

ADDRESSING CRITICAL PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND GLOBALLY



“ The CDC Foundation does a superlative job in advocating for the major public health efforts of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Foundation has played a critical role in supporting the work of CDC and has helped secure the support of multiple non-governmental organizations, including philanthropic organizations to make this world a healthier and hence better place. It has been an honor for me to have the opportunity to contribute to the Foundation’s work. ”

Walter A. Orenstein, MD

A professor at Emory University and former director of CDC’s National Immunization Program, Walt has supported the CDC Foundation since 1998.



Improving water, sanitation and hygiene to fight disease

Globally, gaps in basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in healthcare facilities place approximately 1.8 billion people at heightened risk of diseases. With support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Wallace Genetic Foundation and World Vision Inc., the CDC Foundation is engaged in three major projects to improve WASH infrastructure and waste management in healthcare facilities. Partnering with implementing organizations and local governments in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger and Uganda, the CDC Foundation is working with CDC to assess and track progress toward national and global standards for WASH in healthcare facilities, increase uptake of WASH practices and provide technical assistance to partners. Through this vital work, the CDC Foundation and our partners are ensuring healthcare facilities in high-priority settings are implementing evidence-based, field-tested best practices to reduce the burden of infectious diseases and save lives.

National initiative empowers Black adults with heart-healthy tips

For more than 90 years, cardiovascular disease has been the number one cause of death in the United States, with Black adults dying from heart disease at a rate two times higher than White adults. Though Black adults report high awareness of this disparity, hundreds of focus groups conducted by the CDC Foundation revealed fatigue over negative health statistics and the need for a new approach that showcased the promise and joy of living, instead of the threat of dying, to inspire the lifestyle changes that can prevent heart disease. In 2022, with the support of donors Amgen and Bayer, CDC’s Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and the CDC Foundation launched the Live to the Beat campaign. Informed by the Black community for the Black community, the campaign focuses on empathy, authentic representation and sharing small-step solutions for building daily habits that reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.



CONTINUING THE COVID-19 RESPONSE



“ We support CDC and the CDC Foundation in their continuing efforts to provide accurate, scientifically-based public health information during a very challenging time. ”

Scott and Tricia Reines

Scott and Tricia first contributed to the CDC Foundation's Emergency Response Fund for Coronavirus in March 2020 and have continued to support the Foundation's various initiatives since that time.



Using the arts to impact public health

Throughout human history, artists and culture bearers have often been viewed as trusted voices, translating vital information to make it more relevant. This remains true today. As COVID-19 cases surged across the United States, public, private and community-based organizations alike sought to find new ways to cut through COVID-19 vaccine skepticism and communicate accurate public health information. In collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts and with financial support from CDC, the CDC Foundation provided grants to 30 arts and cultural organizations to educate their communities and encourage vaccination for COVID-19 and the seasonal flu. These organizations used media as diverse as film, live theater, podcasts, dance performances, street art, poetry and quilting to engage communities across 18 states in seven different languages. Communities were inspired to get vaccinated at more than 120 events and performances and 143 community art workshops, where partners harnessed the arts to communicate essential, lifesaving information.

Using trained dogs to detect COVID-19

Fast, effective screening for COVID-19 is vital to keeping K-12 schools safe and open for in-person instruction, but traditional methods can be time consuming, expensive and invasive. Using funds provided by individual donors to its Emergency Response Fund, the CDC Foundation partnered with the Association of Public Health Laboratories, Early Alert Canines and the California Department of Public Health to acquire and train two Labrador retrievers to detect COVID-19 infections by cuing on unique volatile organic compounds present in those who are COVID-19 positive. Through the project, Early Alert Canines carried out 50 visits to 27 school sites, conducting 3,897 total screenings. Having access to the detection dogs gave schools tremendous flexibility, particularly in special needs school programs where many students were unable to self-swab. Project partners are now looking at ways to scale up the use of canines for disease testing and train them for future epidemiological events.



HELPING THOSE WHO HELP OTHERS



Supporting health workers in times of crisis

In addition to its many staff in the United States, CDC employs more than 1,300 local staff in more than 40 countries around the world. These local staff are the foundation of CDC's international work, ensuring sustainability and cultural sensitivity across CDC programs. To help these local hires and their families in times of crisis, the CDC Foundation created the Global Compassion Fund. Funded through private donations from individuals, this fund helps the CDC Foundation provide humanitarian assistance to local CDC staff in the event of natural or man-made disasters. In 2022, disbursements from the Global Compassion Fund helped staff in Ukraine relocate in the midst of ongoing conflict and provided critical supplies to local staff in Haiti following devastating hurricanes. We are proud to support these staff as they protect the health and safety of others around the world.

Hero fund honors a legacy of caring

In 1998, a volunteer vaccinator lost his leg to a landmine during polio eradication activities in South Sudan. Unfortunately, at the time, there were no formal means to support the victim's medical care. To address this need, in June 2000, the CDC Foundation established the Polio Eradication Heroes Fund to recognize and provide support to health workers and volunteers who were killed or injured while participating in polio eradication activities. Bob Keegan, a CDC staff member, was the fund's first donor and staunchest advocate. When Keegan passed away in 2012, the fund was officially renamed in his honor. To date, the Bob Keegan Polio Eradication Heroes Fund has made 244 awards to heroes in 18 countries. This year, in addition to many other supporters of the fund, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International stepped in with a generous gift to ensure these awards will continue for years to come.



“Your support helps bring resources, people and ideas together. Thank you for your commitment, trust and generosity, which make all our work possible. As we look back on the year, we are grateful to each of you for everything we have accomplished together and our impact across the globe.”

Judy Monroe, MD

President and CEO, CDC Foundation



For the fifteenth year in a row, the CDC Foundation received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Only 1 percent of charities rated have received 15 consecutive 4-star evaluations.