



American
Heart
Association.

Connecticut Community Impact Report

2024 - 2025

LETTER FROM THE CONNECTICUT BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we celebrate 101 years of impact, the transformative power of our work is evident — improving, extending and saving lives both globally and right here in Connecticut. This year, the American Heart Association in Connecticut has much to be proud of. While our mission remains steadfast, this has been a year marked by remarkable growth, renewed commitment and meaningful partnerships.

Across the state, our collaborations have fueled progress and deepened our impact. The Yale New Haven Health Heart and Vascular Center has been a long-standing partner, working with the Association on initiatives like our blood pressure program, which meets people where they are and provides vital education to help communities live stronger, healthier lives.

A standout moment this year — highlighted in this Impact Report — is our three-year Live Fierce. Take Action. sponsorship with Hartford HealthCare. This collaboration brought the first Hands-Only CPR Kiosk to Connecticut and New England. One of only eight in the country, the kiosk has traveled across the state, empowering thousands to learn a lifesaving skill in just minutes.

I am deeply grateful to our volunteers, campaign chairs, Executive Leadership Teams, staff and Board members for their tireless dedication to advancing our mission. A heartfelt thank you to Rob Elder, M.D., our outgoing Board president, and Seth Lapuk, M.D., one of our founding Board members, for their exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to raising awareness and inspiring action throughout our region.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building a healthier future for all.

With Heart,



Francine LoRusso
Senior Vice President
Heart and Vascular Services,
Medicine Services, Radiology Services
Yale New Haven Health
American Heart Association
Connecticut Board Chair

IMPACT SPOTLIGHTS



RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

THE AHA HAS INVESTED

\$5.9 BILLION

in research since 1949, second only to the federal government.



Funding research is a cornerstone of the American Heart Association's lifesaving mission. It is a pillar upon which the organization was founded and a key to our future. As the largest nonprofit, non-governmental funding source for cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease research, the Heart Association funds many types of research, from basic science to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning.

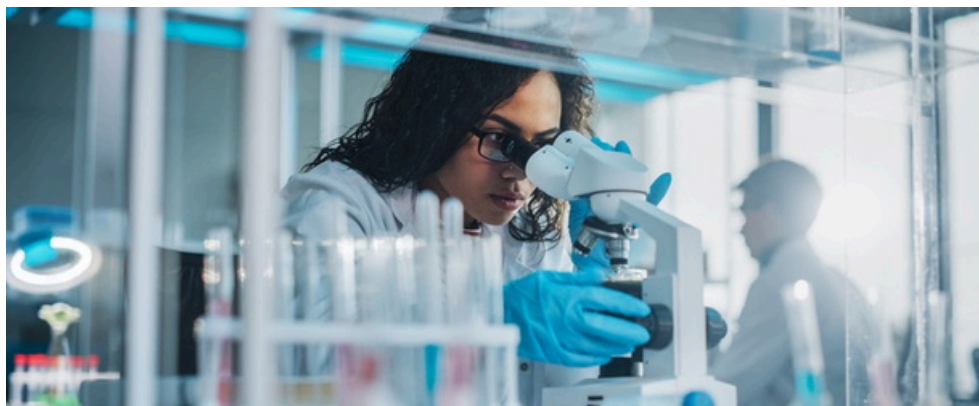
Our goal is to fund research that will give us the greatest chance of saving lives, improving health and finding cures.

American Heart Association research has led to gold standard treatments and guidelines used by health care providers in every corner of the nation and around the world. Not only does every heart and stroke patient benefit from our research, but so do millions of people who want to live longer, healthier lives.

Research grants are currently funded in virtually every state in the U.S. including Connecticut. Yale University and the University of Connecticut Farmington are the current recipients of **39 research grants totaling \$10,001,371** beginning in 2025 and ending in 2027.

For patients facing heart disease or stroke, what first comes to mind is not where the research was done, but rather that the treatment is the best one available.

Any health care provider who has ever provided CPR, pacemakers, drug eluting stents, clot busting medicines or cholesterol inhibitors to patients benefits directly from the impact of the American Heart Association research funding.



**THE AHA
INVESTS**

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

LOWERING BLOOD PRESSURE

CREATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES THROUGH A YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH COLLABORATION



In New Haven County, 26% of adults live with hypertension. In under-resourced communities, that number climbs to 29.42%.

To help combat these statistics, Yale New Haven Health renewed their three-year Live Fierce. Be Relentless. sponsorship, creating the first of its kind “Blood Pressure Program” in the region.

What began with placing self-monitoring kits in three New Haven-area barbershops, has expanded to other communities and organizations—meeting people where they are.

The Association’s Connecticut team has worked closely with the Yale New Haven Health Heart and Vascular Center to expand the blood pressure program, which allows patrons and guests to be educated on hypertension and learn how to self-monitor their blood pressure. If intervention is needed, referrals to a healthcare provider at Yale New Haven Health are shared. Educational materials and resources are also available to bring greater awareness of the risk factors associated with uncontrolled high blood pressure.

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH



As part of Yale New Haven Health’s Live Fierce. Be Relentless. campaign, the American Heart Association launched “Healthy Sundays” at Triumphant Christian Church in Bridgeport. Led by Pastor Lamond Daniels and Deacon Tonja Cunningham, RN, the church’s Ministry of Medical Care maintains four self-monitoring blood pressure (SMBP) stations across its campuses, including at King’s Pantry. The program offers monthly screenings, education and referrals through Optimus Health Care—bringing heart health resources into trusted community spaces and empowering residents to take charge of their well-being.

The American Heart Association partners with faith-based organizations, recognizing churches as trusted hubs for health education and care. In Connecticut, the Association has worked with health ministries at Mt. Erie Baptist, Grace Baptist in Waterbury, Our Lady of Fatima and Revival Church, with plans to expand to more congregations in 2026.

LOWERING BLOOD PRESSURE

NORWALK HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Norwalk Health Department and Heart Association launched the Check Yourself initiative to tackle high blood pressure and heart disease in the city's diverse communities. Expanding on successful programs across Connecticut, this effort places self-monitoring blood pressure (SMBP) stations and educational materials in accessible locations like City Hall, the Senior Center and local libraries.

Through culturally relevant outreach, referrals, and loaner kits, the program connects immigrants, seniors and low-income families with tools and resources to improve heart health.

*Norwalk Health Department
on National Wear Red Day*



HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONITORING PROGRAM

Launched in May 2025, the Hearts Matter initiative brought self-monitoring blood pressure tools to all 46 Hartford Public Schools and the central office. Developed through a yearlong partnership between the American Heart Association, school leadership—including Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez—and Charter Oak Health Center, the program highlights the power of collaboration to advance heart health and equity in schools.



The collaboration with Hartford Public Schools nursing and clinical teams and the Heart Association, SMBP stations were placed in staff areas across all schools, reaching 3,000 employees—70% women, 40% of which are women of color. The initiative included 110 validated monitors, multilingual materials and a referral network of five Hartford health centers. With a unified plan for training, promotion and sustainability, Hearts Matter is reshaping how schools support staff heart health and strengthen clinical-community connections.

LOWERING BLOOD PRESSURE

GRIFFIN HEALTH

In the New Haven region, high blood pressure affects 41% of low-income residents—among the highest rates in the state. To address this, the Heart Association partnered with Griffin Health faculty physicians to launch a Self-Measured Blood Pressure (SMBP) program, providing 160 monitors and patient education. The Association also donated 100+ Hands-Only CPR kits to support Griffin Health's outreach and parish nurse programs, expanding access to care and empowering communities to take charge of their heart health.



STAMP OUT STROKE



Stamp Out Stroke in Connecticut received the Association 2023 Stroke Hero Award

Blood pressure is a leading risk factor for stroke. Working to combat this, the American Heart Association supports Yale New Haven Health's Stamp Out Stroke initiative by helping raise awareness and promote stroke education in underserved communities. While Yale New Haven Health leads the program, the Association contributes to outreach efforts that focus on stroke prevention, symptom recognition and timely treatment to reduce disparities and improve outcomes.

CREATING A NATION OF LIFESAVERS



Hartford HealthCare is leading the charge to create a Nation of Lifesavers with the innovative Hands-Only CPR mobile kiosk—bringing lifesaving skills directly to communities across Connecticut.

Every year, more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of the hospital, and more than 20 percent occur in public places like homes, stores and sporting facilities. When CPR is performed within the first few minutes of a cardiac arrest, a person's chance of survival can double or even triple. Providing Hands-Only CPR education available at this mobile kiosk teaches users how they can immediately help a person who experiences a cardiac emergency outside of a hospital setting.

In 2024, Hartford HealthCare and the Connecticut American Heart Association launched a three-year collaborative effort aimed at training Connecticut residents in the life-saving skill of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with a Hands-Only CPR mobile kiosk.

This first-of-its-kind mobile kiosk in New England is designed to make CPR training simple, accessible and effective for everyone. Featuring an intuitive touchscreen, the kiosk walks users through a brief instructional video and provides real-time feedback to ensure proper technique and build confidence in performing CPR.

In its first year, more than 7,000 visitors have tried the kiosk, with over 5,500 educated in this lifesaving resource—helping to build stronger, safer communities.

The kiosk features a touch screen with a video program that provides a brief introduction and overview of Hands-Only CPR, followed by a practice session and a 30-second test session.



Carolyn Martindale of Hartford HealthCare shares how the kiosk provides Hands-Only CPR instruction

With the help of a practice manikin, or a rubber torso, the kiosk gives feedback about the depth and rate of compressions and proper hand placement—factors that influence the effectiveness of CPR. The entire training takes about five minutes or less.

“About 90 percent of cardiac arrest victims die, often because bystanders don’t know how to start CPR or are afraid they’ll do something wrong,” said Jeffrey Flax, CEO of Hartford HealthCare “Every minute that ticks by without CPR being performed greatly lowers the chance of survival. Taking just a few minutes, people will learn a skill that can potentially make a difference in the lives of friends and those they love.”

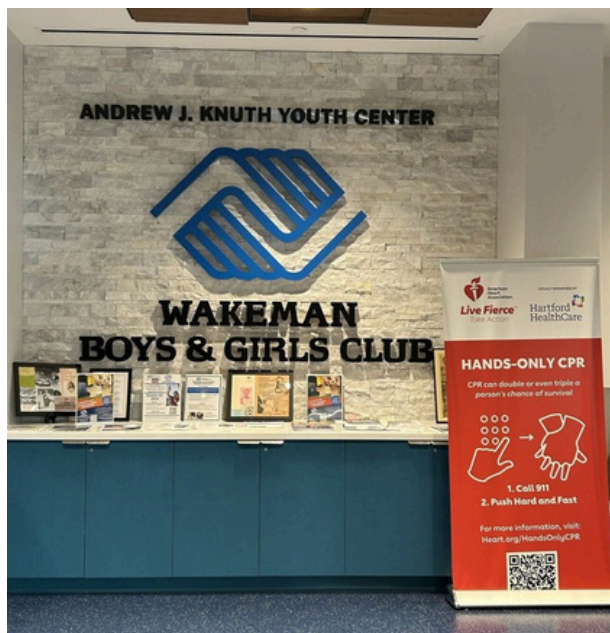
The two simple steps of Hands-Only CPR are: if a bystander sees a teen or adult collapse, he or she should first call 9-1-1. Then push hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of a song like “Stayin’ Alive,” which has 100 beats per minute (bpm). The Bee Gees’ song has the minimum rate you should push on the chest during Hands-Only CPR. This pace should continue until medical help arrives.

“Cardiac arrest remains a leading cause of death in the United States, and survival depends on immediately receiving CPR from someone nearby,” said Adria Giordano, executive director of the American Heart Association, Connecticut. “The Hands-Only CPR training kiosk will provide free training that can make a difference and save a life.”

The mobile kiosk kicked off at the Greater Hartford Pro-Am summer basketball tournament at St. Joseph’s University in West Hartford prior to traveling throughout the state.

Locations visited include:

- **Travelers Championship (Cromwell)**
- **Dunkin’ Park (Hartford)**
- **Wakeman Boys and Girls Club (Bridgeport)**
- **Hartford Public HS/HHC’s Medical Mission Day (Hartford)**
- **Westfarms Mall (Farmington/West Hartford)**
- **CT State Capitol Building (Hartford)**
- **Quinnipiac University (Hamden)**



CREATING A NATION OF LIFESAVERS



*The first Hands-Only CPR kiosk
in New England*

Through a three-year Live Fierce. Take Action. sponsorship, Hartford Health Care is advancing community heart health through a Hands-Only CPR mobile kiosk—the first of its kind in Connecticut and New England.

Thanks to Hartford HealthCare's generosity, the Hands-Only CPR mobile kiosk has traveled throughout the state, sharing critical resources to more than 7,000 visitors and educating more than 5,500 individuals in Hands-Only CPR bringing lifesaving skills directly to communities throughout Connecticut.



By combining resources and expertise, the Heart Association and Hartford HealthCare have brought the Nation of Lifesavers initiative to Connecticut, engaging diverse populations, education communities about the importance of learning Hands-Only CPR, prevention and early detection of heart disease and stroke.



CPR AWARENESS



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 Connecticut, we are addressing this health issue by partnering throughout the state.

CPR IN WATERBURY

Waterbury Bridge to Success, Women's Perinatal Choice, Nurse Family Partnership, St. Mary's Hospital NICU and Perinatal Education Programs

CPR education in Waterbury is a collaborative effort among community and healthcare partners dedicated to improving emergency response and maternal-child health outcomes. Key contributors include the Waterbury Health Department, Bridge to Success, Women's Choice Perinatal Services, Nurse Family Partnerships and St. Mary's Hospital NICU and Perinatal Education Programs.

The Heart Association leads and supports these efforts by providing Hands-Only CPR kits, educational resources and instruction. The Association also partners with Waterbury School District's Boost staff to reach families through schools and community events. Together, these partners are working to expand CPR awareness and skills—especially in underserved communities—ensuring families and providers are better equipped to respond to cardiac emergencies.



1. Call 911



2. Push Hard and Fast



Will **YOU** be ready to **SAVE**
the life of **SOMEONE** you love?

To watch a demo, visit:
heart.org/HandsOnlyCPR



PROVIDING NUTRITION SECURITY

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

Waterbury serves one of the state's most underserved communities, where the poverty rate in zip code 06702 reaches an alarming 53.8%. The Association is actively collaborating with Grace Baptist Church on nutrition education to promote heart-healthy living and reduce health disparities, particularly in underserved communities like Waterbury.



Through the funding by Association supporters, we were able to provide a large industrial refrigerator, significantly expanding the pantry's capacity to store fresh and culturally relevant produce. Now the pantry at Grace Baptist Church's food pantry supports approximately 1,800 individuals each month, including seniors and families, through both walk-in services and a "Grab and Go Meals" home delivery program which includes fresh foods.

Beyond food access, Grace Baptist has been a critical community hub, providing ongoing health education and referrals through parish nurses and volunteers. This collaboration reflects the American Heart Association's commitment to improving nutrition security and health equity in Waterbury and the Greater Waterbury region.

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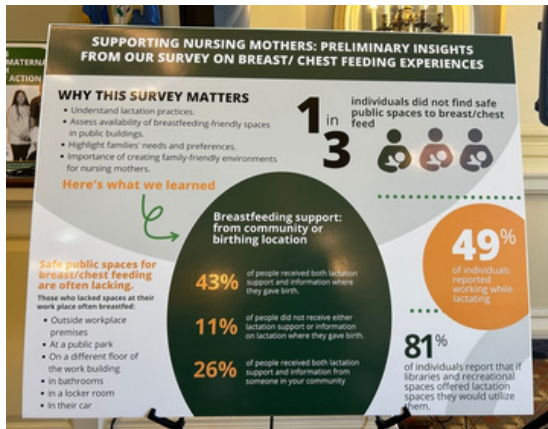
This enhancement allows the pantry to offer a wider variety of nutritious foods, addressing both food security and health disparities in the community. By increasing refrigeration space, Grace Baptist can reduce food waste, introduce new healthy options and help remove barriers for families hesitant to try unfamiliar foods due to budget constraints.

*Lynette Coleman, vice president, Community Impact
American Heart Association, Connecticut*

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MATERNAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY HEALTH

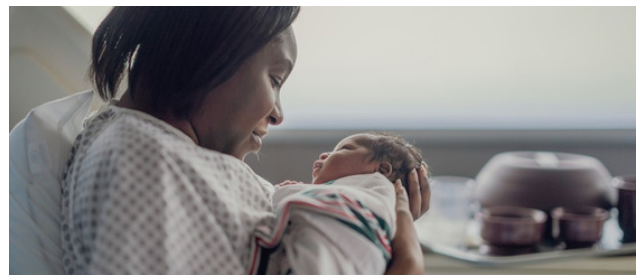
DAY43 IN WATERBURY



The Heart Association is a core member of Day43, a maternal health equity initiative led by Waterbury Bridge to Success and supported by collaborators including The Link, Inc., Connecticut Sun, local hospitals and other community organizations.

Day43 highlights the disparity that Black women are more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications and promotes health equity through education, advocacy and community events. This year, the Heart Association co-hosted webinars, advocacy forums and shared a maternal health documentary as part of the day of action and community activities.

The Association also supported the launch the Doula Academy, providing doulas with education on maternal cardiovascular risks such as hypertension and gestational diabetes, strengthening culturally responsive care across the region.



HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Through our Healthy for Good, EmPowered to Serve and Life's Essential 8 programs, the Heart Association delivers engaging, culturally relevant presentations to diverse audiences—including faith groups, civic organizations, libraries, health departments, colleges and major employers such as CareCentrix, Hartford Steam Boiler and KPMG. These sessions offer practical tools to support healthier eating and lifestyle habits.

By bringing education directly into the places where people live, learn, work and worship, we help deepen understanding of nutrition and cardiovascular risk in everyday environments.

RURAL COMMUNITIES IN CONNECTICUT



In Southeast Connecticut, two Heart Association HeartCorps members served with Ledge Light Health District through the Association's HeartCorps program, a national service initiative designed to grow and strengthen the public health workforce.

The American Heart Association's HeartCorps program focuses on advancing cardiovascular health and equity. In partnership with Ledge Light Health District, members provided blood pressure screenings, Hands-Only CPR education and supported community initiatives like The Place for CommUNITY and the Food to the People pantry—bringing health resources into trusted food access sites.

Connecticut HeartCorps member Regina Mosley helped plan future efforts to expand access to blood pressure monitors and establish health hubs in underserved areas, including work with the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation. Rooted in serving rural and small-town communities in Southeast Connecticut, the initiative prioritizes diverse populations facing barriers to care, strengthening clinical-community connections through grassroots public health strategies.



HeartCorps members along with Lynette Coleman, VP, Community Impact (center)

RURAL HEALTH SUMMIT

The American Heart Association's Outpace CVD initiative supports rural hospitals and providers in Eastern and Western Connecticut by accelerating evidence-based strategies to prevent and manage cardiovascular disease. Through clinical and community partnerships, the program delivers self-monitoring blood pressure tools, quality improvement support and free continuing medical education for care teams.

At the inaugural Eastern States Rural Health Summit in June, Connecticut HeartCorps member Regina Mosley and Association VP of Community Impact Lynette Coleman joined a panel to discuss rural health challenges in New England. Their conversation emphasized the need for culturally tailored interventions and stronger community partnerships to improve outcomes for Native and tribal nations, older adults and Hispanic populations.

ADVOCATING FOR BETTER HEALTH

2024-2025 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW



Thank you to all the advocates who championed our mission by supporting the efforts to make change in Connecticut. Whether you met with elected officials, amplified our work on social media or sent messages through You're the Cure (now Heart Powered), you helped create healthier lives in Connecticut.

With all of your support, we were able to achieve the following with the leadership of our Government Relations Director Jim Williams:

- Senate Bill 1 (SB1) created a fund called the Early Childhood Education Endowment, which is supported by budget surplus dollars and capped this year at \$300M, will fund the creation of about 16,000 free or reduced cost preschool and toddler care spots within five years. Families earning less than \$100,000 will receive free childcare at state-supported facilities and those earning more than \$100,000 would pay a reduced cost capped at 7% of their income. SB1 additionally creates a health insurance subsidy program for ECE employees through Access Health Connecticut.
- During this legislative session, \$12 million was secured for state tobacco control efforts which will be used for education, prevention and cessation efforts across the state.



Government Relations Director James Williams with advocate Dr. David Katz at the State Capitol

CONNECTICUT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Connecticut Advocacy Committee is an action-oriented group of individuals responsible for providing leadership in developing, supporting, promoting and implementing state and local policy priorities, within the framework of the American Heart Association's State and Local Public Policy Priorities guidance. Volunteers who are passionate about improving the overall health of our communities are needed to work alongside us to be advocates for a healthier Connecticut.

MAKING KIDS HEALTHY



The Kids' Heart Challenge is a fun and exciting initiative where students in elementary schools learn about how to keep their hearts and brains healthy while raising funds to help kids with special hearts. By completing Finn's Mission, they also learn the lifesaving skill of Hands-Only CPR and how to recognize stroke.



287 schools registered to participate in FY25 representing total enrollment of over 300,000 students.

80,000+

students were reached with heart-healthy messages.



1,700

students and educators completed Finn's Mission by learning Hands-Only CPR and warning signs of stroke and heart attack.

Congratulations to our
TOP SCHOOL in Connecticut:
**JEROME HARRISON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
in North Branford!

COMMUNITY EVENTS



NEW HAVEN GO RED FOR WOMEN

American Heart Association.



FEBRUARY 7, 2025
OMNI HOTEL NEW HAVEN AT YALE



*New Haven Go Red for Women
Executive Leadership Team*

The Greater New Haven Go Red for Women Reception, chaired by Joyce Oen-Hsiao, M.D., of Yale New Haven Health, united a vibrant community in support of women's heart health. Guests enjoyed an elegant evening with live music, a cocktail reception and a spirited silent auction. A standout moment was the Open Your Heart appeal, which raised over \$30,000 for the campaign.

Hosted by Lisa Carberg of WTNH News 8, the event featured a moving survivor story from Pat Johnson, highlighting the importance of cardiovascular awareness. Attendees also participated in a dynamic fireside chat led by Dr. Oen-Hsiao, with expert insights from Meghana Rao Brito, M.D., and Britt Tonnessen, M.D., of Yale New Haven Health.

Their discussion shed light on the latest advancements in women's cardiovascular care and emphasized early detection and prevention.

The evening celebrated resilience, community and the ongoing fight against heart disease in women.



2025 Chair Joyce Oen-Hsiao, M.D. (right)

GREATER HARTFORD GO RED FOR WOMEN

MARCH 26, 2025 | CONNECTICUT CONVENTION CENTER



2025 Chair Liz DeVito

American Heart Association.



Greater Hartford's 20th Go Red for Women anniversary celebrated connection, community and women's heart health. Centered on the theme "Connect and

and Protect," the event featured inspiring speakers, a vibrant Festival of Red with music, self-care stations and a mindful moment.

Emceed by Shannon Miller of NBC Connecticut, the luncheon spotlighted powerful stories, including survivor Kirsten Dorsey's journey and keynote Andi Campbell's call for women to advocate for their health. Under Chair Liz DeVito's leadership, the event saw increased attendance and generated greater energy and giving than in recent years.



Greater Hartford Go Red for Women Executive Leadership Team

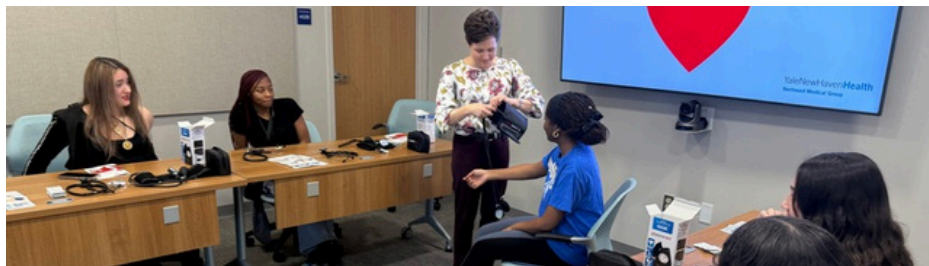


NEW HAVEN STEM GOES RED

American Heart Association.



STEM Goes Red™



MARCH 1, 2025 SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

The spirit of innovation and empowerment was on full display at Southern Connecticut State University's College of Health and Human Services during the STEM Goes Red event.

Chaired by Lisa Freed, M.D., of Yale New Haven Health, the event welcomed 50 enthusiastic students for a day of exploration, inspiration and hands-on learning.

This free event offered students the opportunity to dive into a variety of breakout sessions that showcased exciting careers in STEM fields, including cardiology, nursing, exercise science, pediatrics, internal medicine, radiology, biotechnology and more.

Through engaging discussions and interactive experiences, students gained valuable insights into the many pathways available in science, technology, engineering and math—especially in healthcare.

“

STEM Goes Red continues to spark curiosity and confidence in the next generation of leaders, helping to build a more diverse and inclusive future in STEM. We are so pleased to bring STEM goes Red to life in Connecticut.

Adria Giordano, Executive Director

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2025 STEM Chair
Lisa Freed, M.D.

GREATER HARTFORD STEM GOES RED

American Heart Association.



STEM Goes Red™

STEM Goes Red is the American Heart Association's initiative to inspire young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. The program offers students hands-on experiences, exposure to leading STEM professionals, and insights into exciting career paths.

APRIL 4, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

This year, STEM Goes Red was led by Chair Katy Carrillo from Stanley Black & Decker. For the first time, the event was hosted at the University of Hartford, with enthusiastic collaboration from three of its colleges: the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, and the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture.

More than 90 students from across Greater Hartford registered to attend, each selecting personalized learning tracks tailored to their interests. These immersive, hands-on sessions connected students with real-world applications of STEM—from harnessing solar energy with Eversource, to exploring stroke science with UConn Health and engaging in simulated clinical scenarios led by the University of Hartford's nursing program. Every experience was designed to spark curiosity, build confidence and illuminate career pathways.

A powerful Hands-Only CPR demonstration united all participants, equipping them with a life-saving skill and reinforcing the vital link between science, health and community impact.



2025 STEM Chair Katy Carrillo



WOMEN OF IMPACT



Woman of Impact brings the work of the Go Red for Women movement to life in communities across the country. Through this signature nine-week campaign, changemakers are inspired to take action for their heart health and the health of the women they can't bear to live without.

This year marked the exciting launch of the Woman of Impact initiative in Connecticut, amplifying the Go Red for Women movement with powerful new voices.

In Hartford, nominees Julie Allyson and Leslie Gomez led heartfelt grassroots campaigns to champion women's heart health. Allyson, president of FemCity West Hartford and CEO of Julie Allyson Coaching and Retreats, and Gomez, CEO of LMG Photography, each brought unique passion and leadership to the cause. Backed by her team, "The Queens of Heart," Allyson earned the title of Connecticut Woman of Impact. Together, both women expanded awareness and raised vital funds—proving that when women lead, lives are saved.

The Greater New Haven Go Red for Women Campaign proudly recognized Gina Panza, head of school, St. Thomas Day School, and Donna Tuttle, neonatal RN at Yale New Haven Hospital as 2025 Woman of Impact Nominees. Through their dedication, passion and advocacy for women's heart health, Panza and Tuttle supported the lifesaving research, education and awareness efforts.

Their impact goes far beyond fundraising—nominees have inspired their communities to take heart health seriously and to champion the mission of the American Heart Association. We celebrate their leadership and commitment to creating a healthier future for all women.

Connecticut Women of Impact collectively raised \$40,000 to support women's heart health



**2024-2025 WOMEN OF IMPACT
CONNECTICUT NOMINEES**

EASTERN CONNECTICUT HEART WALK



OCTOBER 6, 2024 - UCONN AVERY POINT - GROTON



It was a beautiful day at UConn Avery Point for the Eastern Connecticut Heart Walk celebrating the Heart Association's Centennial, 100 years of saving lives and making an impact!

With the sparkling waters of the Sound as our backdrop, hundreds of walkers, supporters, volunteers, survivors and spirited teams came together on a gorgeous Sunday to champion heart health and raise critical funds for research and education to benefit Connecticut communities.



Leading the charge were Centennial Co-Chairs Adam and Hy Schwartz, co-CEOs of S&S Worldwide, who helped rally over 500 passionate participants. The day kicked off with a powerful moment as Jill Siegel, a local survivor, shared her inspiring story, reminding us all why we walk, why we care and why this mission matters.



GREATER HARTFORD HEART WALK



SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 BUSHNELL PARK - HARTFORD

More than 500 walkers, survivors, volunteers and supporters attended the Greater Hartford Heart Walk at Bushnell Park. It was a day with purpose, community and heart.

Led by Centennial Heart Walk Chair Jeff Flaks, CEO of Hartford HealthCare, and backed by generous sponsors and passionate teams, the event celebrated 100 years of impact from the American Heart Association. Walkers were inspired by Katie Kinard, while downtown Hartford came alive with a shared commitment to longer, healthier lives.

Funds raised support the American Heart Association's work in research, education, CPR education and health equity across Connecticut.



2024 Chair Jeff Flaks



GREATER NEW HAVEN HEART WALK



MAY 4, 2025

LIGHTHOUSE POINT - NEW HAVEN

The community came together at Lighthouse Point Park for the 2025 Greater New Haven Heart Walk, a meaningful event dedicated to raising awareness and support for cardiovascular health. Chaired by Karen Smith, regional vice president of Anthem National Accounts, the Walk welcomed over 400 attendees for a day filled with purpose, connection and celebration.

Emceed by Lisa Carberg of WTNH News 8, the event kicked off with energy and enthusiasm. Free health screenings were provided by Hartford HealthCare and Hands-Only CPR demonstrations were provided by Yale New Haven Health to Heart Walk participants.

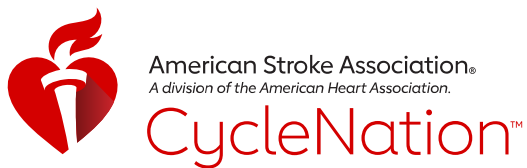
A highlight of the day was survivor Jeff Goodman's powerful story, which underscored the importance of early detection and preventative care. The walk also honored two local champions: Laura Terranova, recipient of the Lifestyle Change Award for her dedication to heart health education and Dakota Kelly Ferreira, winner of the Move More Challenge for her inspiring commitment to improving her well-being.



Laura Terranova



CONNECTICUT CYCLENATION



MAY 7, 2025

MANDELL JCC - WEST HARTFORD

CycleNation is a movement empowering people to be healthy while funding vital research to eradicate stroke and heart disease. CycleNation hosts companies, community and individual teams to stop the cycle of stroke by raising critical funds to further research and education.

Participants cycled for two hours as they raised awareness and funds in support of stroke education and research.

Survivor and avid cyclist Patrick Raycraft shared his heart journey of cycling for 32 miles in a charity bicycle ride before he experienced cardiac arrest and required CPR and immediate intervention.

You can read Patrick's full story [here](#).



Patrick Raycraft with
West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor



DONOR & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



COR VITAE SOCIETY & PAUL DUDLEY WHITE CIRCLE

The Cor Vitae Society—Latin for heart of life—is the annual philanthropic giving society of the American Heart Association. The collective impact our members making annual, lifetime and legacy gifts is truly incredible, and we could not be more grateful.



Rosanna and William Andrulat
Thomas Barnes
Maureen Boyle
Meghana Rao Brito, M.D.
Katy Carrillo
Keith B. Churchwell, M.D.
Leslie Douglas-Churchwell, M.D.
Ross S. Evans
Lou Gianquinto

Joost Gieskes
Steven Horowitz
Joan Kindred
Rich Lisitano
James Mahoney
Duby McDowell
Gina and Prisco Panza
Sue and Jay Quimby
Janine Sadoski

Christopher Swift
Liliana Ulbrich
Eric Velazquez, M.D. and
Mrs. Maureen Velazquez
Sterling and Pamela Viets
Pamela Sutton-Wallace
Wheatley Wentzell
Caroline Wilke

The Society celebrates individual annual members making yearly gifts of \$5,000 or more and Paul Dudley White Legacy Society members who have committed to a future of heart health for all by leaving a gift in their wills or estate plans.



Anonymous
Sharon Bean
Maureen Patricia Boyle
Steve and Leesa Heath
Vincent and Maria Howe
Lisa Marie Jones

Tracey Anne Jones
Lawrence Marien
Dorothy Millen
James Sanquedolce
Ellen O'Connor Shugart

Our members support scientific advances, community health education programs, and advocacy and outreach efforts to ensure longer, healthier lives for people everywhere. Thank you to our Connecticut members for your generous support and for being a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

CIRCLE OF RED

Circle of Red is Go Red for Women's annual giving society, made up of passionate individuals who are in the fight against heart disease and stroke in women to win. Circle of Red members are leaders in their communities and families.

This year, our Connecticut Circle of Red members enjoyed several heartfelt events, gathering together in support of the Go Red for Women mission. Thank you to our Circle of Red members for being champions and saving lives!



Circle of Red™

Alyssa Blume

Maureen Boyle

Meghana Rao Brito, M.D.

Katy Carrillo

Deborah Denno*

Elizabeth DeVito

Leslie Douglas-Churchwell, M.D.

Kosyla Gayle

Adria Giordano

Pat Johnson

Francine LoRusso

Gerri Lyons-Bell

Maria Marcinek

Claudia Norman

Joyce Oen-Hsaio, M.D.

Gina Panza

Laura Schuntermann

Haley Sofiane

Lissa Sugeng

Pamela Sutton-Wallace

Wheatley Wentzell

Caroline Wilke

Deremius Williams

*Circle of Red Chair



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

IN GOOD COMPANY

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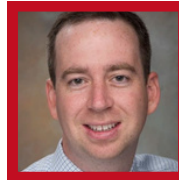
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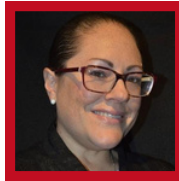
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“

Every heartbeat we protect, every life we uplift, is made possible by the unwavering support of our volunteers, partners and community champions. Together, we are building a healthier Connecticut, one step, one story, one life at a time.

—Adria Giordano, executive director, American Heart Association, Connecticut

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