

CARE TO ♥ THE PEOPLE

creating **change**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CHA Cambridge Health Alliance
Foundation



the foundation of our mission is change.

As 2020 ended, a sigh of collective relief echoed across the lips of our supporters, staff and communities. The amount of loss and despair that the year brought to our communities and the CHA family is heartbreaking. The pandemic also brought people together in powerful ways, highlighting resilience, perseverance and change. On June 20, we gathered on the Cambridge Common as a part of a Black Lives Matter event. Speakers raised awareness of the historic injustice of violence used against Black and Brown communities across the state and country. The stories are mirrored in medicine. At the podium, CHA family medicine resident, Tia Tucker, MD, MPH, tore off her white coat demonstrating her vulnerability as a Black woman.

Systems of inequality force our patients to carry a heavy burden. Historically marginalized populations are five to nine times more likely to die from COVID-19 than white people of similar age. In Massachusetts, Latinos are three times more likely to get the virus. A climate of fear prevents immigrants from seeking care or utilizing social services. They are also more likely to be working in essential services, increasing their risk of exposure.

Integrating antiracism work with the pandemic response set CHA apart from other healthcare systems. The Foundation stepped in to help people in crisis and alleviate insecurities exacerbated by the pandemic in partnership with community organizations. We distributed thousands of handmade masks to healthcare workers and community members in the beginning of the pandemic. We doubled the food distribution at the Revere Mobile Market feeding over 500 families each month who face food insecurity and provided 15,875 meals. We gave over 1,000 supermarket gift cards to families through the Champion Fund. We handed out hundreds of packages filled with personal care items to people facing homelessness.

Stop gap measures are important, but lasting change comes from investments in long term goals. Change is at the heart of CHA's Immigration Committee's research, voter registration campaign, and efforts to connect people to needed resources. Our work is improving the health of our immigrant neighbors and strengthening the fabric of our communities.

As we work to ensure the equitable distribution of vaccines, we honor the dedication of our healthcare teams and providers. In all our work, we continue to strive towards racial justice and healthcare equity. The foundation of our mission is change.



Mary Cassesso
President, CHA Foundation and Chief Community Officer



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FOR HELPING CHA
BRING CARE TO
THE PEOPLE**

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STANDING UP FOR BLM

CHA providers and staff participated in the Cambridge Black Lives Matter rally, amplifying messages of racial justice and committing to changing structures that hold Black and Brown people down.

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ART FOR THE PEOPLE

On August 13, 2020, CHA unveiled the Somerville Campus “Care to the People” mural on Highland Avenue. The new mural, created by muralist and multimedia artist, Amanda Hill, serves as a unique symbol of CHA’s commitment to social justice and health equity. The mural was a collaboration of CHA and the Somerville Arts Council.



VOTE FOR YOUR HEALTH

Many CHA patients face barriers to voting that were amplified by COVID-19. Increased civic engagement can change policies and lead to better individual and community health. In the fall, CHA set up voter registration tables in four locations for six weeks. Over 2,000 people engaged in voting discussions and over 200 registered to vote.



FOOD FOR ALL

In partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, Tufts Health Plan, Off Their Plates and Good Measures, CHA continues to alleviate food insecurity for hundreds of families. This year, the Revere Mobile Market more than doubled the number of people it safely distributed bags of produce and supplies to each month. The Foundation also provided emergency non-perishable food packages to patients at CHA.



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Thank you to the many donors who gave us a gift under \$499. Your combined support makes an enormous impact in our communities.

Special Thanks

Thank you to the individuals and companies who donated over 160,000 items of PPE including homemade masks, N95 masks gloves and other protective gear. We are also grateful for the many gifts of food, flowers, art and cards that provided meaningful support to CHA staff throughout the pandemic.

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

CHA was devastated by the loss of Family Medicine physician, Leah Zallman, MD.

CHA's Immigration Committee

worked closely with her, funding her research, and relying on her advice, leadership and advocacy. In her honor, Leah's colleagues are completing the projects that she left behind focusing on the consequences of immigration policies and rhetoric on access to healthcare, nutrition and other societal benefits.



**thank you to all our donors for helping
CHA bring care to the people.**

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