



ANNUAL REPORT GREATER PHILADELPHIA | JULY 2025



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we celebrate 101 years of impact, by all measures, our work has been transformative as we've improved, extended and saved lives around the globe and right here in our region. This year, the Greater Philadelphia Region of the American Heart Association (AHA) has much to celebrate. While our mission is ongoing, this year has been one of remarkable growth, renewed commitment and meaningful partnerships all aimed at saving and improving lives.

A significant highlight from this year—featured in this Impact Report—has been year one of our collaboration with Penn Medicine on the Team Up to Take Down High Blood Pressure initiative. This effort is focused on improving blood pressure control in West and Southwest Philadelphia by removing barriers to quality care, accurate measurement and early diagnosis.

Most recently, Temple Health joined the AHA Penn Medicine in the collaboration, which will bring a cohort of North Philadelphia based collaborators into the initiative over the coming years.

I'm deeply grateful to our board of directors, campaign chairs, executive leadership teams, volunteers, and staff who have worked tirelessly to advance our mission. A heartfelt thank you to Sarah Bouchard, J.D., partner, Morgan Lewis & Bockius, our outgoing Board Chair, and Helene Glassberg, director, Pre-operative Cardiac Clinic and associate professor, Clinical Medicine, Penn Medicine, our outgoing Board President, for their exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication in raising awareness and inspiring action across our region during their term.

We're also excited to welcome our new board leaders:

- Soma Somasundaram, president and chief technology officer, Infor, as Board Chair.
- Kate FitzPatrick, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, executive vice president, Connelly Foundation, chief nursing executive officer, Jefferson Health, as Board President.

Their expertise and passion for advancing cardiovascular health will be invaluable as we continue our mission to build a healthier Greater Philadelphia.

I also want to recognize our outstanding Campaign Chairs from 2024-2025:

- Greg Deavens, CEO, Independence Blue Cross (Heart Walk)
- Sarah Bouchard, partner, Morgan Lewis (Heart Ball)
- George Magnatta, partner, Saul Ewing, and JoAnn Magnatta, senior vice president, Facilities Design and Construction/Real Estate, Main Line Health (Go Red for Women)

- Michael Smith, division president, Marquis Health Consulting Services (CycleNation)
- Angela Curry, vice president and chief compliance officer, Bentley, Ellen Lewis, senior proposal manager, Bentley, and Gina Mazzulla, strategist, Communications and Community Engagement, Bentley (STEM Goes Red)
- Faten Dib, reassurance coordinator, Cape Atlantic, and Dr. Renee Bullock-Palmer, cardiologist, Deborah Heart & Lung Center (Southern New Jersey Go Red for Women Luncheon)
- Ryan Spotts, associate project manager, Gilbane Building Company and Scott Allen, P.E., managing director, project management, Turner & Townsend (Hard Hats with Heart)
- Timothy Lamezac, business development director, Encompass Health (Southern New Jersey Heart Walk)
- Kimberly Edson, associate chief nursing officer, Jefferson Health (Southern New Jersey Heart Walk)

Your passion and support have made a lasting impact. As we head into our summer and fall campaign season and look ahead to 2025-2026, I'd like to also thank our current campaign chairs who will play a critical role in our success and impact over the coming months:

- Dan Fitzpatrick, president, Citizens Mid-Atlantic Region (Heart Walk)
- Kernika Gupta, director, CEO Initiatives and Vishal Patel, Brave Lights Foundation (Heart Ball)
- Michael Smith, division president, Marquis Health Consulting Services (CycleNation)
- Diane Juliano, regional chief nursing officer, Jefferson Health (Southern New Jersey Go Red for Women Luncheon)
- Wesley Becker, Vice President, Utility Shared Services, South Jersey Industries (Southern New Jersey Heart Walk)

If you haven't yet, I encourage you to get involved—join an event, learn CPR, or help us spread the word. Together, we're building a healthier future for all. And if you'd like to learn more about our mission more broadly, please take a moment to view our most recent <u>annual report</u>. I wish each of you a healthy, safe and joyful summer and fall, and I look forward to spending time with many of you over the coming months.

With heart and gratitude,



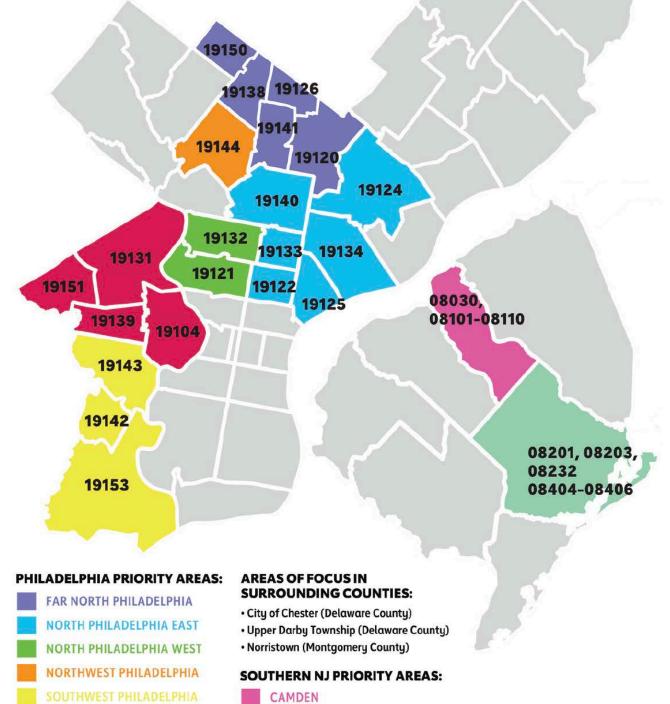
Jennifer Litchman-Green Senior Vice President, Eastern States Region Senior Executive Director, Greater Philadelphia American Heart Association

IMPACT SPOTLIGHTS



PRIORITY NEIGHBORHOODS

The Greater Philadelphia AHA 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 AHA identifies neighborhoods that would benefit most from targeted health interventions and resources.



ATLANTIC CITY

WEST PHILADELPHIA

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



The American Heart Association is a science-based organization. Funding research is a cornerstone of our lifesaving mission – to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives – and a key to our future.

NEW AWARDS IN 2024

Aggregated funding amount of new awards: \$6.49M

- University of Pennsylvania: \$3.61M
- Temple University: \$1.07 M
- Thomas Jefferson University: \$801K
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP): \$577K
- Drexel University: \$367K

ACTIVE AWARDS IN 2024

Aggregated funding amount: \$21.36M

- University of Pennsylvania: \$13.43M
- Temple University: \$3.78M
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP): \$1.72M
- Thomas Jefferson University: \$1.4M
- Drexel University: \$598K



Clinical Collaborator Foundational Milestones

OVER 77,000 PATIENTS

IMPACTED THROUGH "TEAM UP" HEALTH CENTERS ENGAGED IN TARGET: BP FOR DATA TRACKING AND EVIDENCE BASE FOR IMPROVING BP CONTROL RATES

West and Southwest Philadelphia Impact on Patients Ages 18-85: 20,024

- GPHA Woodland Avenue Health Center: 9,342
- Spectrum Health Services Haverford Avenue: 6,937
- Family Practice Counseling Network Health Annex: 3,745

Philadelphia Citywide Impact on Patients Ages 18-85: 57,211 (through FQHC network engagement)

- Greater Philadelphia Health Action Inc.: 41,617
- Spectrum Health Services Haverford Avenue: 6,937
- Family Practice Counseling Network: 8,657

119 PATIENTS

ENGAGED THROUGH 2 OF 3 ESTABLISHED SMBP PROGRAMS

- 53 enrolled
- 15 graduated at goal
- 22 pending enrollment
 24 disenrolled

OVER 15,000 PATIENTS

IMPACTED THROUGH 1 OF 3 HEALTH CENTERS IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION WIDE ANNUAL STAFF EDUCATION FOR "MEASURE ACCURATELY"

Community Collaborator Milestones

OVER 100 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SCREENED TO DATE THROUGH **BLOOD PRESSURE SCREEN AND REFER PROGRAMS IN 3 OF 3 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.**

3OF3 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FACILITATED **EMPOWERED TO SERVE HEALTH LESSONS.**

Year one community partners actively participating in relationship building with other community organizations and recruitment for year two

Edward S. Cooper, M.D. Learning Collaborative



70 attendees registered 40+ registrants attended 15 organizations represented

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 100% of respondents strongly agreed that their participation is valuable to the treatment of their patients.
- 100% of respondents found Learning Collaborative beneficial to the collective work of their health care system.

Public Awareness Campaign

OVER 200 COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED THROUGH COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS FACILITATED BY THE TEAM UP INITIATIVE

News Views: 198,001

- 11/11/24 Fox29 News at 5: 13,156 views
- 12/2/24 WPHL Morning News: 45,100 views
- 2/28/25 WPHL Morning News: 14,653 views
- 5/19/25 CBS News Philadelphia at 5pm: 125,092 views

Radio Appearances: 112,000

- 2/18/25 WXPN: 99,400 listeners
- 2/12/25 WPHT: 13,500
- The Philadelphia Tribune • The Parkside Journal
- Southwest Globe Times

Billboards: Total Impressions - 1,077,308

• 55th Street and Lancaster Avenue • 58th Street and Woodland Avenue

• 54th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard

- 61st Street and Passyunk Avenue
- Belmont and Girard Avenues





Click here to visit the Team Up to Take Down High Blood Pressure Initiative website.

- Newspaper Appearances:

EDWARD S. COOPER M.D. LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

MAY 13, 2025 | PERELMAN CENTER FOR ADVANCED MEDICINE



Philadelphia Unites to Combat High Blood Pressure at Penn Medicine Learning Collaborative

Over 40 healthcare professionals and community leaders gathered at Penn Medicine for the inaugural Edward S. Cooper M.D. Learning Collaborative, focused on reducing high blood pressure in Philadelphia.

Co-hosted by Penn Medicine and the Greater Philadelphia American Heart Association (AHA), the event is part of the "Team Up to Take Down High Blood Pressure" initiative, aimed at addressing disparities in hypertension care in West and Southwest Philadelphia.

Keynote speaker Alison P. Smith, MPH, RN, from the AHA and AMA, shared strategies for improving blood pressure management in primary care. The event honors Dr. Edward S. Cooper, a pioneer in hypertension care and the first African American president of the AHA.

"Dr. Edward Cooper has dedicated his life to breaking down barriers in medicine and championing equitable health," said Kevin B. Mahoney, CEO of Penn Medicine. "This collaborative carries forward his vision—not just as a tribute, but as a living, breathing commitment to ensuring every Philadelphian has the opportunity to live a longer, healthier life."

Attendees explored ways to remove barriers to care, expand self-measured blood pressure programs, and strengthen community-based screening and referrals.

"This event is a powerful reminder that by working together, we can create healthier futures for all Philadelphians," said Jeff Salvatore, VP of Community Impact, Greater Philadelphia AHA. "We are committed to ensuring that every individual, regardless of zip code, has access to the tools and care they need to manage their blood pressure and thrive."

DR. MEHMET OZ ATTENDS COMMUNITY HEALTH EVENT



Dr. Mehmet Oz, head of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, visited Team Up to Take Down Community partner Second Antioch Baptist Church in West Philadelphia to support that initiative. Led by Penn Medicine and the American Heart Association, the program targets high blood pressure in West and Southwest Philadelphia, where related health issues are especially common.

Calling high blood pressure the "silent killer," Oz stressed the importance of awareness and early management to prevent strokes and heart attacks. "This is a crisis we can prevent," he said. "And it starts with awareness, access and action."

He was joined by several health leaders, including Penn Medicine CEO Kevin Mahoney, Eduardo Sanchez, M.D., the AHA's chief medical officer for prevention, Richard Wender, M.D., chair of family medicine at Penn Medicine, and Kevin Volpp, M.D., scientific lead for the AHA's Health Care by Food initiative and founding director of the Penn Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics, who praised the church's efforts to distribute healthy food to over 5,000 people monthly.

Oz demonstrated how to take blood pressure, had his own checked, and toured the church's food pantry, emphasizing that "food is medicine." The visit underscored the vital role of faith-based organizations and community partnerships in tackling health disparities.

COLLABORATOR HIGHLIGHT

SPECTRUM HEALTH SERVICES

On January 10, 2025, Spectrum Health Services in West Philadelphia launched its Self-Measured Blood Pressure (SMBP) program, empowering patients to track their blood pressure at home and share their readings with healthcare providers. This initiative is part of the broader Team Up to Take Down High Blood Pressure campaign. This recently launched collaboration, with the American Heart Association and Penn Medicine, aims to address the high prevalence of hypertension in West and Southwest Philadelphia over the next three years by working with clinical and community partners to implement evidence-based interventions.

This program aids in earlier diagnosis and management of hypertension, increases patient engagement and improves blood pressure control.

"It's important in the community to help patients check their pressure regularly," said Tiera McCoy, CRNP, program manager. "It's like a competition with themselves that challenges them to reach a health goal to live longer and healthier lives."

Theresa Moran, director, Care Management and Population Health, agreed. "It puts power back into people's hands and helps them control their own lives. Their health is more than what

happens at a doctor's office." This isn't the first time Spectrum has introduced an SMBP program, but this time, they have dedicated staff and a foundation that includes over a year of planning and organizational support. Pamela Mack-Brooks, Director of Nursing and Practice Management, hopes to see more people with controlled blood pressure and for the data to reflect that. "Our goal is teaching patients so that it is generational progress."



The goal of the Team Up to Take Down High Blood Pressure initiative is to assist all of its healthcare partners in developing and implementing self-measured blood pressure programs. This is critical for earlier diagnosis so an appropriate treatment plan can be introduced, helping patients live longer, healthier lives.

SPECTRUM SELF-MEASURED BLOOD PRESSURE PROGRAM SUCCESS STORIES

The Self-Measured Blood Pressure (SMBP) program involves individuals regularly monitoring their blood pressure at home using validated devices. This initiative aims to enhance hypertension management by providing participants with the tools and education needed to accurately track their readings, identify trends, and share data with healthcare providers for better-informed and more rapid treatment decisions.

PATIENT ONE:

Accountability and Adherence: A Motivated Patient's Journey A standout patient success story from our SMBP program involved someone who became highly engaged once she knew her readings were being monitored. This sense of accountability led her to consistently check her blood pressure, adhere to her medication, and take charge of her health. Over time, her readings stabilized, showing how provider involvement can significantly boost patient compliance.

PATIENT TWO:

From Resistance to Acceptance: A Patient's Turnaround One patient initially resisted SMBP and was on an ineffective medication plan, frequently submitting high readings. Persistent follow-up and education led him to see a cardiologist and adjust his treatment. With the new regimen, his blood pressure improved significantly. His story highlights the value of persistence, communication, and collaborative care in overcoming resistance and improving outcomes.

PATIENT THREE:

Lifestyle Changes Lead to Long-Term Success A newly diagnosed patient combined medication with meaningful lifestyle changes —improving diet and increasing activity. With ongoing SMBP support, his blood pressure steadily improved. His story shows the power of a holistic approach to hypertension management.

BLOOD PRESSURE

EMPOWERING HEART HEALTH THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTION



Heart disease is the number one cause of death in Philadelphia, and stroke is the fourth cause of death but the leading cause among African American women. With the city's hypertension prevalence at 33%, high blood pressure is a risk factor for these chronic diseases. Black/African American prevalence of hypertension is 47%, and there is a higher proportion of African American women being diagnosed with high blood pressure and obesity.

The Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a historically black sorority of college-educated women, partnered with the AHA of Greater Philadelphia to launch a community-based blood pressure screening and referral program. With support from AHA—including 10 Omron devices, technical guidance and screening protocols—the chapter now offers monthly screenings at meetings and events, with referrals to local health systems and resources.

Two devices were designated for the Emergency Response Team, made up of nurse members, to manage hypertensive crises. Educational materials and referral guides tailored to key ZIP codes (19138, 19131, 19143) help connect members and the community to care, food and transportation support.

Through this initiative and their involvement in the Go Red for Women movement, the chapter is advancing heart health education, reducing barriers to care and promoting wellness in Black communities—demonstrating the power of culturally rooted, community-led health interventions.

BRINGING NUTRITION HOME: BOSM'S MOBILE PANTRY IMPACT



Brothers of Strawberry Mansion (BOSM), a nonprofit in North Philadelphia, combats food insecurity by distributing food twice monthly through partnerships with SHARE and Philabundance. Recognizing the need to better serve homebound seniors, BOSM used a \$4,000 AHA-funded stipend to purchase a van, expanding its delivery reach in the 19121 ZIP code.

This mobile pantry helps overcome barriers like limited mobility and transportation, ensuring seniors receive nutritious, culturally appropriate food. It also fosters informal health check-ins and social connection—key to preventing poor health outcomes. Since launching in May, BOSM's van has strengthened community health by addressing food access as a critical social determinant.

Strawberry Mansion: affected by chronic disease and poverty, with approximately 43.5% of residents living in poverty and local rates of hypertension (42.5%) and diabetes (18.2%) exceeding Philadelphia County averages.

FEAST OF JUSTICE: DUAL EMPOWERED TO SERVED COMMUNITY HEALTH LESSONS

Español

Join our next class

through the

American Heart

Association!

Next health education class: Control Your Blood Pressure



Date: Saturday, January 25

Mime: 10:30am-11:30am

Location: 6434 Castor Ave, Northeast Services Hub

Solution to the public!



For more info, email Avery, Community Building Liaison, at amanning@feastofjustice.org Feast of Justice, a food pantry in North and Northeast Philadelphia, now offers EmPOWERED to Serve® health lessons in English and Spanish. These bilingual, culturally responsive sessions help individuals better manage chronic conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes by making health information more accessible and relatable.

By addressing language and cultural barriers, the program builds trust, boosts engagement and encourages healthier behaviors especially in under-resourced communities. Long-term, it fosters a culture of health, empowering individuals and families to take control of their well-being and reduce preventable health issues.

SANCTUARY FARM: ADVANCING FOOD JUSTICE THROUGH SNAP ACCESS

Sanctuary Farm in North Philadelphia overcame multiple hurdles to gain SNAP approval, thanks to persistent efforts led by AHA's Community Impact Director Shaneaka Rhoads and community partners. After two denied applications, the team secured approval in early 2024, enabling the farm to process EBT payments and expand access to fresh, organic produce.

This milestone not only increased food access for low-income residents but also supported Sanctuary Farm's participation in health initiatives like FoodRx. By accepting SNAP, the farm advanced its mission of food justice, helping families, seniors and those with chronic conditions access the nutrition they need. It's a powerful example of how collaboration and advocacy can turn barriers into lasting community impact.







HOW THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION IS ADDRESSING NUTRITION SECURITY



SOMERTON

BYBERRY

LOCATIONS

1. Caribe Towers HACE: 3231-65 North 2nd St, Philadelphia PA 19140 2. Casa Caribe HACE: 173 W. Alleghney Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19133 3. Pro Pac: 3625 E. Gaul Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134 4. Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church: 3552 N 6th St., Philadelphia, PA 19140 5. Veterans Multi Service Center: 213 N. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 6. Young Chances Foundation: 1532 S. 52nd St, Philadelphia, PA 19143 7. Zion Ame Church: 1600 S. 21st Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145 8. Christian Worship Center: 4520 Benner St., Philadelphia, PA 19135 9. Faith Assembly of God: 1926 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19124 10. Everything Must Change in the Heart of the Community: 2509 W. Lehigh Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132 11. Alain Locke School: 4550 Haverford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19139 12. People's Emergency Center: 3750 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19104 13. Solomon Temple Baptist Church: 602 W Erie Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19140 14. Casa del Carmen: 4400 Reese Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 15. Bebashi - Transition to Hope: 1235 Spring Garden Street, 1st Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19123 16. Helping Hands for the Hungry: 525 Cobbs Creek Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19143 17. Good Samaritan Baptist Church: 6148-50 Landsdowne Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151 18. SEAMAAC: 1711 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148 19. West Kensington Ministry: 2140 N Hancock Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122 20. First Stop Recovery: 2414 Kensington Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19125 21. Vaux Big Picture High School: 2300 Master St, Philadelphia, PA 19121 22. El Centro de Estudiantes: 1241 North Taney Street, 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 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 27. 4458 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 Street Philadelphia, PA 19151 33. Samuel Gompers School: 5701 Wynnefield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19131 34. All for All Agency: 708 Pembroke Avenue, E. Lansdowne, PA 19050 35. Feast of Justice, North East: 6434 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 36. Fawn Food Pantry at William Tilden Community School: 6601 Elmwood Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19142 37. Anderson Elementary 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 Avenue, 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 Education Center: 6722 Lansdowne Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151 48. Franklin S. Edmonds School: 8025 Thouron Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19150

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF PHILADELPHIA:

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

CPR AWARENESS

MI SALUD: BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFESAVING IN NORTH PHILADELPHIA



Every year, 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen, and survival depends on bystanders stepping in and initiating the chain of survival. Since women, African Americans and Hispanics are least likely to receive bystander CPR in Philadelphia, we are addressing this health issue by partnering with Mi Salud Wellness Center.

In North Philadelphia, Mi Salud addresses health disparities in the Spanish-speaking community through a holistic approach to cardiovascular health. By implementing a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) and offering CPR training in Spanish, they empower residents with life-saving skills and improve emergency preparedness. As a trusted heart hub serving the Spanish-speaking community, Mi Salud sharing critical issues such as blood pressure, nutrition and cardiac emergency preparedness is essential.

Hands-Only CPR training boosts confidence and bystander response rates, which are often lower in communities of color. Coordinating with local EMS ensures culturally competent care. Mi Salud's efforts reflect a shift toward equity, preparedness and community empowerment.



CPR AWARENESS

CPR TRAINING KIOSKS



Jefferson Health During CPR & AED Awareness Week this year, we were proud to highlight how Hands-Only CPR training kiosks are helping to build a Nation of Lifesavers right here in Philadelphia.

Thanks to the support of Independence Blue Cross and Jefferson, these kiosks are bringing free, accessible CPR training into the communities that need it most.

Currently located in North Philadelphia at the Maria de los Santos Health Center and Philadelphia Youth Basketball's Alan Horwitz "Sixth Man" Center, these kiosks empower people in our community with the knowledge and confidence to act in a cardiac emergency — because every second counts. Just this year, these two kiosks have provided 10,242 visitor sessions, with 6,934 community members trained.

Together, we're not just raising awareness — we're taking action to save lives.



ADVOCACY

BREAKING BARRIERS: ADVOCATING FOR TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTH ACCESS IN PHILADELPHIA



In January, the Collaboration for Equitable Health (CFEH) hosted its fifth Advocate forum at PHMC, focusing on how transportation challenges impact access to care in Philadelphia—where car ownership is low and poverty is high.

Facilitated by Korey Johnson of Equipped Solutions, panelists from SEPTA, Transit for All PA, and Specialized Health Services discussed funding gaps, language barriers, redlining and the need for inclusive, community-centered solutions. Highlights included SEPTA's Zero Fare pilot for low-income residents and AHA's partnership to distribute home blood pressure monitors.

The forum emphasized the need for innovative, accessible healthcare delivery, stronger community engagement and sustained advocacy to improve transit equity and health outcomes.

ADVOCATING FOR BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH: COLLECTIVE ACTION



Black Maternal Health Week 2025 Advocacy Day at Philadelphia City Hall brought together OSHUN Family Center, Maternity Care Coalition (MCC), and the Collaboration for Equitable Health to spotlight urgent maternal health disparities and push for systemic change.

Under the theme "Healing Legacies: Strengthening Black Maternal Health through Collective Action and Advocacy," the event emphasized community-led solutions, culturally competent care and policy reform. OSHUN led advocacy efforts, MCC highlighted its work training doulas and peer counselors, and the AHA addressed the intersection of maternal health and public policy.

Speakers—including Councilmember Kendra Brooks and city health leaders—discussed barriers to care, community-driven models, and the power of advocacy. The event reinforced the need for sustained collaboration to improve outcomes for Black birthing people and build a more equitable healthcare system.

ADVOCACY

ADVOCATING FOR HEALTH EQUITY ACROSS GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Over the past year, advocates across Greater Philadelphia engaged elected officials at all levels to advance health equity. Locally, efforts focused on securing FY'26 funding for Philly Food Bucks and hypertension programs through the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

At the state level, advocacy continued for Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in schools and closing loopholes in the Clean Indoor Air Act to ensure smoke-free workplaces.

Highlights included the first Heart Month City Hall Day, advocacy trainings, and regional outreach on heart disease prevention. Thanks to our dedicated partners and volunteers, FY24–25 was one of our most impactful years yet.



CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



PHILADELPHIA HEART BALL

MARCH 22, 2025 | THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Each year, the Philadelphia Heart Ball brings together passionate volunteers, advocates, and supporters of the AHA of Greater Philadelphia. Congratulations to our 2025 honorees: <u>Dr. Kevin Volpp (Edward S. Cooper, M.D. Award)</u> and <u>Soma & Sowmya</u> <u>Somasundaram (Heart of Philadelphia Honorees)</u>. Special thanks to <u>Addison Birney</u> for sharing her story, Chair Sarah Bouchard, and Open Your Heart Chairs Kernika Gupta and Vishal Patel.

We're grateful to NBC10's Erin Coleman and Keith Jones for emceeing, and to auctioneer Tom Riles for energizing the evening. A heartfelt thank-you to our generous sponsors Penn Medicine, Independence Blue Cross, AmeriHealth Caritas, Infor, Jefferson Health, and QVC, our National Life is Why Campaign supporter. Your support fuels lifesaving work across our region.

A heartfelt thanks to our AHA Philly staff and volunteers for making this night truly memorable and mission-driven.





PHILADELPHIA HEART WALK EXECUTIVE BREAKFAST

APRIL 15, 2025 | CITIZENS



The 2025 Heart Walk campaign kicked off with an inspiring Executive Breakfast, uniting corporate and community leaders to spotlight the lifesaving power of CPR.

Dr. Rich Snyder of Independence Blue Cross celebrated a decade of partnership and CPR kiosks that have trained over 30,000 people. AHA Executive Director Jennifer Litchman-Green shared a powerful CPR awareness video and emphasized building a community of lifesavers.

Heart Walk Chair Dan Fitzpatrick of Citizens highlighted the business community's role, with Citizens leading CPR training and education efforts. Nan Lansinger shared her moving story and was honored for raising over \$12,000 in memory of her husband.

The morning closed with a call to walk, lead, and give —fueling our \$2.1M goal to save lives across Greater Philadelphia.







PHILADELPHIA HARD HATS WITH HEART

MAY 5-6, 2025 | CITIZENS BANK PARK

The Greater Philadelphia AHA hosted its Hard Hats with Heart Home Run Derby at Citizens Bank Park, uniting nearly 300 attendees and 30 teams from the construction industry for a heart-healthy day of fun and fundraising.

With support from Philadelphia Eagles players, participants took 20 swings from home plate to raise awareness and funds for heart disease prevention—especially critical for construction workers, who face elevated health risks.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the U.S., and construction workers are at elevated risk due to physically demanding work, high stress and limited access to care. This event raised critical awareness and funds for prevention, education, and research aimed at improving health outcomes in this high-risk industry.

The event featured hands-only CPR demos, a silent auction with exclusive Phillies memorabilia and a VIP reception at Xfinity Live!, making it a memorable day for a lifesaving cause.



SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY SPRING HEART WALK

MAY 17, 2025 | OCEAN CITY SPORT & CIVIC CENTER



In mid-May, more than 1,500 walkers, survivors, volunteers and supporters gathered at the Ocean City Sports & Civic Center for the Southern New Jersey Spring Heart Walk — a powerful day filled with purpose, community, and heart.

With support from 10 generous sponsors and 81 dedicated teams, the event energized the boardwalk with red shirts, survivor stories and a shared commitment to building a world of longer, healthier lives. Attendees enjoyed live entertainment, tribute signs, sponsor activations and hands-only CPR demonstrations that helped empower participants with lifesaving skills.

The inspiring program honored local heart and stroke survivors, including seven-year-old Luca, whose story moved the crowd and reminded everyone why this mission matters. Funds raised from the walk support the American Heart Association's lifesaving work in research, education, CPR training and health equity efforts across Southern New Jersey.



PHILADELPHIA GO RED FOR WOMEN EXPERIENCE

MAY 21, 2025 | THE BELLEVUE HOTEL

American Heart Association





Thank you to everyone who made the 2025 Go Red for Women Experience an unforgettable celebration of heart health, community, and resilience.

Special thanks to our sponsors CVS Health (National Sponsor), Main Line Health (Go Red Champion Sponsor), Penn Medicine (Greater Philadelphia Region Sponsor), QVC (National Supporter) and Independence Blue Cross (Live Fierce. Community Readiness. Sponsor).

We're grateful to Co-Chairs George and JoAnn Magnatta, our Executive Leadership Team, Circle of Red members, and dynamic hosts Rosina Grosso and Vanessa Herring.

A heartfelt salute to our Faces of Heart honorees, especially <u>Caroline Goggin</u> of 6ABC, for sharing powerful stories of courage and hope. And applause to Jefferson University's Fashion Design students for their creativity in the Rock the Red Dress Showcase.

To every guest, advocate and supporter—thank you for standing up for women's heart health. Together, we're breaking barriers, raising awareness and funding lifesaving research.

Because Red. Means. Go.



PHILADELPHIA CIRCLE OF RED SIGNING DAY

JUNE 2, 2025 | LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD



Circle of Red[™]





We were proud to host our 2025 Go Red for Women Circle of Red Signing Day inside the Philadelphia Eagles locker room — where strength, purpose, and passion came together to fight the No. 1 killer of women: cardiovascular disease.

Guests explored the locker room, connected with one another, heard the moving stories of two courageous survivors, and officially pledged their commitment to the Circle of Red — a passionate group working to raise awareness and fund lifesaving research.

Did you know?

- Cardiovascular disease claims the life of 1 in 3 women each year.
- 80% of cardiac events may be prevented through education and lifestyle change.
- Women especially women of color are often underrepresented in research and overlooked in diagnosis.

That's why Go Red for Women is more than a movement — it's a call to action.

A heartfelt thank you to the Philadelphia Eagles for hosting us in such an iconic space, to our survivor panelists for sharing their stories with courage and grace, and to our Executive Leadership Team for continuing to lead with purpose and heart.

Together, we are changing the future for women — one signature, one story, and one step at a time.

To Learn more about the Circle of Red, please contact Bill Bulat at Bill.Bulat@heart.org.

PHILLIES CPR AWARENESS NIGHT

JUNE 10, 2025 | CITIZENS BANK PARK



It was a night to remember at Citizens Bank Park recently! Cardiac arrest survivor and Delaware County native Jaclyn McGlone took the mound to throw out the first pitch at a recent Phillies game — a powerful moment that kicked off an unforgettable evening of awareness and action.

Jaclyn survived sudden cardiac arrest at just 30 years old while coaching a youth soccer game. Now, as a 2025 Greater Philadelphia Women of Impact nominee, she's also helping raise awareness about the importance of knowing Hands-Only CPR. Fans stopped by the Greater Philadelphia Association's table to learn lifesaving skills and hear about upcoming events like the Philadelphia Heart Walk — and our CPR awareness video even played on the jumbotron!



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Barbara Wadsworth, DNP, MBA, RN, FAAN, FNAP, FACHE Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Main Line Health

COR VITAE SOCIETY

Cor Vitae, Latin for the heart of life, is the American Heart Association's annual recognition society of more than 6,600 individuals nationally whose significant personal commitments of \$5,000 or more are helping to change and save lives. Their extraordinary generosity propels pioneering research and transforms communities.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank these individuals for their ongoing support, driving the American Heart Association to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

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COR VITAE SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

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EASTERN STATES LEADERSHIP LEGACY AWARD



JACK LYNCH PRESENTED WITH EASTERN STATES LEADERSHIP LEGACY AWARD

Jack Lynch, president and CEO of Main Line Health, retired in June after 20 years of service. As the longest-tenured health care CEO in the Philadelphia region, Lynch leaves behind a legacy of leadership, advocacy and community impact.

Lynch's support for the American Heart Association (AHA), particularly the Go Red for Women campaign, began before he arrived in the Philadelphia area. Under his leadership, Main

Line Health has contributed an estimated \$2.5 million to the Go Red initiative, serving as a Champion sponsor and helping to raise awareness of disparities in women's heart and brain health.

In addition to financial support, Lynch has held volunteer leadership roles with the AHA. He served on the Greater Philadelphia Board of Directors and was part of the Eastern States Region transition board in 2019, when the Great Rivers Affiliate evolved into the 13-state region it is today.

A strong advocate for health equity, Lynch has opened doors for leaders within Main Line Health and across the region. He is known for delivering direct and constructive feedback with a signature warmth and sense of humor.

In recognition of his contributions, he was presented with the Eastern States Leadership Legacy Award at a spring Greater Philadelphia Board of Directors meeting.

"Jack, we are so grateful for all you've done, what you stand for, and the friend you've been to the AHA over the years," said Sarah Bouchard, former chair, Board of Directors. "We will

not let you go far as you head into your retirement years. Cheers to you!"

Lynch's retirement marks the end of an era, but his influence will continue to shape the region's healthcare landscape for years to come.

<u>Click here to view the Red Chair</u> <u>Series, sponsored by Main Line Health</u>



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UPCOMING FALL/WINTER EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 18 – CycleNation A high-energy stationary bike event to raise awareness and funds for stroke and heart disease

Location: Fountain View at Logan Square

Address: 2 Franklin Town Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Time: Ride Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

Monday, October 13 – 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

Location: The Merion

Address: 1301 Route 130 S, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077 Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 29 - World Stroke Day

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

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 1 - Greater Philadelphia Heart Walk

Thousands walking to support heart health and fund lifesaving research

Location: Citizens Bank Park Address: 1 Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia, PA 19148 Time: 8-10:30 a.m.

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 2 - STEM Goes Red

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

Location: Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, Penn Medicine Address: 3400 Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19104 Time: 8:00 a.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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