



IMPACT REPORT

GREATER PHILADELPHIA | JULY 2026





American Stroke Association®
A division of the American Heart Association.

Together to End Stroke®

B.E. F.A.S.T. is how we come *together* to end stroke®

Learn the stroke warnings signs

B.E. F.A.S.T.

Balance
Loss

Eye (Vision)
Changes

Face
Drooping

Arm
Weakness

Speech
Difficulty

Time to
Call 911

Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a stroke.

It could happen on your street, at your workplace, or in a store where you shop — anywhere. Knowing how to recognize the warning signs and acting quickly can save a life and help prevent long-term disability.

Calling 911 is the fastest way to get stroke care. EMS can begin treatment immediately and alert the hospital stroke team before you arrive. That's why it's so important to learn the stroke warning signs and urge everyone you know to do the same.

The faster stroke is treated, the more likely the patient is to recover.

In fact, stroke patients who are treated with a clot-busting drug IV r-tPA Alteplase or Tenecteplase (TNK) within 4.5 hours of their first symptoms were more likely to recover with little or no disability.

In some cases, a procedure to remove the clot causing the stroke is also recommended. Ninety-one percent of stroke patients who were treated with a stent retriever within 150 minutes of first symptoms recovered with little or no disability.

The thing to remember is that stroke is largely treatable. It's a matter of getting the right treatment, right away.

HCA  **Healthcare®**
FOUNDATION

The HCA Healthcare Foundation is a national supporter of Together to End Stroke.

stroke.org

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are reminded each day of what's possible when purpose, science and community come together. Across our region and around the world, the American Heart Association continues to improve and extend countless lives and this past year has been no exception. Driven by innovation, strengthened by partnerships and united by a shared commitment to equitable health, we're making meaningful progress toward a future where everyone can live longer, healthier lives.

One of this year's most significant highlights is the continued growth of our "Team Up to Take Down High Blood Pressure" initiative. In its second year, our collaboration with Penn Medicine expanded to include Temple Health, enabling us to extend critical resources into North Philadelphia. Along with our work in West and Southwest Philadelphia, this expansion has allowed us to reach more individuals and help them accurately monitor their blood pressure and access the high-quality care they need and deserve.

I am thrilled to announce the addition of Jefferson Health and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) as collaborators in the Team Up to Take Down High Blood Pressure initiative as we begin year three this July. Their participation marks an important milestone as we continue to scale the program, strengthening our collective efforts to help more individuals prevent and manage high blood pressure through education, screening and community-based support.

The success of this initiative has earned national recognition, with the Heart Association honoring Alyson Cole, chief operating officer, Penn Medicine Doylestown Health, Helene Glassberg, M.D., vice president of cardiology and director of prevention, Heartbeat Health, and the founding Penn Medicine team of "Team Up" in June in Dallas with the prestigious Award of Meritorious Achievement for their transformative impact on our mission and the example that they set for others.

I am deeply grateful to our board of directors, campaign chairs, executive leadership teams, volunteers and staff whose dedication drives our mission forward. Special thanks to Soma Somasundaram, president and chief technology officer of Infor and who serves as our board chair, and Kate FitzPatrick, D.N.P., RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, executive vice president and chief nurse executive of Jefferson Health System, our board president. Their leadership has opened new doors and inspired meaningful progress throughout the year, helping make this our strongest year ever in delivering on the American Heart Association's mission across Greater Philadelphia.

Together, we achieved our best results to date in both mission impact and funds raised, expanding our reach, strengthening community partnerships and improving cardiovascular health outcomes throughout the region.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to board members Stephanie Austin, Atif Bostic, Andréa Frazier and Stacy Gautier, whose terms concluded on June 30, 2026. While serving on the board, their passion, leadership and advocacy have been truly inspiring.

As we end this fiscal year, I'd like to recognize our outstanding 2025–2026 campaign chairs:

- **2025 CycleNation:** Michael Smith, division president, Marquis Health Consulting Services
- **2025 Southern New Jersey Go Red for Women:** Diane Juliano, regional chief nursing officer, Jefferson Health
- **2025 Philadelphia Heart Walk:** Dan Fitzpatrick, president, Citizens Mid-Atlantic and Midwest Regions
- **2026 Philadelphia Heart Ball:** Kernika Gupta, vice president, CEO initiatives, Independence Blue Cross and Vishal Patel, Brave Hearts Foundation
- **2026 Philadelphia Go Red for Women:** Rosemary Loverdi, partner, Dilworth Paxson
- **2026 Hard Hats with Heart:** Chuck Rudalavage, managing director, Gensler
- **2026 Southern New Jersey Heart Walk:** Wes Becker, vice president, South Jersey Industries

Your passion and support have helped create lasting change and we are deeply grateful for all you do. As we launch into our summer and fall campaign seasons and set our sights on 2026–2027, I'd also like to recognize the dedicated leaders helping drive our campaign success, whose vision, leadership and commitment will be critical to advancing our mission and maximizing our impact in the months ahead:

- **2026 CycleNation:** Michael Smith, division president, Marquis Health Consulting Services
- **2026 Southern New Jersey Go Red for Women:** Autum Shingler-Nace, chief nursing officer, Cooper University Healthcare
- **2026 Philadelphia Heart Walk:** Chaudron Carter Short, executive vice president, patient care services and chief nursing executive, Temple University Health System
- **2027 Philadelphia Heart Ball:** Kevin B. Mahoney, CEO, University of Pennsylvania Health System

As we look ahead at our efforts in our region in the coming years, I encourage you to connect with us to learn more. Together, we can build a healthier future for all.

Wishing you a healthy, safe and joyful summer and fall. I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead.

With heart and gratitude,



Jennifer Litchman-Green
Senior Vice President, Eastern States Region
Senior Executive Director, Greater Philadelphia
American Heart Association



SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ
MORE ABOUT THE "TEAM UP TO
TAKE DOWN HIGH BLOOD
PRESSURE" INITIATIVE.

MISSION:
To be a relentless
force for a world of
longer, healthier lives.

IMPACT SPOTLIGHTS



PRIORITY NEIGHBORHOODS

The American Heart Association of Greater Philadelphia selects priority neighborhoods by analyzing health assessment data provided by the city. This data includes metrics such as chronic health conditions, life expectancy and other social determinants of health. By focusing on areas with higher rates of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and lower life expectancy, the Heart Association identifies neighborhoods that would benefit most from targeted health interventions and resources.



PHILADELPHIA PRIORITY AREAS:

■ NORTHWEST	■ NORTH CENTRAL
■ LOGAN/OLNEY	■ LOWER EASTERN NORTH
■ LOWER NORTHEAST	■ WEST
■ EASTERN NORTH	■ SOUTHWEST

AREAS OF FOCUS IN SURROUNDING COUNTIES:

- City of Chester (Delaware County)
- Upper Darby Township (Delaware County)
- Norristown (Montgomery County)

SOUTHERN NJ PRIORITY AREAS:

■ CAMDEN
■ ATLANTIC CITY

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

The American Heart Association is powered by science and funding groundbreaking research is a cornerstone of our lifesaving mission. Each discovery we support brings us closer to a world where people live longer, healthier lives. Guided by evidence and driven by purpose, we are a relentless force advancing innovation today to transform health for generations to come.

ACTIVE RESEARCH GRANTS AS OF FEBRUARY 2026

Institution	Lead Institution City	# of Awards	Total Amount
Drexel University	Philadelphia	2	\$530,968.41
Monell Chemical Senses Center	Philadelphia	3	\$163,712
Temple University – Of The Commonwealth System of Higher Education	Philadelphia	12	\$2,144,483
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia	Philadelphia	9	\$2,943,145.99
The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	36	\$11,070,760.76
Thomas Jefferson University	Philadelphia	6	\$1,093,116
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing	Philadelphia	1	\$399,999
University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine	Philadelphia	3	\$804,114
University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine	Philadelphia	1	\$231,000
TOTALS		73	\$19,381,299.16

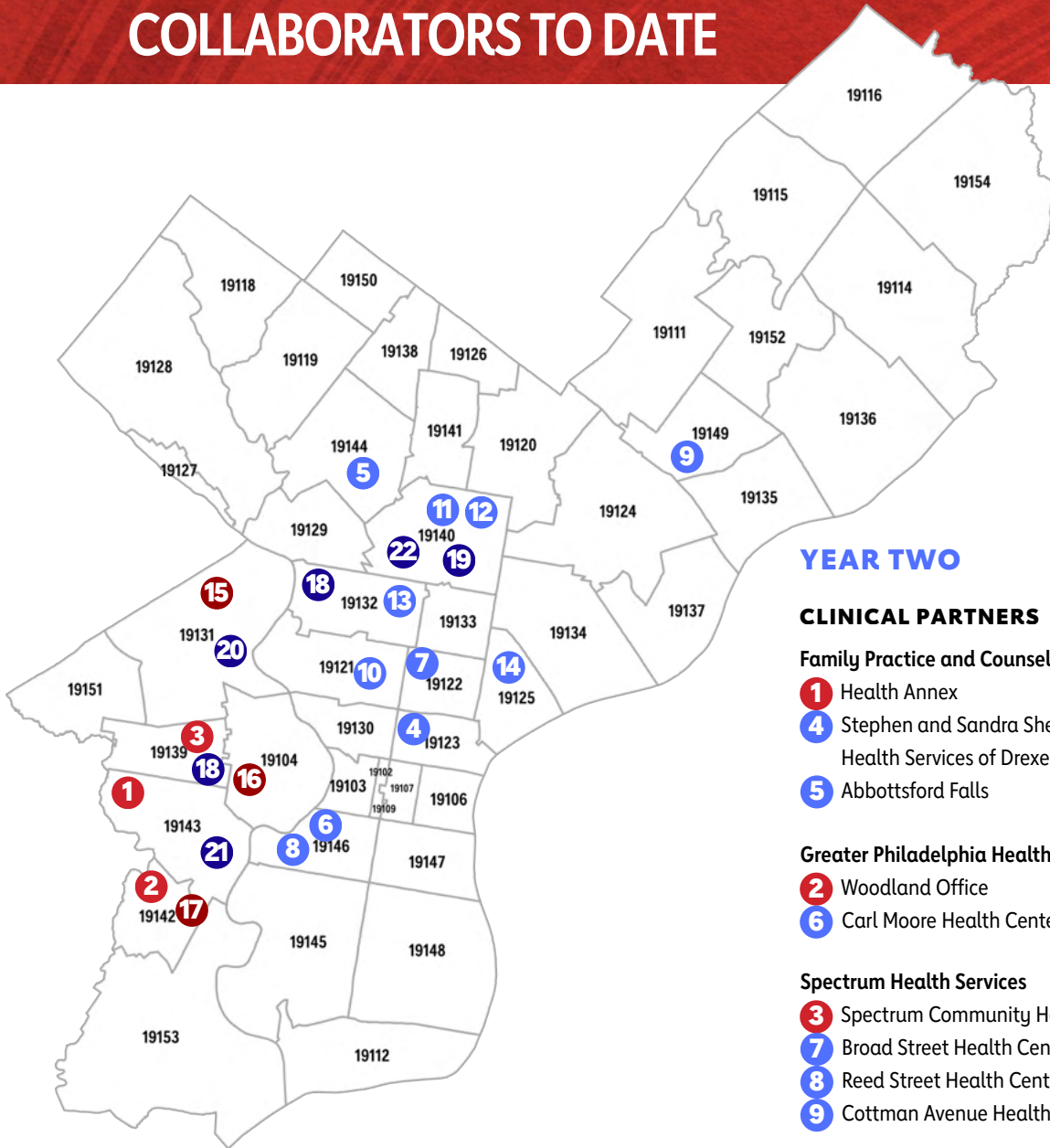
COLLABORATORS TO DATE



Live Fierce™
Philadelphia

TEAM UP
TO **TAKE DOWN**
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

In collaboration with
Penn Medicine
Temple Health



YEAR TWO

CLINICAL PARTNERS

Family Practice and Counseling Services Network

- 1** Health Annex
- 4** Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services of Drexel University
- 5** Abbottsford Falls

Greater Philadelphia Health Action (GPHA)

- 2** Woodland Office
- 6** Carl Moore Health Center

Spectrum Health Services

- 3** Spectrum Community Health Center
- 7** Broad Street Health Center
- 8** Reed Street Health Center
- 9** Cottman Avenue Health Center

Project HOME

- 10** Steven Klein Wellness Center

Fair Hill Community Physicians

- 11** Hunting Park Adult Medicine
- 12** Nicetown
- 13** Liberty Square Adult Medicine
- 14** Comprehensive Health Center – Internal Medicine

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- 18** Eddie's House
- 19** North10 Philadelphia
- 20** The Philadelphia Masjid
- 21** YEAH Philly
- 22** Zion Baptist Church of Philadelphia

YEAR ONE

CLINICAL PARTNERS

Family Practice and Counseling Services Network

- 1** Health Annex

Greater Philadelphia Health Action (GPHA)

- 2** Woodland Office

Spectrum Health Services

- 3** Spectrum Community Health Center

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- 15** Samuel Gompers School
- 16** Second Antioch Baptist Church Food Pantry
- 17** Southwest CDC

CLINICAL COLLABORATOR MILESTONES

OVER 90,000 PATIENTS

IMPACTED THROUGH "TEAM UP" HEALTH CENTERS IN YEAR TWO. DATA INCLUDES SUBMISSIONS FOR TARGET:BP, TARGET TYPE 2 DIABETES AND "CHECK. CHANGE. CONTROL CHOLESTEROL" PROGRAMS.

3 PARTNERS (7 SITES)

SUBMITTED IN YEAR ONE (2024-2025)

- Spectrum Health Services (1 site)
- Family Practice and Counseling Services Network (4 sites)
- Greater Philadelphia Health Action (2 sites)

5 PARTNERS (22 SITES)

SUBMITTED IN YEAR TWO (2025-2026)

- Spectrum Health Services (5 sites)
- Family Practice and Counseling Services Network (4 sites)
- Greater Philadelphia Health Action (7 sites)
- Fair Hill Community Physicians (5 sites)
- Project HOME - Stephen Klein Wellness Center (1 site)

PAST AND PRESENT SELF-MEASURED BLOOD PRESSURE (SMBP) SUPPORT



IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURE ACCURATELY BLOOD PRESSURE PROTOCOL

FAIR HILL COMMUNITY PHYSICIANS – MARCH 2026

INCREASED SMBP ENROLLMENT BY 218%

AT ONE PARTNER BETWEEN
APRIL 2025 - APRIL 2026



GPHA – EPIDEMIOLOGY PREVENTION AND LIFESTYLE SCIENCE SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS POSTER PRESENTER:

OPERATIONALIZING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
IN SELF-MEASURED BLOOD PRESSURE AND
POPULATION HEALTH HOTLINE – MARCH 2026

BLOOD PRESSURE

65% RESIDENTS SCREENED AT COMMUNITY SITES SHOWED ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE READINGS (BP GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 130/80).

169 HEALTH LESSON TOPICS FACILITATED TO RESIDENTS



LESSONS PROVIDED BY 4 OUT OF 5 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Eat Smart with Fruits and Vegetables
- Spot a Stroke F.A.S.T.
- Substance Use
- Learn the Signs of a Heart Attack
- Keep the Beat - Hands-Only CPR
- Pregnancy and Heart Health



Community Voices

“

I'm so happy with North10. I used to arrive just for food necessity but now I'm getting my blood pressure checked, a luxury I do not have elsewhere.

– Anonymous

“

When I found out that my blood pressure was over 160 I knew I had to do something about it. I called in an appointment with my doctor as soon as I got home. Please do not stop the blood pressure screenings.

– Leslie D.

”

“

”



Public Awareness Campaigns

30,029,537 TOTAL TRANSIT CAMPAIGN IMPRESSIONS

Earned Media

- PHL Morning News
- Univision
- 6ABC
- “Bridging Philly” podcast on KYW1060 and Spotify
- Jordana Cohen, M.D., M.S.C.E. interviewed on WURD
- Neel Chokshi, M.D. interviewed on WXPB
- Richard Wender, M.D. interviewed for a national Heart Association story



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT
THE “TEAM UP TO TAKE
DOWN HIGH BLOOD
PRESSURE” WEBSITE.



EDWARD S. COOPER, M.D. LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

MAY 4, 2026 | PERELMAN CENTER FOR ADVANCED MEDICINE

Clinicians, researchers and public health leaders from across Philadelphia gathered at Penn Medicine for the Second Annual Edward S. Cooper, M.D. Learning Collaborative, a forum focused on improving blood pressure control, improving maternal health outcomes and addressing inequities in cardiovascular outcomes.

Hosted in partnership with Penn Medicine, Temple Health, the American Heart Association, Greater Philadelphia, and community organizations, the half-day event honored the legacy of Edward S. Cooper, M.D., a renowned hypertension and stroke researcher and the first Black president of the Heart Association. Dr. Cooper passed in December 2025 at the age of 99, but his work continues to influence equitable health outcomes nationwide.

The collaborative brought together top regional leaders, including executives from Penn Medicine and Temple Health, alongside experts in maternal health, behavioral economics, public health and cardiovascular medicine. Discussions centered on updated hypertension guidelines, practical strategies to improve blood pressure control and innovative approaches to improve outcomes and meet people where they are.

With nearly half of Philadelphia adults affected by high blood pressure—many of whom don't know they have it—the event underscored the urgency of aligning evidence-based care with community engagement. Organizers noted that initiatives like the Learning Collaborative are critical to improving outcomes and advancing equitable heart health across the region. This learning collaborative will continue annually in Philadelphia through at least 2030.



COLLABORATOR HIGHLIGHT

MEETING THE COMMUNITY WHERE THEY ARE: TEAM UP COLLABORATOR NORTH10 EXPANDS ACCESS TO HEART HEALTH

North10 Philadelphia has shown what it really means to be a strong, trusted and community-focused Team Up collaborator, jumping into action in 2026 with urgency and with heart. For years, North10 has been a steady presence in North Philadelphia, helping residents through programs focused on education, workforce development, housing stability, family support and community health. Its work is rooted in listening to residents, meeting real needs and creating opportunities that help people and neighborhoods thrive.

That people-first approach was made clear when North10 collaborated with the American Heart Association's community impact staff to launch blood pressure screenings and referral support during its weekly community market. Because the screenings were offered in a place residents already knew and trusted, community members were able to easily access an important health service while picking up food and other essentials for their families.

The impact was immediate. Residents not only received free blood pressure screenings, but also gained access to educational materials, follow-up resources and guidance on next steps if their numbers were high.

"I depend a lot in the resources that North10 provides. These blood pressure screenings are by far the cherry on top," said local resident Alexis M. "I love being able to keep track of my blood pressure and receive proper materials that educate me to help me improve my health."

By building this effort into an existing community touchpoint, North10 helped remove barriers that often keep people from getting preventive care and support.

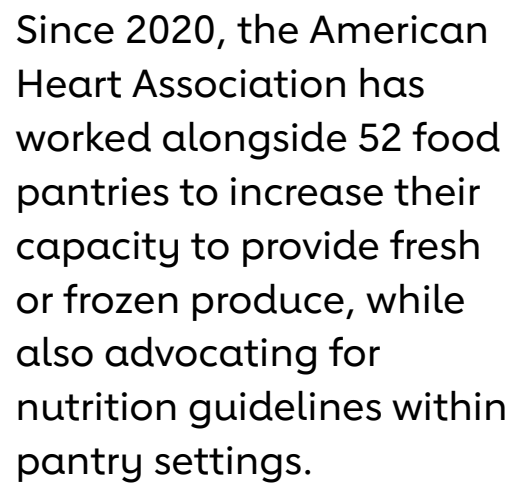
North10 continued to build on this work this May by launching the Heart Association's EmPOWERED to Serve lessons as a six-week health education series. Through these sessions, residents learned practical ways to improve heart health, manage risk factors and take better care of themselves and their families. Just as important, the program created a welcoming space for conversation, encouragement and connection among neighbors.

Together, North10 and the Heart Association are helping make health resources more accessible, approachable and community-driven, ensuring residents not only receive information but also feel supported in taking action for their health. Their collaboration is a strong example of how trusted community organizations can create lasting impact by meeting people where they are.



Rosemary Duarte, director of neighborhood impact services, and Joel Torres, manager of community services at North10 Philadelphia, practice taking blood pressure readings during a train-the-trainer session.

HOW THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION IS ADDRESSING NUTRITION SECURITY



LOCATIONS

1. **Caribe Towers HACE:** 3231-65 N. 2nd St, Philadelphia PA 19140
2. **Casa Caribe HACE:** 173 W. Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19133
3. **Pro Pac:** 3625 E. Gaul St, Philadelphia, PA 19134 - house? No East Gaul St.
4. **Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church:** 3552 N. 6th St, Philadelphia, PA 19140
5. **Veterans Multi-Service Center:** 213 N. 4th St, Philadelphia, PA 19106
6. **Young Chances Foundation:** 2703 Tasker St, Philadelphia, PA 19145
7. **Zion AME Church:** 1600 S. 21st St, Philadelphia, PA 19145
8. **Christian Worship Center:** 4520 Benner St, Philadelphia, PA 19135
9. **Faith Assembly of God:** 1926 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19124
10. **Everything Must Change in the Heart of the Community, Inc.:** 2509 W. Lehigh Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19132
11. **Alain Locke School:** 4550 Haverford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19139
12. **HopePHL:** 325 N. 39th St, Philadelphia, PA 19104
13. **Solomon Temple Baptist Church:** 602 W. Erie Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19140
14. **Casa del Carmen:** 4400 Reese St, Philadelphia, PA 19140
15. **Bebashi - Transition to Hope:** 1237 Spring Garden St, Philadelphia, PA 19123
16. **Helping Hands for the Hungry:** 525 Cobbs Creek Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19143
17. **Good Samaritan Baptist Church:** 6148-50 Lansdowne Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151
18. **SEAMAAC:** 1711 S. Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19148
19. **West Kensington Ministry:** 2140 N. Hancock St, Philadelphia, PA 19122
20. **First Stop Recovery:** 2418 Kensington Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19125
21. **Vaux Big Picture High School:** 2300 Master St, Philadelphia, PA 19121
22. **El Centro de Estudiantes:** 1241 N. Taney St, Philadelphia, PA 19121
23. **North10, Philadelphia:** 3890 N. 10th St, Philadelphia, PA 19140
24. **Second Antioch Baptist Church:** 912 N. 41st St, Philadelphia, PA 19104
25. **Philadelphia Baptist Church:** 5447 Haverford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19139
26. 1621 W. Jefferson St, Philadelphia, PA 19140
27. 4458 A Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19135
28. 6730 Torresdale Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19135
29. **Hope Prison Ministry:** 735 W. Butler St, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19140
30. **Temple University Hospital - Episcopal Campus:** 100 E. Lehigh Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19125
31. **The Murrell Dobbins Career and Technical Education High School:** 2150 W. Lehigh Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19132
32. **On A Mission Food Pantry:** 433 N. 64th St, Philadelphia, PA 19151
33. **Samuel Gompers School:** 5701 Wynnefield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19131
34. **All for All Agency:** 708 Pembroke Ave, East Lansdowne, PA 19050
35. **Feast of Justice, Northeast Services Hub:** 6434 Castor Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19149
36. **FAWN Food Pantry at Tilden Middle School:** 6601 Elmwood Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19142
37. **Add B. Anderson School:** 1034 S. 60th St, Philadelphia, PA 19143
38. **Alexander K. McClure Elementary School:** 600 W. Hunting Park Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19140
39. **Richard R. Wright Elementary School:** 2201 N. 28th St, Philadelphia, PA 19132
40. **John H. Webster School:** 3400 Frankford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134
41. **Revelation Philadelphia Ministry, Inc.:** 7047 Buist Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19142
42. **Jerusalem French Church:** 537 E. Wyoming Ave #45, Philadelphia, PA 19120
43. **African Family Health Organization:** 2420 S 54th St, Philadelphia, PA 19143
44. **Brothers of Strawberry Mansion:** 3218 W. Susquehanna Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19121
45. **Mi Salud Wellness Center:** 200 E. Wyoming Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19120
46. **William Cramp Elementary School:** 3449 N. Mascher St, Philadelphia, PA 19140
47. **Overbrook Educational Center:** 6722 Lansdowne Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151
48. **Franklin S. Edmonds School:** 8025 Thouron Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19150
49. **FAWN at Rising Sun Health Center:** 5675 N. Front St, Philadelphia, PA 19120
50. **Mizpah SDA Church:** 4355 Paul St, Philadelphia, PA 19124
51. **Puentes de Salud:** 1700 South St, Philadelphia, PA 19146
52. **St. Benedict Food Pantry:** 1940 E. Cheltenham Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19138

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF PHILADELPHIA

- **Aging Grace (Montgomery County):** 404 Davisville Rd, Ste. 3, Willow Grove, PA 19090
- **Church of the Overcomer (Delaware County):** 1010 Sunset St, Marcus Hook, PA 19061
- **Philadelphia Christian Center (Bucks County):** 2990 Street Rd, Bensalem, PA 19020
- **ACLAMO (Montgomery County):** 512 W. Marshall St, Norristown, PA 19401

CPR AWARENESS THROUGH TRAINING KIOSKS

LIVE FIERCE. TAKE ACTION. COMMUNITY READINESS. SPONSORS:



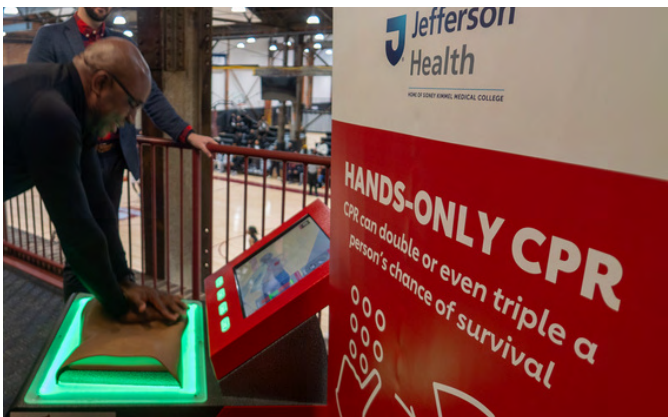
LIVE FIERCE. TAKE ACTION. SPONSOR:



We're proud to highlight how Hands-Only CPR training kiosks continue to help build a Nation of Lifesavers right here in Philadelphia.

With continued support from Independence Blue Cross and Jefferson Health, these kiosks are expanding access to free, easy-to-use CPR training in high-traffic spaces across the city.

In 2017, the American Heart Association launched the first Hands-Only CPR kiosk in Philadelphia at the Independence Visitor Center, and now, as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, this lifesaving resource has returned to that historic space, joined by a second kiosk at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.



Together, these locations are strategically positioned to reach a wide audience, from tourists exploring historic Philadelphia to attendees at major conventions and events, making it easier than ever for people to learn Hands-Only CPR and be ready to act when every second counts.



HANDS-ONLY CPR DEMONSTRATIONS

FROM THE PITCH TO THE DIAMOND, THE HEART ASSOCIATION HELPS FANS BECOME LIFESAVERS

The American Heart Association kicked off the FIFA Fan Festival in Philadelphia in June with an engaging and impactful start, teaching Hands-Only CPR to soccer fans from around the world.

Beginning on the festival's first day, visitors from Mexico, Algeria and Ghana learned this lifesaving skill, while local Philadelphia police officers joined in a friendly competition to help raise awareness.

As visitors gathered to celebrate the global game throughout the festival which lasted until mid-July, the Heart Association shared a simple but powerful message: anyone can save a life. Through its mission to build a Nation of Lifesavers, volunteers demonstrated how easy it is to take action in an emergency.

Participants learned the two essential steps of Hands-Only CPR: call 9-1-1, and push hard and fast in the center of the chest.

Building on that momentum, the Heart Association continued its lifesaving outreach at the Major League Baseball All-Star Game Village, held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center ending the day of the 2026 MLB All-Star Game. There, baseball fans from Philadelphia and across the country had the opportunity to learn Hands-Only CPR and gain the confidence to respond in a cardiac emergency.

By bringing lifesaving education to soccer and baseball fans, the Heart Association is transforming major sporting events into opportunities to empower individuals, strengthen communities and help create a Nation of Lifesavers.



ADVOCACY



The American Heart Association advocates for public policy in Philadelphia that addresses the key contributing factors of heart disease and stroke. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the city, taking over 4,000 lives annually. Sixty-three percent (63%) of Philadelphians live in areas with an overabundance of unhealthy foods. One in three adults in the city is affected by high blood pressure.



To have your voice heard in support of our Philadelphia advocacy efforts, join today:



HEART MONTH CITY HALL DAY

In February, we hosted our second annual Heart Month City Hall Day in partnership with Councilmember Jim Harrity, a heart attack survivor and strong champion for heart health. The day began with individual meetings with members of the Public Health Committee, including Committee Chair Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad, to discuss priorities related to cardiovascular health and community wellness.

During our Lunch & Learn program, we brought together advocates, City Council staff, survivors, community organizations and clinical partners to highlight the Heart Association's ongoing efforts to address hypertension and improve nutrition security across Philadelphia communities.

ADVOCACY



GROWING CONCERNS OVER RISE OF VAPE SHOPS AND TOBACCO RETAILERS

The Delaware County Tobacco Vape-Free Coalition, Delaware County Health Department (DCHD), Chimes Holcomb, the American Heart Association, Greater Philadelphia and Lansdowne Borough recently hosted “The Rise of Vape Shops and Tobacco Outlets in Delaware County: Spotlight Borough of Lansdowne” at the historic Twentieth Century Club in Lansdowne.

The event brought together public health experts, educators, law enforcement officials and community leaders to discuss the rapid growth of tobacco and vape retailers throughout Delaware County and the impact on local communities.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION HELPS SHAPE PHILADELPHIA'S NEW FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY ROADMAP



Photo Credit: Christopher Mansfield, Philadelphia City Council Office of Communications

Philadelphia City Council’s Food and Nutrition Security Task Force has released a comprehensive set of recommendations to improve food access, strengthen local food systems and address food security citywide. The report calls for a permanent Office of Food and Nutrition Security, expanded SNAP and WIC enrollment support, community-led food access strategies and a coordinated Food as Medicine approach. The American Heart Association helped shape the recommendations through Task Force member Jacob Zychick, senior regional advocacy lead, underscoring the organization’s commitment to advancing nutrition security and improving community health outcomes across Philadelphia.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

HEART HUBS: BRINGING LIFESAVING HEART HEALTH RESOURCES INTO TRUSTED COMMUNITY SPACES

Heart Hubs are trusted community spaces designed to improve cardiovascular health and save lives across Greater Philadelphia. Located in neighborhoods with high rates of hypertension, diabetes and poverty, Heart Hubs provide access to blood pressure screenings, healthy food resources and CPR education where residents already gather and seek support.

Through blood pressure screening initiatives, Heart Hubs help community members learn their health numbers and connect to care when follow-up is needed. At St. Benedict Food Bank, one community member requested a blood pressure check while visiting the pantry. Initial and repeat screenings revealed Stage 2 hypertension. Further conversation revealed that the individual had previously been diagnosed with hypertension but had not refilled their prescription after it expired. With support from Heart Hub staff, the community member agreed to contact their physician for a medication refill and follow-up appointment.

Staff also noted that several new volunteers took advantage of the screenings and expressed gratitude that the service was available to them. These interactions demonstrate how Heart Hubs serve as a bridge between community members and the healthcare system, connecting people to the care and resources they need.

Heart Hubs also strengthen nutrition security by expanding access to healthier foods. Investments in cold storage and pantry infrastructure help organizations provide more fresh and frozen food options while aligning with Healthy Eating Research (HER) pantry guidelines, which promote foods lower in sodium, sugar and unhealthy fats. At Mizpah SDA Church, a partnership with Health & Hope Program USA brings quarterly healthy cooking demonstrations and nutrition education to pantry participants, helping community members learn practical ways to support their health through food. By combining food access with education, Heart Hubs reinforce the message that food is a key component of preventing and managing chronic disease.

In addition, Heart Hubs prepare communities to respond during cardiac emergencies through CPR education, AED placement and Cardiac Emergency Response Planning. Prior to partnering with the American Heart Association, many organizations lacked AEDs, CPR training resources and emergency response protocols. At Mi Salud Wellness Organization, which primarily serves Spanish-speaking residents, an AED with Spanish-language instructions was installed to ensure lifesaving guidance is accessible to the community it serves. This investment helps address disparities in CPR response and equips community members and staff with the confidence and tools needed to act when every second counts.

Heart Hubs demonstrate what's possible when health resources are embedded within trusted community spaces. Whether through blood pressure screenings, access to nutritious food or CPR education, Heart Hubs are reducing barriers to care and empowering residents to take control of their health.



CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



PHILADELPHIA HEART BALL

FEBRUARY 27, 2026 | THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia celebrated heart health and community impact at the 2026 Philadelphia Heart Ball, held February 27 at the National Constitution Center. The American Heart Association event marked the culmination of the Heart of Philadelphia campaign, bringing together local leaders, volunteers and supporters.

Hosted by NBC10's Keith Jones and Erin Coleman and co-chaired by Kernika Gupta and Vishal Patel of the Brave Lights Foundation, the evening honored individuals and organizations advancing research, care access, policy and awareness. Top supporters included Penn Medicine, Temple Health, Independence Blue Cross, AmeriHealth Caritas, Jefferson Health, Infor and QVC/HSN.

Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia Tony B. Watlington Sr., Ed.D. was the recipient of the Heart of Philadelphia Award on behalf of the School District, and Vinay Nadkarni, M.D., of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, was honored with the Edward S. Cooper, M.D. Award. "Caretakers of the Torch" honorees included Elliot Barnathan, M.D., a Heart Association volunteer for over 40 years, Matt Lynch for lifesaving CPR and young survivor Addison Birney. The event also featured hands-only CPR training through a Hands-Only CPR kiosk, reflecting its focus on education and empowerment, and reinforcing the mission to create longer, healthier lives.



American Heart Association®
Heart Ball

HEART WALK EXECUTIVE BREAKFAST

APRIL 30, 2026 | TEMPLE WOMEN & FAMILIES HOSPITAL

The American Heart Association launched its 2026 Philadelphia Heart Walk campaign at its Executive Leadership Breakfast in April, bringing together regional leaders to rally support for heart health and lifesaving initiatives.

Chaudron Carter Short, Ph.D., Ed.D., RN, NEA-BC, chief nursing executive at Temple University Health System and this year's Heart Walk chair, emphasized the urgency of the mission: heart disease and stroke remain the leading causes of death, and only one in 10 people survive cardiac arrest outside of a hospital. She called on leaders to use their influence to drive change, setting a campaign goal of \$2.3 million and engagement from 250 companies—a nod to America's anniversary.

A key focus is building a "Nation of Lifesavers" by expanding CPR training and AED access. While bystander CPR rates in Philadelphia have improved, more progress is needed to save lives. Jen Mantini of PwC encouraged executives to take an active leadership role through the Executives with Heart initiative, mobilizing their organizations to fundraise and raise awareness.

Jennifer Litchman-Green, executive director for the Heart Association, Greater Philadelphia, highlighted the impact of both corporate and community-driven efforts.

The program featured a powerful story from Anthony and Kristen Greco, whose family turned a near-fatal heart attack into a grassroots movement that has raised nearly \$50,000 and increased awareness of heart health risks and prevention.

Closing the event, Dr. Carter Short, herself a stroke "thrivor," urged attendees to turn commitment into action. "This issue is all of ours," she said, calling on leaders to help build a healthier, lifesaving community across Greater Philadelphia.



HARD HATS WITH HEART

MAY 11, 2026 | CITIZENS BANK PARK



Construction and industry leaders gathered at Citizens Bank Park for the American Heart Association's Hard Hats with Heart event in May, uniting around a shared mission to improve heart health and save lives.

Hard Hats with Heart Chair Chuck Rudalavage, managing director, Gensler, opened the event by highlighting the unique risks facing the construction industry, where 1 in 25 workers are affected by cardiovascular disease due to factors such as long hours, stress and limited access to healthy habits. He emphasized the importance of raising awareness and equipping workers with lifesaving skills.

A powerful moment came as survivor and executive leadership team member Todd Tewksbury, project manager, associate, Bala Consulting Engineers, shared his personal story, underscoring the real impact heart disease has on individuals and families across the industry.

In closing, Jennifer Litchman-Green, executive director of the Heart Association, Greater Philadelphia, thanked attendees, sponsors and supporters, including the Philadelphia Phillies. She also recognized the legacy of the initiative, which began as Homeruns for Heart in honor of Phillies legend Richie Ashburn.

With a focus on awareness, prevention and emergency response, Hard Hats with Heart continues to drive meaningful change by reinforcing the industry's commitment to building not just structures, but healthier communities.



American Heart Association®

Hard Hats with Heart™

PHILADELPHIA GO RED FOR WOMEN EXPERIENCE

MAY 13, 2026 | THE BELLEVUE HOTEL



More than 500 leaders, survivors, clinicians and advocates gathered at the Bellevue Hotel in a powerful “sea of red” for the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women Experience, part of the nationwide movement to end heart disease, the leading cause of death among women.

The event featured inspiring survivor stories, urgent calls to action and voices from across the Philadelphia community. Hosted by QVC’s Vanessa Herring and Rosina Grosso, the program included remarks from Rosemary Loverdi, partner, Dilworth Paxon, and chair of the 2026 Go Red for Women Philadelphia campaign; Jennifer Litchman-Green, executive director of the Heart Association, Greater Philadelphia and Stephanie Austin, a Class of 2026 national survivor and founder of Faces of Heart in Philadelphia.



New this year, the event introduced pop-up activations designed to turn awareness into action. Attendees experienced hands-only CPR demonstrations, interactive health stations and programming led by Main Line Health’s Women’s Heart Initiative which provided immediate opportunities to learn lifesaving skills and take steps toward better heart health.

The experience also featured powerful visual and storytelling moments, including Faces of Heart survivor stories, hands-only CPR training and a ballroom filled with attendees dressed in red, which created a striking symbol of unity and urgency.

Bringing together healthcare leaders, business executives and community advocates, this year’s Go Red for Women Experience reinforced the region’s shared commitment to improving women’s heart health and empowering action beyond awareness.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE
FACES OF HEART VIDEO.

American Heart Association.



SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY HEART WALK

MAY 16, 2026 | OCEAN CITY SPORTS & CIVIC CENTER

The 2026 Southern New Jersey Heart Walk united survivors, families and local leaders along the New Jersey Boardwalk for a sunny morning focused on saving lives.

Hosted by Kate FitzPatrick, American Heart Association, Greater Philadelphia board president, the event highlighted the impact of collective action against heart disease and stroke, with every step supporting research, education and access to care.

Heart Walk Chair Wes Becker of South Jersey Industries (SJI) recognized the community's strong support with SJI named as the top fundraising team.

Powerful survivor stories, including cardiac arrest survivor Stephanie Austin, reinforced the importance of CPR and the mission to build a "Nation of Lifesavers."

As participants stepped onto the Boardwalk, the message was clear: together, the community is making a meaningful impact in the fight against heart disease and stroke.



GREATER PHILADELPHIA STAFF 2026 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



Heart Ball



Hard Hats with Heart



Wear Red Day



Southern New Jersey
Heart Walk



Go Red for Women
Experience

SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS RECOGNITION



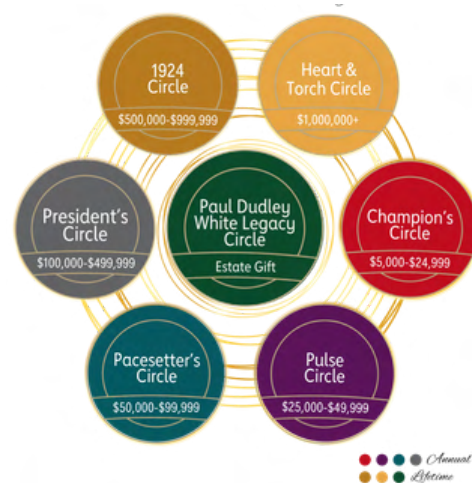


American Heart Association®

Cor Vitae Society

Cor Vitae, Latin for *the heart of life*, is the American Heart Association's annual giving society of individuals whose generous commitment impacts our mission to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

Thank you to our 2025-2026 Philadelphia Members



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GREATER PHILADELPHIA GOES NATIONAL

STEPHANIE AUSTIN AND MATT LYNCH EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR INSPIRING LIFE-SAVING STORIES

Two individuals with remarkable local connections to the power of CPR and cardiac emergency response have been recognized on the national stage by the American Heart Association.

Stephanie Austin has been named to the 2026 Go Red for Women National Class of Survivors, honoring her extraordinary journey following a sudden cardiac arrest. In her mid-30s and at the height of her physical fitness, Austin suffered a cardiac arrest while at home. Her husband Matt, a doctor, immediately called 911 and began CPR, actions that proved critical to saving her life. Today, Austin, a board member in Greater Philadelphia, uses her experience and platform to advocate for heart health awareness and teaches CPR, helping empower others to respond confidently in emergencies.

Matt Lynch has been named to the inaugural American Heart Association Nation of Lifesavers Class of 2026 in recognition of his quick action during a medical emergency. While commuting to work in Philadelphia, Lynch encountered an unresponsive driver and passenger in a stalled vehicle. Drawing on CPR training he had completed just months earlier offered by the Heart Association, Greater Philadelphia, he immediately began chest compressions until the individual started breathing again and first responders arrived. His actions helped save a life and underscore the vital importance of CPR education and preparedness.

Together, Austin and Lynch represent both sides of the survival chain—one as a survivor whose life was saved through swift intervention and the other as a bystander whose willingness to act made all the difference. Their stories serve as powerful reminders that CPR knowledge, preparedness and decisive action can save lives every day.



**SCAN THE QR CODES TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR
AMAZING STORIES.**



STEPHANIE



MATT

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR “TEAM UP”



In 2025-2026, one of the region’s most impactful community health initiatives continued to gain momentum. Team Up to Take Down High Blood Pressure, a collaboration among Penn Medicine, Temple Health and the American Heart Association, was launched in late 2024 to address hypertension, a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke, by connecting healthcare systems, community organizations and residents.

The initiative expanded from seven clinical sites to 22, reaching more than 90,000 patients through quality improvement efforts, community screenings, home blood pressure monitoring and referral programs. By focusing on high-risk neighborhoods and meeting residents where they live, Team Up helped identify elevated blood pressure in individuals who may not otherwise have received care, while public awareness campaigns generated more than 30 million impressions.

Central to the program’s success has been its collaborative approach, bringing together healthcare providers and community partners to reduce barriers to care and advance equitable health across Philadelphia.

The initiative recently earned national recognition when Penn Medicine leaders received the Heart Association’s prestigious Award of Meritorious Achievement. The award was accepted by Alyson Cole, chief operating officer of Penn Medicine Doylestown Health, who played a key role in the initiative’s development and launch. The initiative was also shaped by the leadership of Helene Glassberg, M.D., a founding champion of the effort during her tenure at Penn Medicine.

The Team Up initiative was also featured on the Heart Association’s national website.

Looking ahead, Team Up is positioned to serve as a sustainable, scalable model for improving hypertension control and population health in Philadelphia and potentially in urban communities nationwide.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ
ABOUT THE NATIONAL
RECOGNITION OF THE
“TEAM UP” INITIATIVE.**



OUR THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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UPCOMING FALL/WINTER EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – CYCLENATION

A high-energy stationary bike event to raise awareness and funds for stroke and heart disease

Fountain View at Logan Square

2 Franklin Town Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Ride Time: 5:30–7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 – SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON

Empowering women, located in the Southern New Jersey area, to take charge of their heart health through education and inspiration

The Merion

1301 Route 130 S, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 – PHILADELPHIA HEART WALK

Thousands walking to support heart health and fund lifesaving research

Citizens Bank Park

1 Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia, PA 19148

8:00–10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 – WORLD STROKE DAY

Global awareness day to highlight the serious nature and high rates of stroke

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – STEM GOES RED

Inspiring young women from the School District of Philadelphia to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math

Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, Penn Medicine

3400 Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19104

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

American Heart Association of Greater Philadelphia

1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 700

Philadelphia, PA 19103

www.heart.org/philadelphia



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