



American
Heart
Association®

IMPACT REPORT

GREATER LOS ANGELES
2025

From the Board Chairman and President

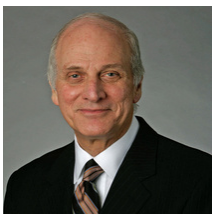
This past year, our community came together in powerful ways — and the impact is undeniable. From improving blood pressure care in communities of highest need to teaching thousands of Angelenos lifesaving CPR to investing millions in innovative research that drive lasting change, we've made meaningful strides toward a healthier future.

None of this would be possible without you.

To every volunteer, supporter and donor who gave time, energy and resources to advance our vision of health and hope for everyone, everywhere, THANK YOU. Your commitment fuels our progress and inspires us to keep pushing forward.

As you explore this year's Los Angeles Impact Report, we invite you to reflect not only on what we've accomplished together, but also on the continued need that calls us forward. Every number, every story and every milestone represents lives touched — and the opportunity to do even more.

With heart,



Ed Romano
Board Chairman

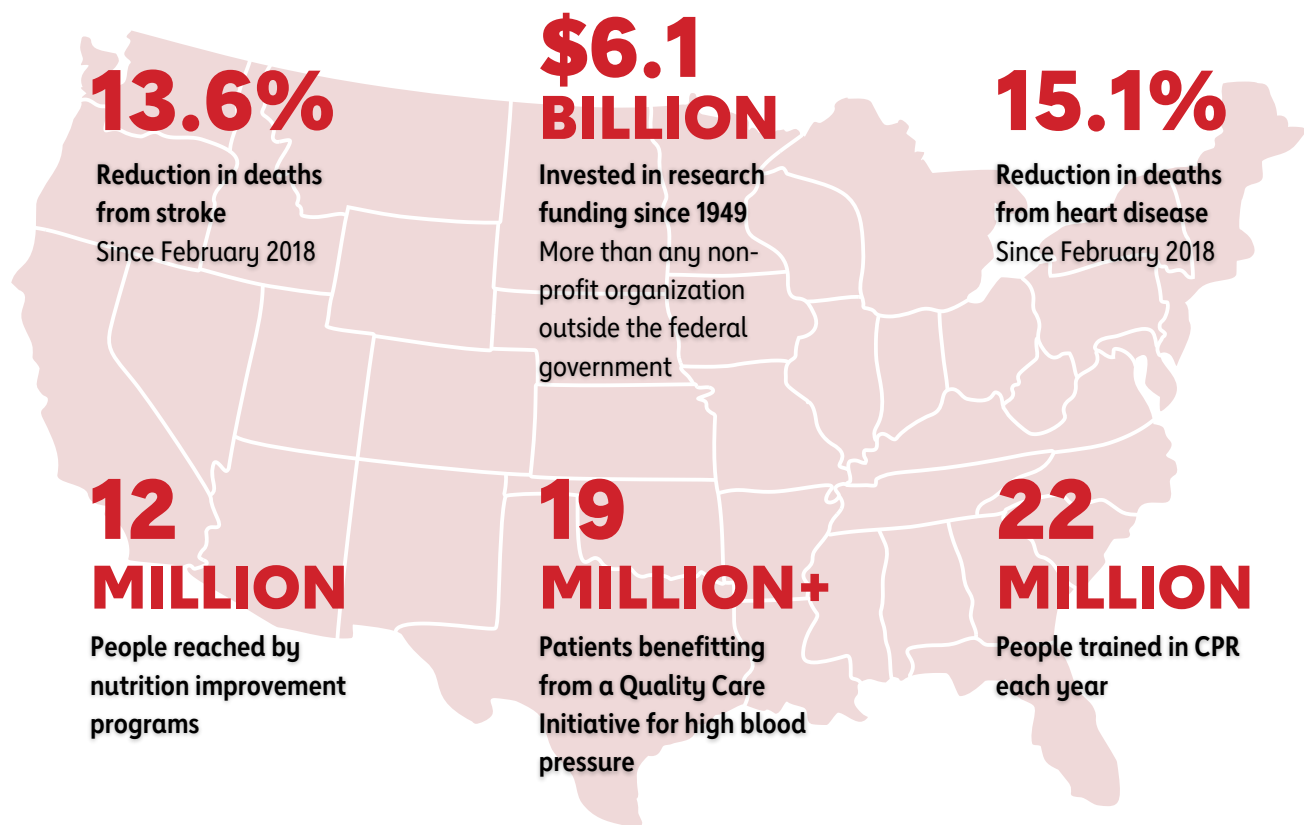


David Sato, MD
Board President



National Impact

The American Heart Association has fought heart disease and stroke and helped communities thrive for over 100 years. Your support has made a difference across our nation, in the places you and your loved ones call home.



Local Impact

No one knows the changes needed in a community more than the people who live in it. That's why the American Heart Association works with social entrepreneurs, leaders, health organizations and advocates in Greater LA who understand the unique challenges and community-specific solutions to help individuals and families achieve better health outcomes.



\$20.1M

Invested in Los Angeles-based cardiovascular research

2M

Kids protected by stronger enforcement of law prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products, which the AHA fiercely advocated for

850,000

People reached by blood pressure improvement initiatives

53

Hospitals that participate in programs to improve care and outcomes for CVD patients

300,000

Los Angeles residents who learned CPR and Hands-Only CPR in the last year

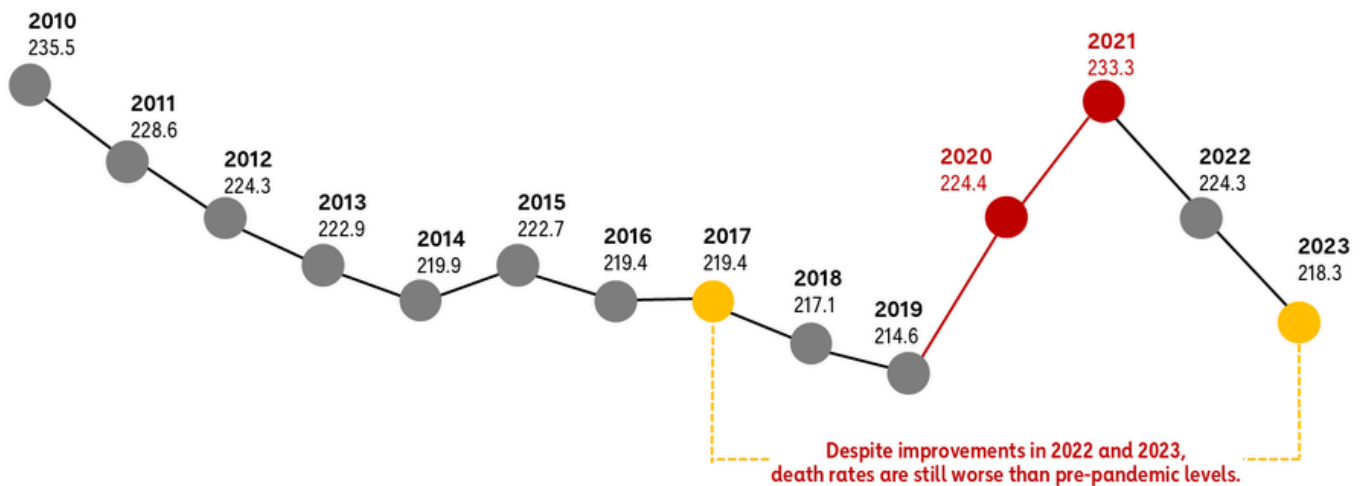
1,200

Families reached weekly by nutrition security improvement initiatives

Advancing Health and Hope for Everyone, Everywhere

Since the American Heart Association's founding in 1924, **deaths from cardiovascular diseases (CVD) have been cut in half**. And yet, there are still so many lives to be saved. Recently, death rates have worsened and gaps have widened. Solutions are not getting to the people who need them the most. We are committed to change that.

CVD mortality worsened but rebounding.



Age-Adjusted Cardiovascular Disease Death Rate per 100,000 (2010 to 2023)

Source: CDC WONDER - Total CVD Age-Adjusted Mortality 2010-2023, ICD 10 100-199 (2023 totals based on preliminary data)

Building on over 100 years of trusted leadership in cardiovascular and brain health, by 2028 the American Heart Association will **drive breakthroughs** and **implement proven solutions** in science, policy and care for **healthier people and communities**. The greatest discoveries in health must reach people where they are.



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt, is leaning forward and looking down at a person lying on a stretcher. The person on the stretcher is wearing a light blue shirt and is partially covered by a tan, textured blanket. In the background, another person in a light blue shirt and dark trousers is standing. The setting appears to be a hospital or a training facility with large windows.

Our Commitment

Building a Community of Lifesavers

Nine out of 10 people who experience cardiac arrest outside the hospital do not survive. Our goal is to ensure that at least one person in every household has the knowledge and confidence to step up in a cardiac emergency and perform lifesaving CPR.



300,000 Angelenos learn lifesaving CPR

From classrooms to workplaces to sidewalks, the American Heart Association instills in people the confidence to perform CPR in a cardiac emergency. Last year alone, more than 300,000 community members learned this lifesaving skill. Our goal is to have someone in every household confident and prepared to perform CPR.

In LA County, the survival rate from cardiac arrest is 8.1%, below California and U.S. numbers, which are 8.7% and 10.5%, respectively.

THE URGENT NEED IN SCHOOLS

With our CPR in Schools Training Kit, students learn Hands-Only CPR in just one class period.

Right now, only **9%** of **2,400 schools** in LA County are funded. That means **2,194 schools** are still in need of CPR equipment and education.





Hands-Only CPR kiosks teach people lifesaving skill

The American Heart Association is finding new ways to help more people learn how to save a life during a heart emergency. We recently introduced LA's first mobile Hands-Only CPR kiosk, sponsored by Providence Saint John's Health Center. The kiosk is now at the Santa Monica hospital, where patients and families can learn Hands-Only CPR in just a few minutes. Because it's mobile, the kiosk can travel to different locations so even more people get the chance to learn.

There's also a stationary kiosk at the LAX Tom Bradley International Terminal, where about 14,000 travelers learn Hands-Only CPR each year.

When Andre went into cardiac arrest, CPR skills his wife Roberta learned at work years before kicked in when it mattered most.

Andre Moore was on the treadmill when his heart suddenly stopped. His wife Roberta quickly called 911 and began chest compressions — a skill she remembered from a CPR class at work many years ago. Her fast action helped save his life.

The American Heart Association is working with local companies to help more people learn CPR and be ready to act in an emergency.



Our Commitment

Improving Blood Pressure Control

High blood pressure is a silent killer and preventable risk factor for heart disease and stroke. We're working with local health care centers and community-based organizations to raise awareness, increase regular blood pressure checks and reduce untreated hypertension.

Addressing blood pressure health as a community

The American Heart Association is working with more than 195 Los Angeles County clinics that serve under-resourced communities to reduce untreated hypertension by providing staff training, technical and equipment support, and patient education. Partnerships with community organizations allow us to reach more people with self-measured blood pressure programming and lifestyle mentoring. The initiative has reached more than 850,000 local residents.



A fresh approach to blood pressure management

At a community health center in South LA, healthy food is being used as a tool to fight high blood pressure, also known as hypertension.

Many people in the area have untreated hypertension and don't have easy access to healthy food. Universal Community Health Center (UCHC) saw that to help their patients get healthier, they needed to start with what's on their plates.

With training and resource assistance from the American Heart Association and its donors Dan and Susan Kane, UCHC launched a program that not only supports patients in managing their blood pressure, but also offers fresh produce to the community every month.

Additionally, the center is building a food pantry and starting a food prescription program so patients can get the healthy food they need to help improve their blood pressure and support their heart health.

Public awareness campaign brings attention to silent killer



The American Heart Association’s “Love your heart. Lower the pressure.” campaign is spreading the word about the importance of managing blood pressure — and it’s reaching millions.

Launched in February 2025 with support from Providence, the yearlong campaign shares real stories of people living with high blood pressure. So far, it’s earned over 40 million media impressions through TV, radio, print, digital and social media in Southern California, Seattle and Portland. Influencers have also helped share the message.

To support the effort, the Association has also provided easy-to-use educational materials to Providence caregivers and patients to help reduce untreated high blood pressure.

La longevidad se redujo por la pandemia

El primer estudio global sobre la longevidad, que se publicó el pasado 10 de abril por los países miembros de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, muestra que la esperanza de vida se redujo por la pandemia.

El estudio, que se publicó el pasado 10 de abril por los países miembros de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, muestra que la esperanza de vida se redujo por la pandemia. El estudio, que se publicó el pasado 10 de abril por los países miembros de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, muestra que la esperanza de vida se redujo por la pandemia.



OurWeekly
 FEATURE
Better blood pressure management
 Know your numbers
 by OW Staff
 May 21, 2025



Monica Ferguson, MD, internal medicine physician, Providence.
 High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a leading cause of heart disease, stroke and kidney disease. It is called a “silent killer” because it often has no symptoms. The best way to know if you have high blood pressure is to get it checked.

In honor of Blood Pressure Education Month this May, the American Heart Association is raising awareness through its “Love your heart. Lower the pressure.” campaign supported by Providence. The goal is to encourage people to know their numbers and work with health care professionals to keep their blood pressure in check.

“There’s actually a lot you can do to manage high blood pressure,” said Monica Ferguson, MD, an internal medicine physician with Providence who herself lives with hypertension. “Losing weight if you are overweight can help. Reducing your sodium intake, following a plant-based diet and exercising regularly are all things that can help lower blood pressure. But for many people, those things may not be enough, and medication may be required to get high blood pressure under control.”



Julian Allen learned to cook healthier after being diagnosed with hypertension.
 After a routine exam revealed he had high blood pressure, Julian Allen, then in his 20s, was determined to lower his numbers. He learned how to make healthier, low-sodium dishes that taste good and adopted other strategies that he learned from his mother, who also has hypertension. Allen said he wants everyone to know that anyone can develop high blood pressure. “It is not just an older person’s problem. Knowing your blood pressure numbers is the first step to keeping it under control,” he said.



Our Commitment

Expanding Nutrition Security

People who lack access to healthy food have an increased risk of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. We are pursuing policy, system and environmental change to expand access to healthy, affordable food in under-resourced communities.



In LA County, **1 in 4** people lack consistent access to enough food to live an active, healthy life.

Driving nutrition security through advocacy and community outreach

The American Heart Association is working to improve food and nutrition security by advocating for policies that increase healthy food access. We work with health centers and community organizations to identify patients facing nutrition insecurity and refer them to local health and social services. Additionally, our healthy food outlets bring fresh produce to more than 1,200 people monthly.

A united effort to nourish veterans and build healthier communities

One in nine working age veterans are food insecure, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

To help address this urgent need, the American Heart Association, with support from Niagara Cares, worked with the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) in Long Beach to refresh their food pantry. The upgraded space includes a refrigerator for fresh produce, serving more than 100 veterans each week.

PVA also adopted the Heart Association's Healthy Food and Beverage Toolkit to improve their food environment and promote a culture of health among the veteran community. Next up is the integration of "food is medicine" approach to its care for seriously injured heroes.



Helping residents eat healthy on a budget

Every week in East Los Angeles, 40 people receive tokens to shop for free fruits and vegetables at a nearby pop-up farmers market. It is part of the American Heart Association's "A Tu Salud" (To Your Health), a program supported by Keck Medicine of USC that helps residents stretch their food dollars and encourages healthy eating.

A Tu Salud has distributed nearly \$20,000 worth of food tokens in the last year alone. "I'm on a fixed income and I'm very grateful for the food because it helps me get through the week," said Tammy, an A Tu Salud participant.

In addition to the tokens, the Association offers free blood pressure checks and resources onsite.



Advocating for better access to healthy food

The American Heart Association is advocating for sustainable funding for nutrition incentive programs such as Market Match, which help Los Angeles residents facing food insecurity afford more fruits and vegetables.

The Association is also supporting a California bill that would require chain restaurants with 20 or more locations that offer children's meals to include at least one option that meets expert nutrition standards. The goal is to encourage healthier eating habits among children.



Our Commitment

Improving Patient Care

Every patient deserves access to high-quality care, no matter where they live. We are improving outcomes for all heart disease and stroke patients by working with local hospitals and clinics on consistent adherence to the latest research-based guidelines for treatment and care.

Fifty-three hospitals in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties are among 4,800 nationwide that participate in the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® initiative to improve outcomes for people who experience heart disease or stroke. [Learn more](#)

- Adventist Health Glendale
- Adventist Health Simi Valley
- Adventist Health White Memorial – Los Angeles
- Adventist Health White Memorial – Montebello
- Antelope Valley Medical Center
- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- Centinela Hospital Medical Center
- Community Memorial Hospital – Ventura
- Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center – Los Angeles
- Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center
- Dignity Health Northridge Hospital Medical Center
- Dignity Health St. John's Hospital Camarillo
- Dignity Health St. John's Regional Medical Center - Oxnard
- Dignity Health St. Mary Medical Center – Long Beach
- Emanate Health Queen of the Valley Hospital
- Encino Hospital Medical Center
- Garfield Medical Center
- Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital
- Huntington Hospital
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Baldwin Park
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Downey
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Los Angeles
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Panorama City
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital – South Bay
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital – West Los Angeles
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Woodland Hills
- Keck Hospital of USC
- Long Beach Medical Center
- Los Angeles General Medical Center
- Los Robles Regional Medical Center
- Mission Community Hospital



- Palmdale Regional Medical Center
- PIH Health Downey Hospital
- PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital
- PIH Health Whittier Hospital
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center
- Providence Cedars Sinai Tarzana Medical Center
- Providence Holy Cross Medical Center – Mission Hills
- Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center - San Pedro
- Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center - Torrance
- Providence Saint John's Health Center – Santa Monica
- Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center – Burbank
- Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center
- San Dimas Community Hospital
- Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center Orthopedic and Hospital
- Sherman Oaks Hospital
- St. Francis Medical Center
- Torrance Memorial Medical Center
- UCLA West Valley Medical Center
- USC Arcadia Hospital
- USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Valley Presbyterian Hospital
- Ventura County Medical Center/Santa Paula Hospital

Many health care centers in LA County participate in the American Heart Association's Outpace CVD™ programs that provide targeted quality improvement support to address and reduce chronic cardiovascular diseases in the outpatient space. [Learn more](#)

Target: BP

Improving blood pressure control

Gold+ participants

- Chinatown Service Center - Monterey Park
- Chinatown Service Center - San Gabriel
- Chinatown Service Center- Chinatown
- Community Medical Wellness Centers, USA
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Camarillo Daily Dr.
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Camarillo Los Posas Rd
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Camarillo Ste 100
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Oxnard
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Oxnard Riverpark
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Santa Paula
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Santa Paula March St.
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Ventura Ste 502
- Facey Medical Group
- Garfield Health Center
- Harbor Community Health Centers
- Herald Christian Health Center
- Herald Christian Health Center - City of Industry
- Herald Christian Health Center - El Monte
- Herald Christian Health Center - Rosemead
- Herald Christian Health Center - San Gabriel
- Kaiser Permanente Southern California
- Providence Medical Institute
- Saint John's Physician Partners
- UCLA Health
- UMMA Community Clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - Almaguer Clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - O'Neill Clinic

Gold participants

- Achievable Health
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Northridge
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Ventura Family Practice - Internal Medicine
- East Valley Community Health Center
- Eisner Health - Downtown LA Adult

Silver+ participants

- Anphon Medical Center
- Bartz Altadonna Community Health Center
- Center for Family Health & Education
- Complete Care Community Health Center
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Camarillo Ste 110
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Thousand Oaks
- Kedren Community Health Center
- Kedren Community Health Center - Amity
- Kheir Clinic - 6th St
- Kheir Clinic - Family and Pediatrics
- Kheir Clinic - Wilshire 100
- Kheir Clinic - Wilshire 120
- MLK Community Healthcare - East Compton
- MLK Community Healthcare - Rosecrans
- MLK Community Healthcare - Wilmington
- MLK Community Medical Group
- Parktree Community Health Center - East Holt Ave
- San Fernando Community Health Center
- South Central Family Health Center
- Southern California Medical Center
- St. John's Community Health
- TCC Family Health
- Universal Community Health Center - Central Clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - MLK Clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - San Pedro Clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - Washington Clinic
- Via Care Community Health Center
- Watts Healthcare Corporation
- Wesley Health Center/ JWCH Institute

Silver participants

- Eisner Health - DTLA Family Medicine Residency
- Eisner Health - DTLA Pediatrics
- Eisner Health - DTLA Women's Health Center
- Eisner Health - Lynwood
- Eisner Health - Santee Education Complex
- Eisner Health - Sherman Oaks
- Eisner Health - Van Nuys

Check. Change. Control. Cholesterol

Addressing high cholesterol through risk assessment and appropriate therapies

Gold participants

- Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc.
- Central City Community Health Center, Inc.
- Chinatown Service Center- Chinatown
- Community Medical Wellness Centers, USA
- Garfield Health Center
- Gracelight Community Health
- Harbor Community Health Centers
- Herald Christian Health Center
- Herald Christian Health Center - City of Industry
- Herald Christian Health Center - El Monte
- Herald Christian Health Center - Rosemead
- Herald Christian Health Center - San Gabriel
- Kedren Community Health Center
- Kedren Community Health Center - Amity
- MLK Community Medical Group
- Saban Community Clinic - Beverly
- Saban Community Clinic - S. Mark Taper Foundation Health Center
- Saban Community Clinic - Wallis Annenberg Children and Family Health Center
- San Fernando Community Health Center

Target: Type 2 Diabetes

Addressing CVD risk factors in patients with Type 2 diabetes

Gold participants

- Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc.
- Central City Community Health Center, Inc.
- Chinatown Service Center- Community Health Clinic
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Camarillo Daily Dr.
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Camarillo Los Posas Rd
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Camarillo Ste 100
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Northridge
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Oxnard
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Oxnard Riverpark
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Santa Paula
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Santa Paula March St.
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Ventura Family Practice - Internal Medicine
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Ventura Ste 502
- Facey Medical Group
- Garfield Health Center
- Herald Christian Health Center
- Herald Christian Health Center - City of Industry
- Herald Christian Health Center - El Monte
- Herald Christian Health Center - Rosemead
- Herald Christian Health Center - San Gabriel
- Kedren Community Health Center - Amity
- Providence Medical Institute
- Saban Community Clinic - Beverly
- Saint John's Physician Partners
- Southern California Medical Center
- UCLA Health

Participants

- Bartz Altadonna Community Health Center
- Community Medical Wellness Centers, USA
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Camarillo Ste 110
- Dignity Health Medical Group - Thousand Oaks
- Gracelight Community Health
- Kedren Community Health Center
- Kheir Clinic - 6th St.
- Kheir Clinic - Family and Pediatrics
- Kheir Clinic - Wilshire 100
- Kheir Clinic - Wilshire 120
- MLK Community Healthcare - East Compton
- MLK Community Healthcare - Rosecrans
- MLK Community Healthcare - Wilmington
- MLK Community Medical Group
- Saban Community Clinic - Taper
- Saban Community Clinic - WAC
- San Fernando Community Health Center
- South Central Family Health Center
- Universal Community Health Center - Almaguer clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - Central clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - MLK
- Universal Community Health Center - O'Neill clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - San Pedro clinic
- Universal Community Health Center - Washington clinic



Our Commitment

Changing the Future of Health

Facing the most pressing health challenges, the American Heart Association speaks out and speaks up every day to advance policies that are improving lives and creating healthier communities.



Leveraging research, volunteers, community reach and scientific expertise, the American Heart Association has built an extensive record of bipartisan success informing and influencing public policy at the federal, state and community levels to improve public health.

Our accomplishments include:

- Increasing the sales age for tobacco to 21
- Improving nutrition standards in schools
- Achieving robust FDA regulation for all tobacco products
- CPR training and AED availability in public spaces
- Expanding access to stroke telemedicine
- Supporting access to quality, affordable health care
- Protecting patients from surprise medical bills
- Advancing research and screening for cardiovascular disease in women
- Doubling NIH funding

Our local policy priorities this year include:

- **NUTRITION INCENTIVES:** Increase local funding for programs that help people stretch their food dollars and eat healthier.
- **PRODUCE PRESCRIPTIONS:** Increase local funding for programs that integrate healthy food into a patient's health care plan.
- **CHILD NUTRITION STANDARDS:** Ensure that children's restaurant meals, including beverages, meet recommended child nutrition standards.



- **STRONG TOBACCO RETAIL LICENSURE:** This key tobacco control measure reduces tobacco initiation among youth.
- **ENDING THE SALE OF FLAVORED TOBACCO:** Flavors in tobacco products were designed to increase their appeal to young people. Our goal is to eliminate the sale of all flavored tobacco products in our communities.

- **CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PROGRAM FUNDING:** Increase local funding for programs that support cardiovascular disease prevention programs, with focus on reducing uncontrolled high blood pressure and increasing the number of "promotoras" (community health workers) in LA County.



Are you a passionate changemaker? Join Heart Powered by texting "HEART" to 46839 or visit [HeartPowered.org](https://www.heartpowered.org)



Our Commitment

Advancing Scientific Discovery

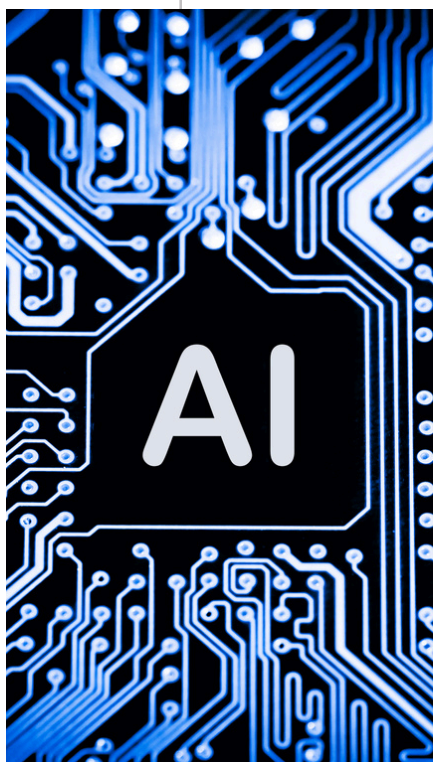
Funding research is a cornerstone of the American Heart Association's lifesaving mission. Our goal is to fund, facilitate and accelerate research that will give us the greatest chance of saving lives, improving health and one day finding cures.

**\$6.1
BILLION**

research
investments
since 1949

**\$20.1
MILLION**

research
investments in
LA this year



Using AI to improve cardiovascular health care

The American Heart Association has invested \$10.5 million in research projects that explore ways to use artificial intelligence (AI) to accelerate and improve screening and treatment for cardiovascular disease.

In Los Angeles, a method using AI to expand the usefulness of heart ultrasounds to detect early signs of kidney and liver disease is being tested at Cedars-Sinai. Although previous research has found that kidney and liver conditions can lead to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease complications, cardiologists are not trained to look for problems in these other organs.

Early diagnosis and treatment of kidney and liver disease is increasingly important because the prevalence of cardiovascular, kidney and liver disease are all on the rise, as referenced in several reports from the American Heart Association.

Fueling the future of scientific discovery

Up-and-coming researchers supported by the American Heart Association had a chance to step into the world of science as they participated in Science Day at Huntington Medical Research Institute in Pasadena. The student researchers presented their projects to local medical professionals, educators, donors and peers and heard from a panel about STEM careers and the impact of donor support. With these investments, the Association continues to shape the future of lifesaving science.



The Impact of Our Science

Notable achievements from AHA-funded research

1960 First Artificial Heart Valve

The first successful artificial heart valve replacement was performed by Dr. Albert Starr, who developed the mechanical heart valve with hydraulic engineer Lowell Edwards. The Starr-Edwards valve is still used today, along with other artificial heart valves that have saved the lives of millions of people with diseased valves. **Impact:** In the United States, surgeons perform more than 180,000 heart valve operations each year.

1968 Cholesterol Inhibitors

Dr. William Conner uses funds from the AHA to show that cholestyramine can lower cholesterol in the blood. **Impact:** Cholestyramine is still used today.

1990 Treatment for Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome

The FDA approves Exosurf Neonatal to treat respiratory distress syndrome, a life-threatening condition for premature infants with heart and lung defects. The drug is developed by AHA career investigator Dr. John Clements.

2008 CPR Without Rescue Breaths

Dr. Gordon Ewy accumulated evidence from multiple studies that showed uninterrupted, high-quality chest compressions – without mouth-to-mouth respiration – are important for keeping blood circulating to vital organs. As a result of this research, the AHA released new recommendations that say bystanders can skip mouth-to-mouth and use hands-only CPR to help an adult or teen who suddenly collapses. **Impact:** We have trained over 22 million people worldwide in CPR. This includes traditional and hands-only methods of CPR.

2020 COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant

In March 2020, the AHA put out an unprecedented rapid response call for cardiovascular/cerebrovascular research proposals to address the growing crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this issue's urgency, the focus was on innovative, highly impactful short-term proposals (9-12 months) that can show progress within the period of this award.

2022 Life's Essential 8™

Life's Essential 8 are the key measures for improving and maintaining cardiovascular health, as defined by the AHA. Better cardiovascular health helps lower the risk for heart disease, stroke and other major health problems.

1957 First Pacemaker

The first battery-operated wearable pacemaker was implanted in a patient. The research, led by Dr. William Weirich, is still significant because this discovery led to the development of today's fully implanted pacemakers. **Impact:** There are about 3 million people worldwide with pacemakers, and each year more than 1 million pacemakers are implanted.

1961 Techniques and Standards for CPR

Drs. William Kouwenhoven, James Jude and Guy Knickerbocker reported on the value of external cardiac massage – better known as CPR – in providing blood flow to vital organs for people in cardiac arrest. The research was reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association. **Impact:** We now know that effective bystander CPR can double or triple chances of survival.

1961 Microsurgery

Dr. Julius Jacobson performed surgery with the aid of a microscope and became a pioneer in microsurgery. **Impact:** Microsurgery led to advances in coronary artery surgery, neurosurgery and numerous other procedures.

2003 Drug-Coated Stents

The FDA approves the first drug-coated stent to keep blocked arteries open while also releasing medications. Dr. Andrew Marks, a researcher funded by the AHA, developed drug-coated stents to prevent the tiny wire tubes from accumulating fatty plaques.

2013 AHA Collaboration Launches Personalized Medicine Initiative

The Cardiovascular Genome-Phenome Study launches to accelerate groundbreaking research into personalized medicine. The project is an innovative scientific collaborative partnership among AHA, Boston University and University of Mississippi Medical Center, the academic coordinating center homes, respectively, of the Framingham Heart Study and the Jackson Heart Study). The Jackson Heart Study also involves Jackson State University and Tougaloo College as partner institutions. The initiative becomes the AHA Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine.

2021 AHA Presidential Advisory Calls for Action on Structural Racism and Health Disparities.

As part of the priority set in the AHA Presidential Advisory, the AHA committed \$100 million over five years for new research initiatives focused on equitable health and programs that support diversity in the biomedical workforce pipeline. The commitment was exceeded in 2022 with research networks on Prevention of Hypertension, Disparities in Cardio-Oncology, Science of Diverse Enrollment in Clinical Trials and Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes.



Our Commitment

Building a Healthy Future

For nearly 50 years, our school engagement initiative has reached 14 million students annually, helping children build the physical and emotional foundation to thrive. We provide schools with essential resources and curriculum, while also extending support to families and educators, helping entire communities to show up strong, healthy and ready to succeed.

School Engagement



Our **Kids Heart Challenge** program for elementary schools and **American Heart Challenge** for high schools teach kids about health and well-being, volunteerism, kindness and lifesaving skills such as Hands-Only CPR and how to recognize stroke symptoms. Here's a snapshot of our impact this past year in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, with support from UCLA Health.

Number of schools engaged	170
Number of students reached	83,650
Funds raised	\$517,427
Money given back to schools	\$34,886
Number of families that learned lifesaving Hands-Only CPR	2,130

Top fundraising schools in Los Angeles County:

1. Jefferson Elementary, Redondo Beach
2. Birney School, Redondo Beach
3. Alta Vista Elementary, Redondo Beach

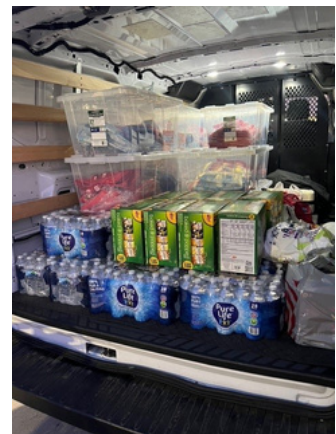
Top fundraising schools in Ventura County:

1. Atherwood Elementary, Simi Valley
2. Rio del Sol School, Oxnard
3. Santa Susana Elementary, Simi Valley

LA fire response

The American Heart Association's School Engagement team has been actively supporting 20 Kids Heart Challenge participating schools directly impacted by the January 2025 Los Angeles firestorm.

Our team has helped restock essential PE and recess equipment and provided healthy snacks. And with help from other participating schools, we facilitated donations of US Games gift certificates so affected schools can purchase additional supplies as they rebuild. Thanks to our sponsors, we also donated CPR in Schools kits, which will teach students the lifesaving skills to perform Hands-Only CPR in a cardiac emergency.





Volunteer Leaders

The Los Angeles Board of Directors is critical to helping us advance cardiovascular health for all. Board members are also key to generating revenue, sustaining and strengthening volunteer leadership and driving our mission locally.

Board of Directors



LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM

Board Chairman: Ed Romano, Retired Vice Chairman, Warner Bros.; **Board President: David Sato, MD**, President, Providence Specialty Medical Group; **Leadership Development Chairperson: Hans Ku**, Product Executive, Walt Disney Co.; **Cor Vitae Society Ambassador: Elizabeth Haynes**, Board Member, Torrid Foundation; **Board Members: Betsy Hart**, CEO, Dignity Health Glendale; **Mike Burke**, Chief of Market Development, UCLA Health; **Priscilla Hsue, MD**, Chief of Cardiology, UCLA Health; **Jimmy Barge**, CFO, Lionsgate; **Carolyn Kaloostian, MD, MPH, FAAFP**, Assistant Medical Director and Associate Clinical Professor, Keck Medicine of USC; **Perika Sampson**, Founder, Sampson Dearborn Consulting; **Americo Simonini, MD, FACC**, Cardiologist, Simonini Cardiology; **Elsa Valay-Paz**, Vice President, SoCalGas; **Shannon Bradley**, Chief Health Equity, Inclusion and Community Officer, Keck Medicine of USC; **Kendal Ajdaharian**, Senior ESG Analyst, Capital Group; **Ashwin Singhania**, Partner, EY-Parthenon; **Immediate Past President: Richard Shemin, MD**, Chief of Cardiac Surgery, UCLA Health

Upcoming Events



Heart and Stroke Ball

March 28, 2026
The Langham Huntington



Ed Romano
Campaign Chairperson

The Heart and Stroke Ball honors the impact of community supporters working toward longer, healthier lives for all. Join us to support our pursuit of scientific discovery, public policy change, equitable health and knowledge to advance health and hope for everyone everywhere.

heart.org/HeartOfLA



Go Red for Women

Breakfast in Red
February 6, 2026
Westlake Village Inn

Luncheon
May 20, 2026
Skirball Cultural Center



Betsy Hart
Campaign Chairperson

Join Go Red for Women to help advance scientific research, education and advocacy to fight the No.1 killer of women - cardiovascular disease.

heart.org/GoRedLA



Heart and Stroke Walk

Fall 2026
Location TBA



Dave Morgan
Campaign Chairperson

The Heart and Stroke Walk is a family-friendly event that brings thousands of community members together to raise awareness and funds to support our mission of longer, healthier lives for all. Join us for a walk to save lives, celebrate survivors and learn lifesaving Hands-Only CPR.

HeartWalkLA.org

Thank you to our Second Century Catalyst Supporters



Keck Medicine
of USC

Saint John's
Health Center
 Providence



Ed & Murphy Romano

Contact Us



📍 600 Corporate Pointe Suite 210, Culver City, CA 90230 📞 213-291-7000

🌐 heart.org/southerncalifornia ✉️ lavolunteers@heart.org

📘 @AHASouthernCA 📷 @AHACalifornia