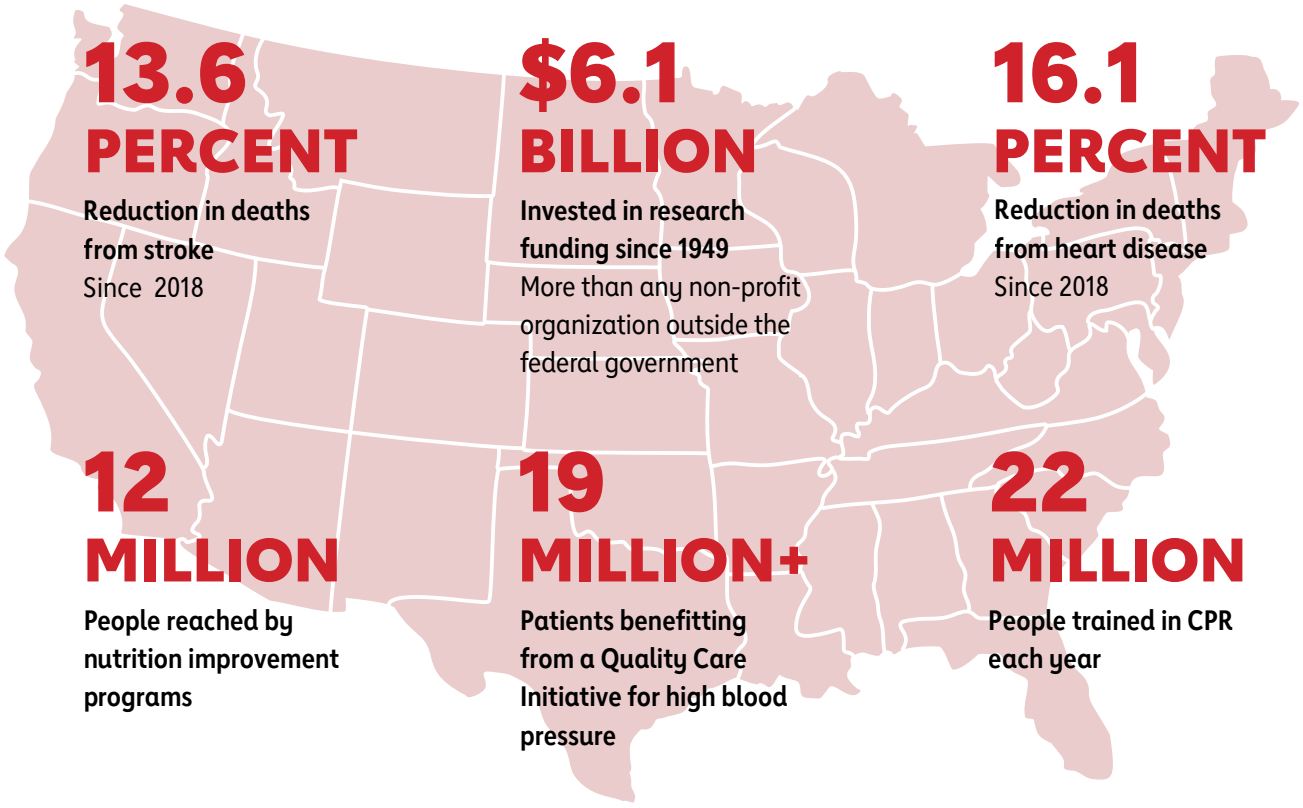
This is what it means to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives—right here, block by block, family by family.

The work is far from finished. But together, we are proving that a healthier future is possible.

Karen A. Whitefield
Executive Director, Greater Boston
karen.whitefield@heart.org

National Impact

Over our 100-year history, the American Heart Association has been fighting heart disease and stroke and helping families and communities thrive. Our supporters have made a difference across our nation and in the places you and your loved ones call home.



13.6 PERCENT

Reduction in deaths from stroke
Since 2018

$6.1 BILLION

Invested in research funding since 1949
More than any non-profit organization outside the federal government

16.1 PERCENT

Reduction in deaths from heart disease
Since 2018

12 MILLION

People reached by nutrition improvement programs

19 MILLION+

Patients benefitting from a Quality Care Initiative for high blood pressure

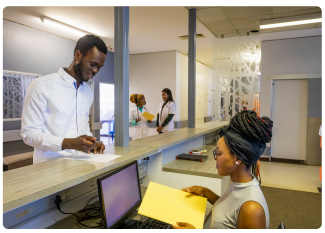
22 MILLION

People trained in CPR each year

2028 Impact Goal

By 2028, the American Heart Association aims to drive meaningful progress in science, care and public policy so more people can live longer, healthier lives. A key part of that work is ensuring lifesaving advances reach everyone, regardless of where they live or the challenges they face.

Access to Care
We're working to protect and expand Medicaid coverage and increase enrollment in Affordable Care Act plans. The goal is to help more people access the care they need, especially those facing the greatest barriers to health.

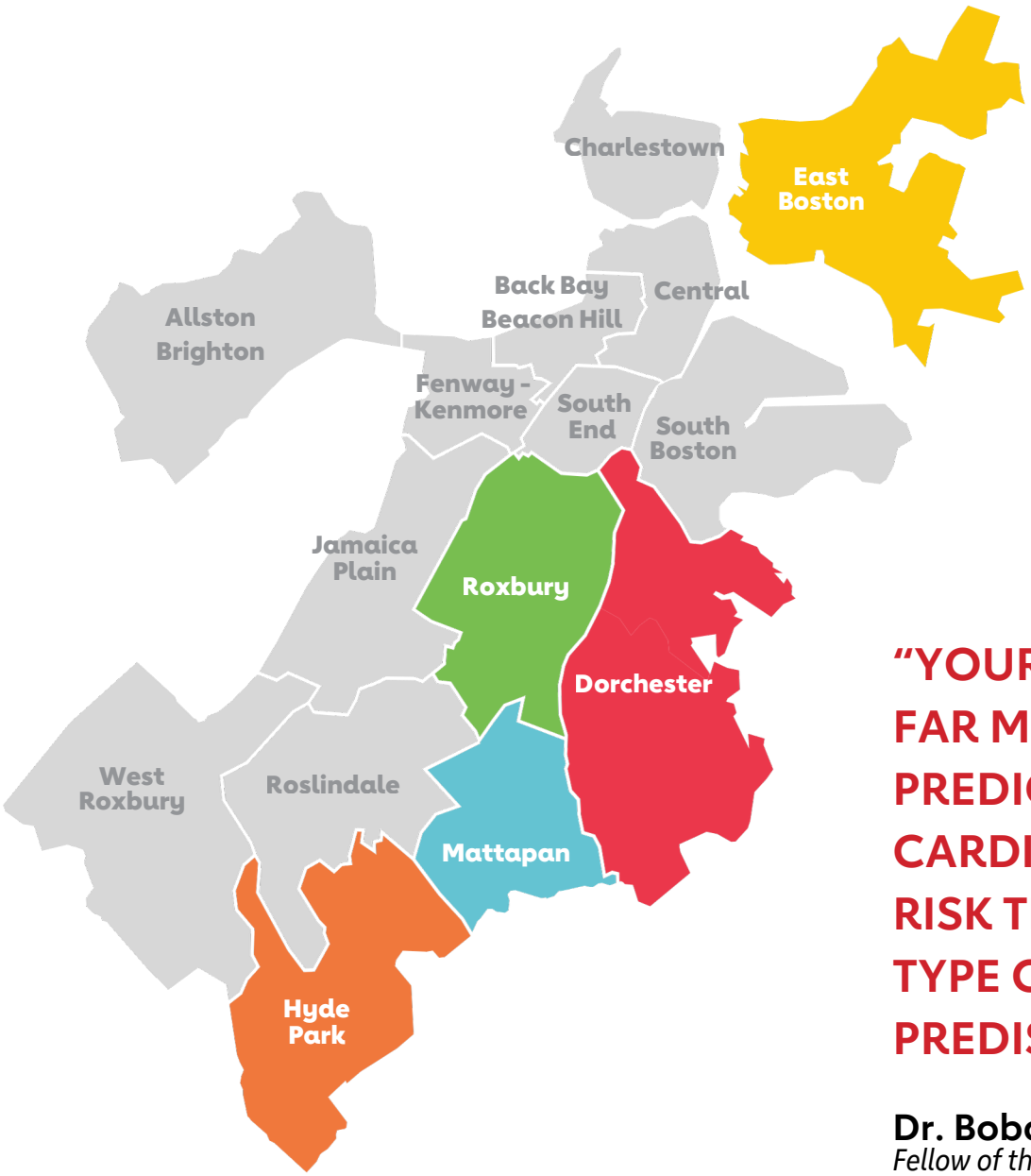


Quality Care
We're helping hospitals follow the latest research-based treatment guidelines for cardiovascular disease and stroke so patients receive the best possible care when it matters most.

Health Factors
Nearly half of American adults have high blood pressure, and many don't know it. We're working with healthcare organizations and community groups to help people manage their blood pressure.

CPR Training
CPR can double or triple a person's chance of survival during cardiac arrest. We're training more people in CPR and increasing access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs), with the goal of doubling survival rates from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest by 2030.

Priority Neighborhoods



"YOUR ZIP CODE IS FAR MORE PREDICTIVE OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK THAN ANY TYPE OF GENETIC PREDISPOSITION."

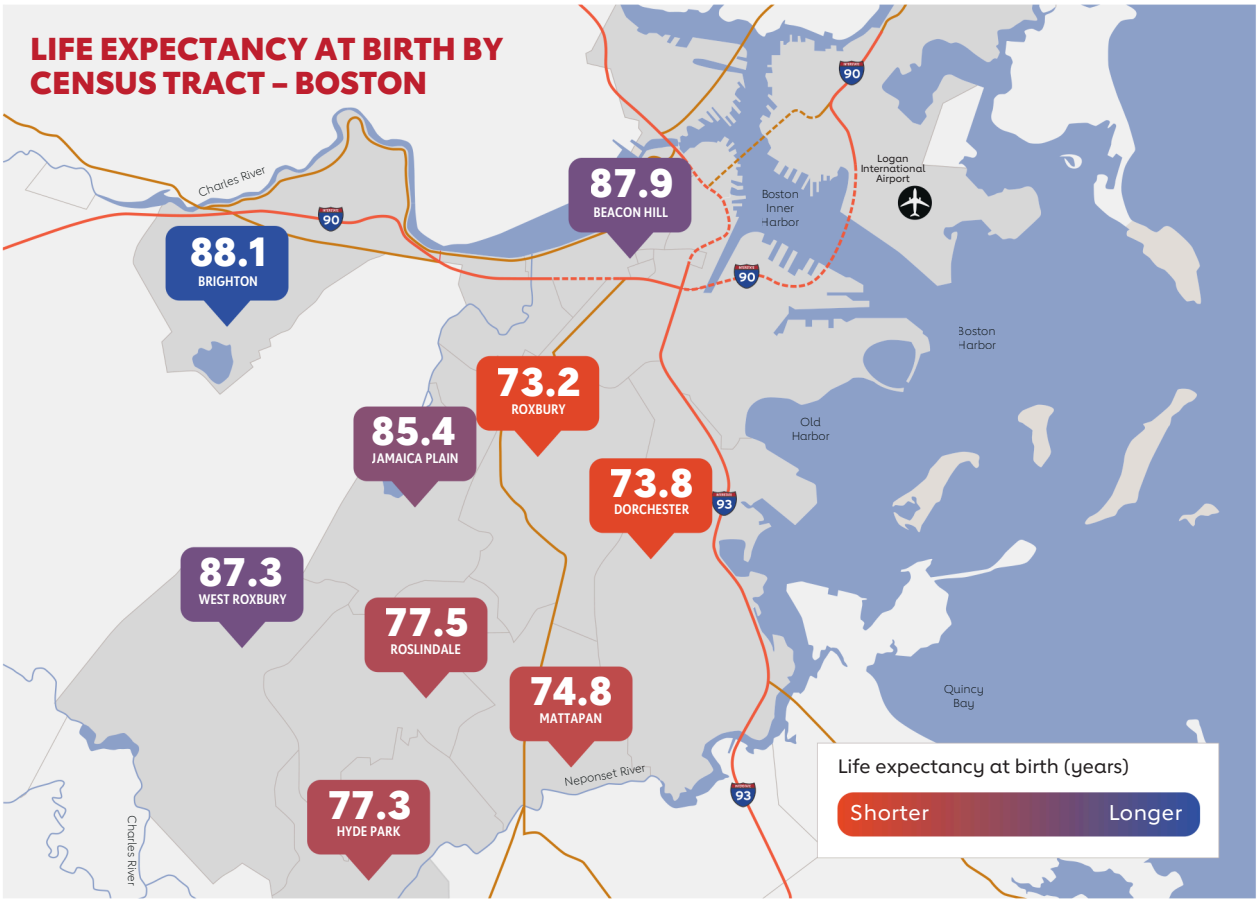
Dr. Boback Ziaeian
Fellow of the American Heart Association

The Health of Boston

Health gaps aren't just numbers—they're real lives. In some neighborhoods, people live longer, healthier lives. In others, chronic disease and early death are far too common. That's not by chance.

Things like education, safe streets, and access to healthy food and medical care all shape our health. But for too many, systemic barriers make these basic needs harder to get, leading to worse health outcomes.

We're working to close these gaps and improve health across Boston.



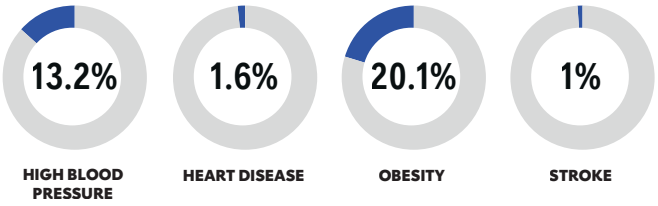
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A Tale of Two Bus Stops

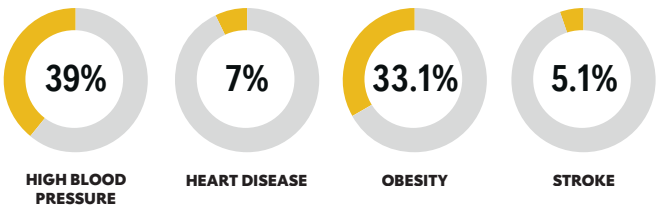
Where you live shouldn't dictate how long or how well you live—but in Greater Boston, it often does.

A five-mile ride on the Route 1 bus, from Cambridge to Roxbury, tells the story. Depending on where you get off, life expectancy and risk for chronic disease can look very different.

That's why the American Heart Association is focusing its work in neighborhoods where these disparities are most pronounced.



HEALTH DATA FOR ADULTS 18 AND OLDER - CAMBRIDGE



HEALTH DATA FOR ADULTS 18 AND OLDER - ROXBURY

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Community Impact

No organization can solve the health challenges facing our communities alone. That's why the American Heart Association teams with local leaders and community groups to increase access to care, improve nutrition, teach CPR and help residents better manage chronic disease. This work is rooted in the belief that the people closest to these challenges often hold the best solutions. Here are some of the ways these efforts are improving health across Greater Boston.

Officials from the American Heart Association, the Brockton Public Library and the City of Brockton at the Thomas P. Kennedy Main Library, after unveiling a new self-service blood pressure station available to library patrons.

Transforming Local Libraries Into Hubs for Heart Health

Through the Libraries With Heart initiative, the American Heart Association is helping local libraries across Greater Boston offer free blood pressure resources to the public. Participating libraries feature self-service blood pressure stations, educational materials and blood pressure cuffs that patrons can check out—just like books—to help people monitor and better understand their cardiovascular health.

Franklin Assistant Library Director Allison Smith learns how to take her blood pressure using one of the self-monitoring devices donated to the library.

Smith, Franklin Library Director Felicia Oti, American Heart Association Vice President of Community Impact Adriene Worthington, Franklin Public Health Nurse Alisha Sullivan, and Franklin Public Health Director Cathleen Liberty.

Boston Legacy FC players and coaches take part in Hands-Only CPR training at their facility in Foxborough.

Boston Legacy FC Training Creates Lifesavers On and Off the Field

The American Heart Association is helping save lives through Hands-Only CPR training with the National Women's Soccer League. As part of a league-wide initiative, players, coaches and staff are learning how to recognize cardiac arrest, call 911 and begin CPR.

In Greater Boston, the Association conducted a training with Boston Legacy FC at a team facility at Patriot Place in Foxborough, helping raise awareness about the importance of CPR and encouraging team personnel to feel confident stepping in during an emergency.

"EVERY SECOND MATTERS WHEN SOMEONE EXPERIENCES CARDIAC ARREST, AND KNOWING HOW TO PERFORM CPR CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH."

Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association

Boston Legacy FC players, coaches and American Heart Association staff during a Hands-Only CPR training in Foxborough.

Seth DelGizzi, education coordinator at the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest's Hudson Clubhouse, practices Hands-Only CPR.

Preparing Community Centers to Respond to Cardiac Emergencies

The Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest's Hudson and Framingham clubhouses are becoming safer places for kids, families and staff through a collaboration with the American Heart Association. The Association provided two AEDs, Hands-Only CPR training and emergency response planning to help club staff respond quickly and confidently during a cardiac emergency.

The effort also includes CPR education for youth members. By bringing lifesaving skills and equipment directly into these community spaces, the initiative is building a culture of preparedness and safety inside the clubhouses and beyond.

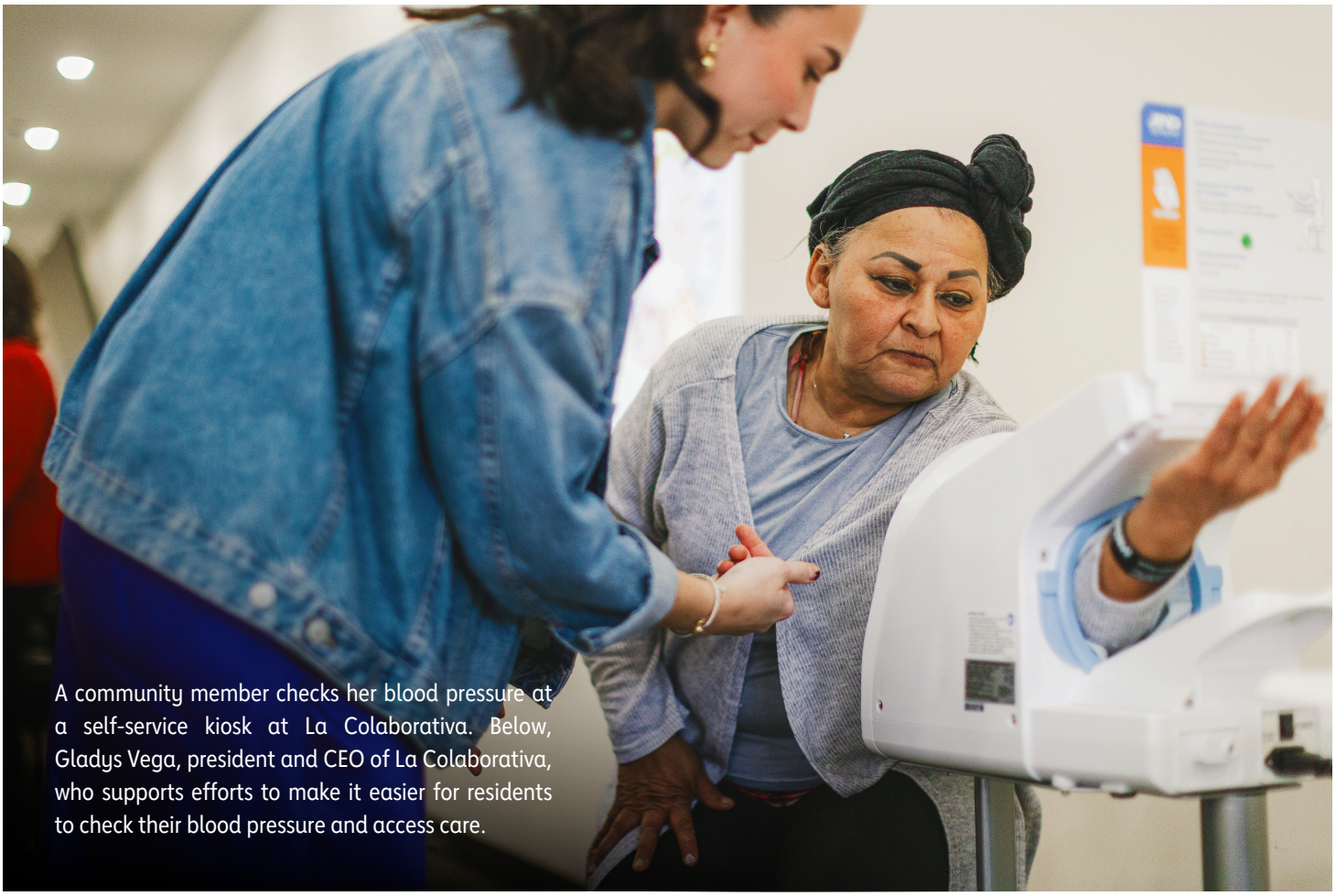
"WE WANTED TO TURN THIS INTO A COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT. THIS IS ABOUT CREATING A RIPPLE EFFECT OF PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITY."

Barbara Tolland
Director of Operations
Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest

Daniel Hart uses an American Heart Association Hands-Only CPR kiosk at the Museum of Science in Boston. Hart helped save the life of his father Jim (right) in 2023 by performing CPR after he went into cardiac arrest.

More Than 20,000 Museum of Science Visitors Learn CPR

In its first year at the Museum of Science in Boston, the American Heart Association's interactive Hands-Only CPR kiosk trained more than 20,000 visitors in this lifesaving skill. Supported by Johnson & Johnson MedTech, the video game-style kiosk—located in the museum's Hall of Human Life—offers a quick and engaging way to build confidence performing CPR.



A community member checks her blood pressure at a self-service kiosk at La Colaborativa. Below, Gladys Vega, president and CEO of La Colaborativa, who supports efforts to make it easier for residents to check their blood pressure and access care.

Bringing Blood Pressure Monitoring to Chelsea Neighbors

The American Heart Association installed a free, self-service blood pressure kiosk at La Colaborativa in Chelsea, a community organization that provides culturally and linguistically appropriate resources to residents. The kiosk makes it easier to check blood pressure in a trusted setting and, paired with educational materials about why it matters, helps more people recognize potential health risks before they become emergencies.

Dr. Angie Nataly Coronado, director of health equity at La Colaborativa, and Adriene Worthington of the American Heart Association, with a blood pressure kiosk and educational materials at the Chelsea center.

Kaitlin O'Rourke, left, and Sabina Bien-Aime, center, of Brigham and Women's Advanced Primary Care Associates in Jamaica Plain, with Stephanie Voltaire, right, of the American Heart Association, and blood pressure monitors provided to support patients enrolled in Mass General Brigham's United Against Racism program in Boston.

Supporting Better Hypertension Control at Home

The American Heart Association is helping patients better manage their blood pressure across Greater Boston by supporting Mass General Brigham's United Against Racism program. Through this initiative, take-home blood pressure monitors and multilingual educational materials are being provided to six community clinics, allowing patients to monitor their blood pressure outside of the doctor's office.

With support from community health workers, patients track and share readings with their care teams, helping providers adjust treatment, guide lifestyle changes and improve hypertension control.

"NOW THAT PATIENTS CAN MONITOR THEIR NUMBERS AT HOME, WE CAN BETTER MANAGE MEDICATIONS AND HELP THEM REACH THEIR GOALS."

Kaitlin O'Rourke
Advanced Practice Clinical Pharmacist
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Paula Eno, left, and Maryann Doiron, co-leaders of the Helping Hand Food Pantry, with a new commercial refrigerator at its Cambridge location.

Expanding Access to Healthy Food in Greater Boston

The Helping Hand Food Pantry in Cambridge can now safely store and distribute more fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy products thanks to funding from the American Heart Association for a new commercial-grade refrigerator. The investment is helping expand access to nutritious food for local families while supporting the pantry's efforts to prioritize healthier options.

This work builds on similar efforts across the region, including support for YMCA sites in Dorchester. By increasing availability of fresh food in trusted community settings, these efforts are helping people make healthier choices and reduce their risk of heart disease.

"THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION HELPED US IMPROVE NUTRITION STANDARDS AND MAKE HEALTHIER FOOD CHOICES MORE ACCESSIBLE TO OUR CLIENTS."

Maryann Doiron and Paula Eno
Co-Leaders
Helping Hand Food Pantry

Quality of Care

Every patient deserves access to high-quality heart and stroke care, regardless of where they live. The American Heart Association recognizes hospitals across the country—from rural areas to the most populated cities—for consistently following up-to-date, research-based treatment guidelines for cardiovascular disease.

The 2,800 nationwide hospitals awarded through these Get With The Guidelines programs maintain unrelenting standards to help patients live longer, healthier lives and have the opportunity for a higher quality of life.

Scan the QR code to read more about this recognition from the American Heart Association and find an award-winning hospital near you.

EVERY 34 SECONDS

someone in America dies of cardiovascular disease.

HEART DISEASE AND STROKE ARE

the No. 1 and No. 4 leading causes of death in the United States.

NEARLY 47% OF U.S. ADULTS HAVE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

72% have unhealthy weight and 57% have Type 2 diabetes or prediabetes.

HEART DISEASE AND STROKE CLAIM

more lives in the United States than all forms of cancer and accidental deaths—the No. 2 and No. 3 causes of death—combined.

A New Heart, A New Chapter for Jaelani Taromino

Jaelani Taromino's life has been defined by resilience. Born with a severe heart defect, she underwent multiple surgeries before her heart began to fail. In 2025, she received a life-saving transplant—her "hero heart." Recovery meant rebuilding her strength from the ground up, step by step. Today, Jaelani is thriving, back in school in Stoughton and enjoying life as a seventh grader. Alongside her mother, Latoya, she shares her journey to inspire others and highlight the lifesaving impact of research and care.

Public Policy Agenda

Public policy is one of the most powerful ways to create healthier communities and save lives. These are some of the key legislative issues the American Heart Association is focused on in Massachusetts.

Tobacco Use

Why is this issue important?
Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.
How are we working to solve it?
We support increasing per-pack cigarette taxes, which deter smoking. We also support funding programs to help people quit tobacco and educate young people on the dangers of tobacco use.

Quality Healthcare

Why is this issue important?
Too many people die or are disabled because they do not get available lifesaving treatment when having a stroke or a cardiac arrest.
How are we working to solve it?
We are working to ensure patients experiencing the most severe cases of stroke receive appropriate treatment immediately. We also support training all 911 dispatchers to deliver CPR instructions and making CPR education a high school graduation requirement.

Healthy Diet

Why is this issue important?
People, especially children, are consuming too many sugary drinks, which are a major contributor to heart disease and diabetes.
How are we working to solve it?
We are advocating for taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, working to make kids' meals healthier and expanding access to clean drinking water.

Advocating for Healthier Cities and Towns

Public policy changes because people speak up. Across Massachusetts and the nation, everyday advocates are helping drive legislative changes that save lives. Among them is Dr. Lisa Owens, who turned unimaginable loss into action after her 15-year-old son, Preston Settles, died from sudden cardiac arrest during a basketball game in North Andover in 2022. Since then, Owens has become a powerful voice for CPR education and AED access, working to help ensure other families never experience the same tragedy.

Legislative Milestones

Here is a sampling of recent public policy changes in Massachusetts that the American Heart Association successfully advocated for and helped enact.

2023

School Meals for All
Massachusetts lawmakers announce they will permanently fund free school meals for all students, regardless of household income, under an expansion of a federal free school lunch program.

2022

SNAP Produce Match
Massachusetts provides $24 million to fund the Healthy Incentive Program, which allows people who receive SNAP benefits to earn an instant, dollar-for-dollar match on their EBT cards when buying fresh fruits and vegetables.

2022

Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure
The state announces plans to invest more than $460 million in infrastructure improvements to provide safe and accessible travel options for walking, biking, transit and vehicles—for people of all ages and abilities.

2022

AEDs in Emergency Vehicles
A new grant program provides funding to equip municipal emergency response vehicles across nearly 70% of the state's cities and towns with AEDs.

2020

Elimination of Flavored Tobacco
Massachusetts becomes the first state in the country to eliminate the sale of flavored tobacco products. The state also increases taxes on e-cigarettes, expands access to programs to help people quit tobacco, and increases fines for businesses caught selling tobacco products to minors.

2018

Heart Screenings for Newborns
Massachusetts passes a law ensuring all newborn babies will be screened for congenital heart defects.

Student advocates prepare to meet with lawmakers at the Massachusetts State House to discuss legislation that would require CPR training for high school graduation. Below, American Heart Association Government Relations Director Chris Feeney talks with students before their meetings.

Students Speak Out for CPR Education in High Schools

Massachusetts students are joining the American Heart Association's advocacy efforts to support legislation that would make CPR training a high school graduation requirement. Through meetings with lawmakers, public testimony and grassroots outreach, students are helping raise awareness about the importance of equipping the next generation with lifesaving skills.

National Wear Red Day: Uniting for Women's Heart Health

Each year on National Wear Red Day, the American Heart Association raises awareness that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among women. Across the country, survivors, advocates, healthcare leaders and media personalities wear red and encourage women to learn their risk factors and prioritize their heart health. In Boston, the day includes a press conference at the Massachusetts State House, where dozens of lawmakers wear red in support of the cause.

Scientific Research

The American Heart Association has invested $6.1 billion in research since 1949, helping drive breakthroughs in preventing and treating heart disease and stroke. In 2025 alone, the Association funded $58 million in research at institutions across Massachusetts.

THE HEART ASSOCIATION FUNDS
THE MOST MERITORIOUS SCIENCE ANYWHERE
to give us the greatest chance of saving lives **EVERYWHERE.**

THE HEART ASSOCIATION HAS INVESTED
$6.1 BILLION
in research since 1949, second only to the federal government.

HEART INVESTS
in the careers of the best and brightest young investigators
to help them build a legacy of impact through their research.

THE URGENCY FOR DISCOVERY IS GREAT
Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in the world. Stroke is No. 2. We lose 17 million lives each year.

THE NEW KNOWLEDGE THAT RESULTS FROM HEART ASSOCIATION FUNDED RESEARCH
benefit millions of lives in every community and in every nation, and are translated into guidelines to provide the best, most updated care.

HEART ASSOCIATION FUNDED RESEARCH
has resulted in discoveries that have saved lives in every community in the United States.

FUNDING RESEARCH
is a cornerstone of the American Heart Association's lifesaving mission. It always has been and always will be.

THE RESEARCH FUNDING PROCESS
maximizes the impact of donor dollars by funding the most meritorious research across the country. Current Heart Association-funded research projects total $584 million and support 2,200 awardees.

TO ENSURE OUR CONTINUED IMPACT
We are boldly moving into innovative, transformational areas such as precision medicine, multidisciplinary research teams, big data and accelerating emerging technologies.

In FY 2024-25, the Heart Association evaluated 2,754 full proposals requesting $638 million that we could not fund. This means many scientific projects were shelved, and the knowledge that would result from them deferred. The need for more research funding is critical.

1957 First Pacemaker

The first battery-operated, wearable pacemaker is implanted in a patient. The research, led by Dr. William Weirich, leads to the development of today's fully implanted pacemakers.

1960 First Artificial Heart Valve

The first successful artificial heart valve replacement is performed by Dr. Albert Starr, who develops the mechanical heart valve with hydraulic engineer Lowell Edwards. The Starr-Edwards valve is still used today, along with other artificial heart valves that have saved the lives of millions of people.

1961 Techniques and Standards for CPR

Drs. William Kouwenhoven, James Jude and Guy Knickerbocker report on the value of external cardiac massage—better known as CPR—in providing blood flow to vital organs for people in cardiac arrest.

1961 Microsurgery

Dr. Julius Jacobson performs surgery with the aid of a microscope and becomes a pioneer in microsurgery.

1968 Cholesterol Inhibitors

Dr. William Conner uses funds from the American Heart Association to show that cholestyramine can lower cholesterol in the blood.

1990 Treatment for Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome

The FDA approves Exosurf Neonatal to treat respiratory distress syndrome, a life-threatening condition for premature infants with heart and lung defects. The drug is developed by Association investigator Dr. John Clements.

2003 Drug-Coated Stents

The FDA approves the first drug-coated stent to keep blocked arteries open while also releasing medications, developed by Dr. Andrew Marks, a researcher funded by the American Heart Association.

2008 CPR Without Breaths

Dr. Gordon Ewy accumulates evidence from multiple studies that shows uninterrupted, high-quality chest compressions—without mouth-to-mouth respiration—are important for keeping blood circulating to vital organs. As a result of this research, the Association determines Hands-Only CPR can help an adult or teen who suddenly collapses.

2013 Collaboration Launches Personalized Medicine Initiative

The Cardiovascular Genome-Phenome Study launches to accelerate groundbreaking research into personalized medicine. The project is a partnership between the Association, Boston University and University of Mississippi Medical Center, the academic coordinating center homes of the Framingham Heart Study and the Jackson Heart Study.

2020 COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant

The American Heart Association puts out an unprecedented rapid response call for cardiovascular/cerebrovascular research proposals to address the growing crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus is on innovative, highly impactful short-term proposals that can show progress within the 9-12 month period of the award.

2021 American Heart Association Presidential Advisory Calls for Action on Structural Racism and Health Disparities

The American Heart Association commits $100 million over five years for new research initiatives focused on equitable health and programs that support diversity in the biomedical workforce pipeline.

2022 Life's Essential 8™

Life's Essential 8 are the key measures for improving and maintaining cardiovascular health, as defined by the Heart Association. Better cardiovascular health helps lower the risk for heart disease, stroke and other major health problems.

Empowering Communities with Lifesaving Skills
Dr. Kemar Brown, a cardiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, is helping Greater Boston residents learn how to respond to a cardiac emergency. He recently demonstrated Hands-Only CPR on WCVB Channel 5 Boston's *CityLine* with host Jessica Brown, showing viewers how to recognize cardiac arrest and act. Through additional trainings in priority neighborhoods, Dr. Brown is equipping community members with the knowledge and confidence to perform CPR and use an AED.

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Fundraising Campaigns

The American Heart Association's signature fundraising campaigns bring supporters, survivors, volunteers and sponsors together in the fight against heart disease and stroke. These events help advance the Association's mission in Greater Boston and beyond.

From Cardiac Arrest Survivor to Leaders of Impact Winner
Shira Georgiou, a cardiac arrest survivor from Reading, was named the American Heart Association's 2025 Boston Leaders of Impact winner after raising $14,500 in seven weeks to support the Association's mission. In 2023, Georgiou went into cardiac arrest at home and was saved by CPR performed by her husband, Peter, before first responders arrived. Today, she is a passionate advocate for CPR education and AED access, raising awareness and encouraging others to step in to save a life.

American Heart Association®

Heart and Stroke Ball™

Boston

Boston Heart and Stroke Ball

The Heart and Stroke Ball brings together survivors, volunteers, philanthropists and community leaders to support the American Heart Association's mission in Greater Boston. Held annually in the Seaport District, the event is the centerpiece of the Heart of Boston campaign, which funds efforts to improve food security, expand CPR education and AED access, reduce tobacco use, and help residents manage high blood pressure.

heart.org/BostonHB

American Heart Association®

Go Red for women

Go Red for Women Luncheon

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death for women, yet too many are unaware of their risk. Through Go Red for Women, the American Heart Association is funding research, raising awareness and helping women better understand the unique ways cardiovascular disease affects them. The annual Go Red for Women Luncheon brings together survivors and advocates united in the fight for better women's health, while celebrating the strength, leadership and resilience of women across the community.

2026 Co-Chairs
Tamra Laukien, *Vitality Road LLC*
Michelle Fox, *Clinivanta and CardioVanta*

heart.org/BostonGoRed

American Heart Association®

Lawyers Have Heart™

Lawyers Have Heart 5K

The Lawyers Have Heart 5K brings together Boston's legal community and supporters for an after-work race in the Boston Seaport that advances research, strengthens advocacy efforts and supports community programs.

2026 Co-Chair
Brian Christie
FTI Consulting

2026 Co-Chair
Alexander B. Roitman
Seyfarth

LHHBoston.org

American Heart Association®
Heart Walk®

Boston Heart Walk

The Heart Walk unites thousands of survivors, families, corporate teams and supporters on Boston Common for a day focused on movement, community and lifesaving impact.

Through the Nation of Lifesavers campaign, the Heart Walk is helping more people learn Hands-Only CPR and feel confident responding in a cardiac emergency. By turning bystanders into lifesavers, the campaign aims to build a future where at least one person in every household knows CPR.

Below, Sanj K. Patel, second from left, accepts the Heart Walk's 2025 Industry Cup on behalf of Kiniksa, where he serves as CEO and chairman of the board.

2025 Chair
Linda Lennox
Lantheus

2026 Chair
Lisa Abbott
Boston Children's Hospital

BostonHeartWalk.org

School Engagement

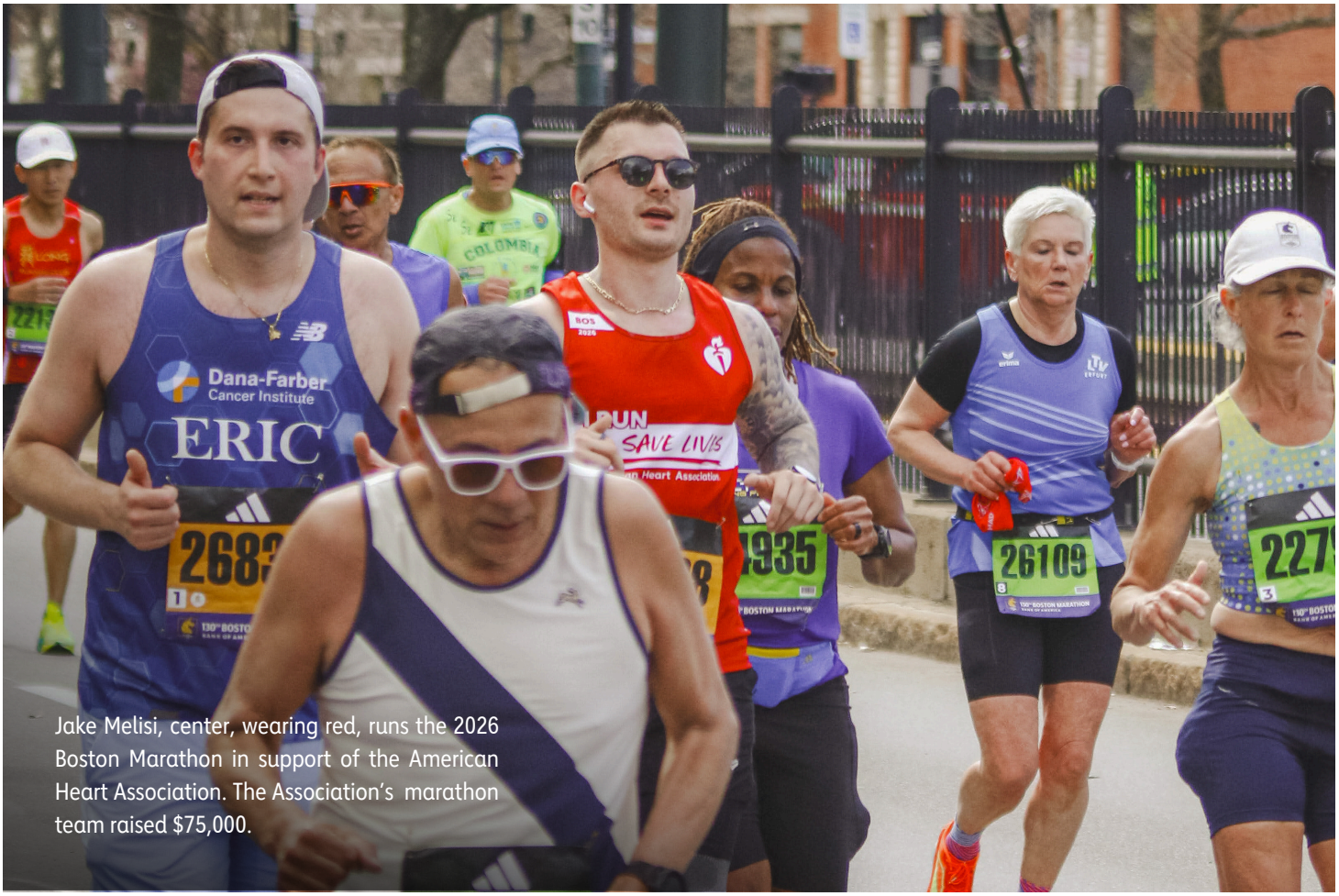
Kids Heart Challenge and American Heart Challenge engage millions of students and their families each year. Schools get resources and a curriculum to help develop healthy children equipped to achieve physical and emotional success.

Approximately 20,000 schools across the country got hearts pumping in these programs in the 2024-2025 school year. Participating schools leveraged tools and resources to support the mental and physical well-being of students, families and educators.

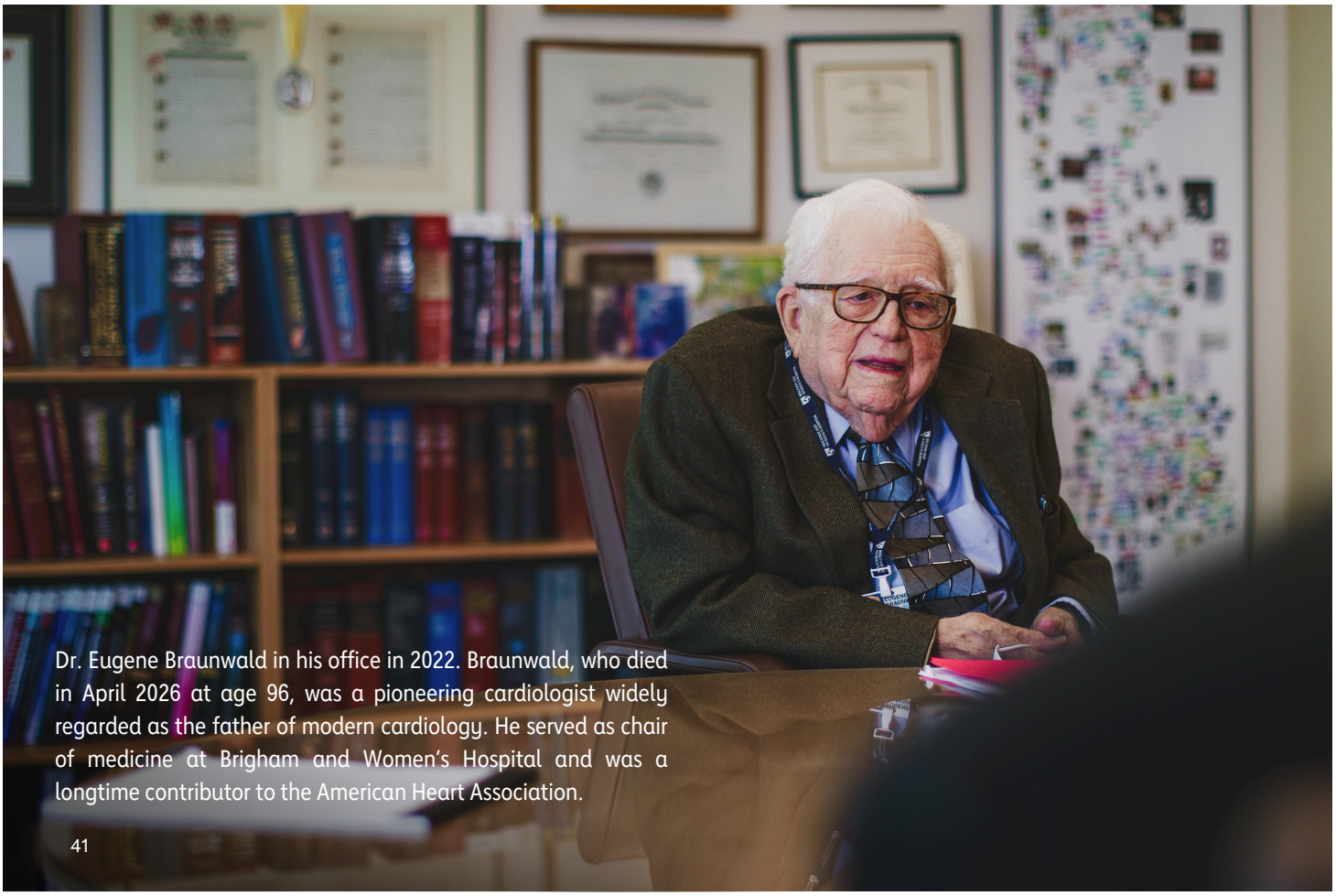
MASSACHUSETTS IMPACT

Number of participating schools	353
Number of students reached	156K
Students/families to learn Hands-Only CPR	1,600
Total funds raised	$971,000

Lives Transformed by Survival and Driven by Purpose
Marina Ganetsky, center, suffered a massive stroke at age 10 and spent weeks in a coma before beginning a long journey to relearn how to walk, talk and thrive. Olivia Hart, right, was diagnosed with heart failure at 22 and underwent a heart transplant after spending a year relying on an LVAD. Joined by Marina's mother, Sasha Yampolsky, left, the survivors shared their stories during the Caretakers of the Torch segment at the 2025 Boston Heart and Stroke Ball, inspiring others through their resilience and advocacy.



Jake Melisi, center, wearing red, runs the 2026 Boston Marathon in support of the American Heart Association. The Association's marathon team raised $75,000.



Dr. Eugene Braunwald in his office in 2022. Braunwald, who died in April 2026 at age 96, was a pioneering cardiologist widely regarded as the father of modern cardiology. He served as chair of medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and was a longtime contributor to the American Heart Association.

Erick Pinzon, a Duke University student, speaks with Dr. Gerald Marx, a cardiologist at Boston Children's Hospital and longtime American Heart Association volunteer, during a reception honoring SURE Scholars. The SURE program, based at Boston University in 2025, provides undergraduate students—particularly those from underrepresented groups—with hands-on cardiovascular research and mentorship.

Dr. James Udelson reacts after being surprised with the news that he is the 2026 recipient of the American Heart Association's Paul Dudley White Award. Udelson, chief of cardiology at Tufts Medical Center, was honored for his contributions to cardiovascular research, patient care and medical education.

Board of Directors

The American Heart Association's Greater Boston Board of Directors is composed of leaders from across the region who contribute their expertise and leadership to advance the Association's mission. Members guide strategy, strengthen community connections and help drive both health and fundraising efforts.

Chair

Allison McClain Joyce

Global Communications and Public Relations Director
Ropes & Gray

President

Dr. Jennifer Cluett

Clinical Specialist in Hypertension
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

OUR MISSION:
TO BE A RELENTLESS FORCE FOR A WORLD OF LONGER, HEALTHIER LIVES.

Leadership Development Chair

Benjamin K. Stephen

Director of M&A Advisory Services
PwC

Cor Vitae Society Ambassador

Dr. Gerald Marx

Senior Associate of Cardiology
Boston Children's Hospital

Immediate Past Chair

Thomas Lee

Senior Partner
Zozimus

Lisa Abbott

Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer
Boston Children's Hospital

Laura Angelini

Shareholder
Polsinelli

Dr. Emelia Benjamin

Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Professor
Boston University School of Medicine

Dr. Ami Bhatt

Chief Innovation Officer
American College of Cardiology

Scott Daley

Senior Vice President and General Manager - Brands
Fruit of the Loom, Inc.

Dr. Simin Gharib Lee

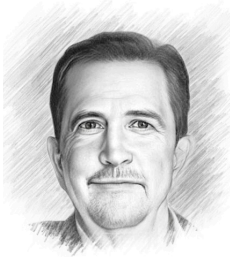
Founder and CEO
Systole Health

Barry Greene

Pharmaceutical Consultant

Traci Hong

Associate Professor
Boston University



Michael Jorgensen

Managing Director
Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport

Linda Lennox

Vice President of Corporate Communications and Chief of Staff
Lantheus

Olivia Lew

Chief Operating Officer
Casana

Rachel Robinson

Chief Operating Officer
MassMEDIC

Cor Vitae Society

The Cor Vitae Society—Latin for 'heart of life'—is the annual philanthropic giving society of the American Heart Association. The following Massachusetts members are making a lifesaving impact locally and in communities across the country.

Heart and Torch Circle
Dr. Jennifer Ashton and Tom Werner
Stephanie Spina and David Spina

1924 Circle
Anonymous
Heidi Bruschi and Tedy Bruschi

President's Circle
Natalie Greene and Barry Greene
Mary Beth Gordon and Chris Gordon
Katherine A. Morello

Pacesetter's Circle
Jessica Green and Eric Green
Susan Marandett and Eric Marandett

Pulse Circle
Peter Lawrence
Dr. Gerald Marx and Jayne Marx

Champion's Circle
Dr. Dale Adler and Nancy Adler
Christine Akinc and Akin Akinc
Laura B. Angelini
Tracy J. Banks
Ruth Bedell
Ashley Benecchi and Christopher Benecchi
Dr. Emelia Benjamin and David Pollak
Dr. Ami Bhatt and Neil Maniar
Dr. Kurt Bloch and Margot Bloch
Drs. Kimberly Blumenthal and Daniel Blumenthal
Kelley Boucher
Caitlin Brosnihan
Drs. Bobbi Coller and Barry Coller
Sandy Cross and David Criss
Dr. David D'Alessandro and Celeste Tambaro
Michael Dandorph
Nithya Desikan
Michael Duffy
Daniel Farrell
David Griffin
Mark Griffin
Kenton Griffis
Dr. Naomi Hamburg and John Quisel
Mary Anne Heino
Monica Higgins and Michael Higgins
Lisa Hunt and Thomas Hunt
Leif Jacobsen
Allison Joyce and Brian Joyce
Rebecca Kirk-Fair and Stephen Fair
Brenda Haynes and Adam Koppel
Timothy Landry
Tamra Laukien
Joel Lewin
Dr. Peter Libby
Danielle Millett and Mateo Millett
Ida Minkkinen
Katherine Morrison
Hope Morse
Amy Naimi
Amy O'Keefe
Katia Orth and Andy Orth
Kristin Patel and Sanj Patel
Dr. George Philippides and Leonor Fernandez
Dolores Picard
Kathleen Pizzuti
Jesse Pollak
Susanne Popeo and Paul Popeo
Hannelore and Roger Reiser
Warren Rieutort-Louis
Lorraine Rusch
Kimberlie Sachs and Bruce Sachs
Patti Salem and Dr. Deeb Salem
Dr. Christine Seidman and John Seidman
Drs. Gail Semigran and Marc Semigran
Dr. Samuel Shames and Mrs. Shames
Pryia Stephen and Ben Stephen
Sarah Tortorella
Ron Walker
Brian Williamson

As of April 2026

A Life Saved, A Friendship Forged—and a Mission to Teach CPR
Marc Henderson, left, and Jim McQuade share the story that brought them together—one that began when Henderson suffered a cardiac arrest during a pickup basketball game in 2019 and was saved by CPR performed by McQuade. McQuade acted without hesitation, continuing compressions until first responders arrived with an AED, helping save Henderson's life. Today, the Andover residents are best friends and passionate advocates for CPR education, using their experience to inspire others to act when every second counts.

American
Heart
Association.