



**Boston  
Children's  
Hospital**

Office of  
Community Health

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



See details on page 8 about how this visual "Community" was created.

## A NOTE FROM SHARI NETHERSOLE, MD

I am pleased to share our Annual Report, featuring stories and highlights from 2025 that showcase Boston Children's programs and partnerships improving child and family health across Boston and beyond.



This year, one theme stood out: connection and collaboration. By working closely with our Boston Children's colleagues, community partners, and local leaders, we strengthened initiatives that help children grow up healthy and thrive.

Highlights in this report include:

- **Healthy in the City** is supporting families in building healthier habits and reducing childhood obesity.
- **Family Food Connections** is providing fresh, nutritious food to thousands of households.
- **Youth leadership initiatives** such as Alliance to Growth, which is empowering young voices to shape solutions for their communities.
- **Opening the Mildred C. Hailey Teen Center** with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston to create a safe, vibrant space for youth development and enrichment.
- **Advancing child health** through community-based programs funded by our Determination of Need Community Health initiatives, focusing on early childhood, mental health, housing stability, and food security.
- **Completing our Community Health Needs Assessment**, which guides how we address challenges such as food insecurity, mental health access, and chronic conditions through 2028.

These efforts reflect the strength of our partnerships and the resilience of our communities. Thank you to our partners, colleagues, and community members for your continued commitment. Together, we are building healthier communities for children and families.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shari Nethersole, MD".

**SHARI NETHERSOLE, MD**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ENGAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

# HEALTHY IN THE CITY: HELPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BUILD HEALTHIER HABITS

For over a decade, Boston Children's Hospital has worked to address disproportionately high rates of childhood obesity in low-income Boston neighborhoods through its Healthy in the City program.

**Healthy in the City** is a community-based program that uses a case management model and family-based approach to healthy weight promotion. The program is implemented at 10 community health centers throughout the city and serves 1,000 children annually – 98 percent of whom identify as Black, Latino, or Asian. Program participants are either overweight, obese, or at risk for obesity.

A case manager at each health center site provides families with resources and support to achieve their health goals and maintain a healthy weight. Case managers can offer nutrition counseling and education, cooking classes, and physical activity opportunities. “Cooking classes and grocery store gift cards give families the opportunity to try nutritional foods that they may not have chosen or had access to,” says a case manager from one of the health center sites.

In more recent years, the program has expanded its focus to also address food insecurity among families, many of whom live in neighborhoods that lack access to fresh food. Case managers coordinate food access initiatives at the health centers, including mobile produce markets, food distribution efforts, and community gardening programs.



They also connect families to food pantries, hunger hotlines, federal nutrition programs, and opportunities to purchase fresh produce. Health education is offered to help families with how to use food pantry items to make healthy meals or how to shop for groceries on a budget.

Each year more than two-thirds of participants in Healthy in the City are shown to reduce their Body Mass Index (BMI), a key indicator of program effectiveness. They also report healthier lifestyle changes – increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, decreased consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, and greater time spent exercising.



What makes this program successful is our ability to tailor health education and community resources for each family, with a focus on providing culturally relevant nutrition education and affordable opportunities for physical activity.

– Marisa Otis, Manager of Community Programs, Boston Children's



# HEALTHY IN THE CITY BY THE NUMBERS

## Program Description

Healthy in the City is a one-year program that refers patients to a case manager who will provide education and resources through the health center. This program is designed to help participants make the behavioral changes needed to meet their health and wellness goals and promote healthy eating and active living.



**Healthy in the City program participants reported...**

**27.5%** increase in exercise

**19.0%** decrease in fast food consumption

**25.4%** decrease in sugar-sweetened beverages

**67%** of patients decreased or maintained their body mass index over one year

**16** years of Boston Children's Healthy in the City program

**Boston Children's implements Healthy in the City in  
10 community health centers**

- Boston Community Pediatrics
- Bowdoin Street Health Center
- Brookside Community Health Center
- Charles River Community Health
- The Dimock Center
- Boston Children's at Martha Eliot Health Center
- Mattapan Community Health Center
- NeighborHealth
- Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center
- Upham's Community Care

**28%** of pediatric patients at Healthy in the City health centers are overweight or obese

**98%** of program participants identify as people of color

**1,000** program participants annually

Childhood obesity is a health issue that is consistently identified by Boston Children's providers, patient families, and community partners as a concern.

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS: KEY PARTNERS IN IMPROVING CHILD AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Community health centers are best positioned in their communities to provide primary and preventive care to children and families. Health centers serve another special purpose – to be a resource and an anchor in neighborhoods. Health centers bring together families and establish connections with other local organizations serving the same community.

Community health centers deliver low-cost, effective, pediatric care in settings that meet the needs of patients from Boston's diverse neighborhoods. Health centers face many of the same challenges as other hospitals and private practices in caring for patients. Yet, they also experience challenges magnified by a variety of factors.

Health centers are also well-connected to other neighborhood and community partners that provide health and other social supports for children and families. Teams at these sites are experts at leveraging partnerships in the local neighborhoods to provide families with the resources they need to live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives.

Boston Children's has partnerships with 11 Boston community health centers. Our strategy is to build capacity and support the growth of Boston community health centers to provide the best care and resources for children and families – by delivering high-quality care and connecting families to essential resources.

- Our partner health centers receive funding and technical assistance from Boston Children's to support and build the capacity of pediatric practices.
- Health centers address the most pressing health needs in their communities: Asthma, mental/behavioral health, obesity, and child development by developing and/or collaborating to implement evidence-based programs.



- Our **Healthy in the City program** helps the centers to implement a collaborative, case-management model to manage and prevent childhood obesity. Case managers (also known as resource coordinators) support children who have been identified as overweight or at risk. Support is also provided to their siblings and other families struggling with food insecurity. Case managers link families to resources for fresh and healthy food, nutrition counseling and education, cooking classes, and physical activity opportunities.

**More than 50 percent of the children in Boston receive care in community health center settings. They utilize a range of primary and specialty care services and often have a high need for other support due to social, cultural, economic, and environmental conditions.**

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER PARTNERS AND HEALTHY IN THE CITY LOCATIONS

Health Center	Neighborhood	Partners	Healthy in the City
Boston Community Pediatrics	South End		✓
Bowdoin Street Health Center	Dorchester	✓	✓
Brookside Community Health Center	Jamaica Plain	✓	✓
Charles River Community Health	Brighton	✓	✓
The Dimock Center	Roxbury	✓	✓
NeighborHealth	East Boston		✓
Mattapan Community Health Center	Mattapan	✓	✓
South Cove Community Health Center	Chinatown	✓	
Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center	Jamaica Plain		✓
Upham's Community Care	Dorchester	✓	✓
Whittier Street Health Center	Roxbury	✓	

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS BY THE NUMBERS

## HISTORY

- In 1965, the nation's first health center was launched in Dorchester, Massachusetts.
- There are 24 community health centers in Boston.
- The first community health center, the Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, is still open today.
- 51% of the governing board at a community health center has to be comprised of patients.

Almost all neighborhoods in Boston have a community health center



**8** neighborhoods in Boston have a Boston Children's partner community health center

**25** years of Boston Children's partnership with community health centers

Boston Children's Hospital partners with **11** community health centers

- Boston Community Pediatrics
- Bowdoin Street Health Center
- Brookside Community Health Center
- Charles River Community Health
- The Dimock Center
- Mattapan Community Health Center
- NeighborHealth
- South Cove Community Health Center
- Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center
- Upham's Community Care
- Whittier Street Health Center

among our partner health centers...

**30** pediatricians employed

**25,825** pediatric patients served

**87,367** pediatric visits last year

Health centers are at the forefront of addressing challenging issues, such as improving access to health care and eliminating health disparities across racial and ethnic groups.



## ALLIANCE TO GROWTH: YOUTH VOICES ARE SHAPING THE METRO SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

In 2023, a youth advisory group was convened to help guide and inform the work of the **Metro South West Community Health Initiative**.

Today, this group is known as Alliance to Growth with youth participating from Brockton, Framingham, Needham, Quincy, Randolph, Waltham, and Weymouth. Participants provide insight into the many aspects of mental health and well-being as well as other issues that are impacting their communities.

### 2024-25 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED IN ALLIANCE TO GROWTH:

- **AFRICANO WALTHAM**
- **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF METRO SOUTH**
- **BROCKTON INTERFAITH COMMUNITY**
- **CROSSROADS**
- **RANDOLPH YOUTH COUNCIL**
- **VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY**
- **WALTHAM PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH**

Last school year's Alliance to Growth cohort consisted of 16 young people. They all juggled school and activity schedules to participate.

Every member attended meetings with enthusiasm and contributed to thoughtful conversations. The group also provides an opportunity for participants to network and share with each other, learn from a variety of subject matter experts, and represent the interests of their communities.



# BUILDING COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE: 2025 COLLABORATION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CONVENING

On June 10, more than 130 participants representing 50 community organizations gathered for the annual **Collaboration for Community Health** Funded Partner Convening at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury.

Boston Children's staff and partners gathered to network, reflect, and build connections.

Shari Nethersole, MD, Vice President for Community Health and Engagement at Boston Children's, welcomed the group and thanked the partners for their efforts and affirmed the hospital's pride in its partnerships with each organization.

Spoken word artist Amanda Shea performed two pieces: Resilience and Black Excellence.

Debbie Lay, Senior Project Manager in the Office of Community Health, led a mindfulness moment, which gave participants a chance to reflect on the realities of life and what it will take to create a better world.



Yi-Chin Chen, Executive Director of Friends of the Children-Boston, moderated a panel discussion that got participants diving deeper into how individuals and organizations can build collective resilience and take action. Sharing their experiences were Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission; Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Public Health Alliance; and Kevan Barton, Executive Director of YouthConnect.



AN INTERACTIVE ART ACTIVITY BROUGHT EVERYONE TOGETHER. PARTICIPANTS DECORATED PUZZLE PIECES WITH PENCILS AND WATER COLORS, AND WORDS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE MEANS TO THEIR ORGANIZATION. EACH VIBRANT AND UNIQUE PIECE CREATED A LARGE PUZZLE BASED ON THE ARTWORK "COMMUNITY" BY MASSART STUDENTS KOBE CHRISTIE, SHANIEL HERNANDEZ, GISELLE RODRIGUEZ, DERRICK ROGERS JR., AND A'MYAH WILLIAMS.

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## PHOTOS FROM THE COLLABORATION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CONVENING



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## PARTNERING FOR CHANGE: BOSTON CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES

Boston Children's Hospital is committed to improving the health and well-being of children and families through partnerships that address health disparities and social determinants of health. A key driver of these efforts is the **Determination of Need (DoN)** program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Under this program, health care facilities must obtain state approval for major capital projects and invest five percent of project costs into Community Health Initiatives. These funds are reinvested in local communities to reduce health inequities and improve outcomes for children and families.

Boston Children's currently has three active DoN Community Health Initiatives.

The **Collaboration for Community Health** launched in 2018, it is Boston Children's largest community health initiative providing \$53.4 M, over seven to 10 years, to community organizations, agencies, and coalitions. The Collaboration focuses on building community capacity and advancing child-centered strategies to address systemic inequities. Since its inception, the Collaboration has committed funds across eight strategic initiatives, reaching almost 35,000 people in Boston's highest-poverty neighborhoods. Recent achievements include over 8,000 children being screened for developmental concerns, housing support for hundreds of families, and training nearly 920 clinical students and community members in culturally responsive mental health care. Youth programs have engaged over 7,400 young people, while health equity collaboratives have expanded access to resources in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Jamaica Plain.

**Franciscan Children's Community Health Initiative**, was created following Boston Children's affiliation with Franciscan Children's in 2023.

The Franciscan Children's Community Health Initiative, also a part of Boston Children's Collaboration for Community Health, aims to improve the health and well-being of children, youth, and families by supporting organizations in Boston. The funding focuses on expanding the mental health workforce, promoting youth engagement, and improving food access, and housing initiatives (in the months ahead). Within the areas of mental health workforce, youth engagement, and food access, an initial total of \$5.2 M has been awarded to 24 organizations for use over the next three to four years.

Boston Children's received approval in December 2022 for three capital projects in Needham, Waltham, and Weymouth. The **Metro South West Community Health Initiative**, formerly the Route 128 Initiative, supports underserved families in Brockton, Framingham, Needham, Quincy, Randolph, Waltham, and Weymouth. A total of \$15.1 M will be distributed over the next seven years to organizations in these communities. An initial \$7.7 M has been released for organizations to use over the next three to four years in two areas: Mental Health and Well-being and Flourishing Families. A total of \$3 M has been awarded to be used over the next five years as part of the Healthy Communities Initiative. This funding will support three community-based collaborative groups in Brockton, Randolph, and Waltham.

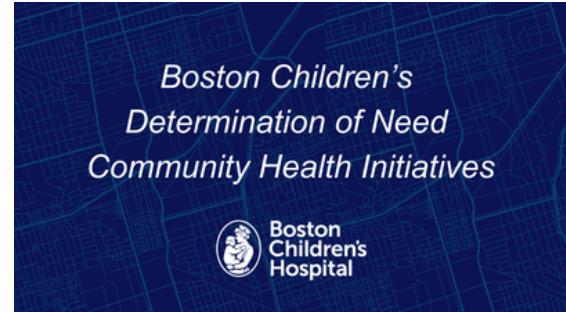
Boston Children's continues to leverage its resources and partnerships through Community Health Initiatives to create meaningful, lasting improvements in child and community health.

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# OUR FUNDED PARTNERS

## Collaboration for Community Health

**Birth to Five Child Health & Development Initiative**  
**Children's Health Equity (CHEq) Initiative**  
**Family Housing Stability and Economic Opportunity**  
**Healthy Living**  
**Healthy Youth Development**  
**Mental Health Systems**  
**Special Initiatives**  
**Youth Leaders for Mental and Behavioral Health**



## Franciscan Children's Community Health Initiative

**Community Food Access**  
**Promoting Mental Health through Intentional Youth Engagement**  
**Expanding and Diversifying the Children's Mental and Behavioral Health Workforce**

## Metro South West Community Health Initiative

**Healthy Communities Initiative**  
**Mental Health and Well-being**  
**Flourishing Families**

For more details about our funded partners, visit our website.

[bostonchildrens.org/don](http://bostonchildrens.org/don)



*We have long recognized that one of the best ways for Boston Children's to make a difference is to partner with others in the community," says Shari Nethersole, MD, Vice President for Community Health and Engagement. "Our Community Health Initiatives provide organizations with funding so they can establish the infrastructure needed to grow and lead or strengthen their connections with partners to create more efficient systems of care and support.*



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## BOSTON CHILDREN'S AT MARTHA ELIOT 2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

The Health Fair took place on September 6. The fun day brought together staff from Boston Children's and community organizations, who led fun activities and games for the children and families who attended.



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# BOSTON CHILDREN'S 2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Boston Children's conducts a comprehensive **Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)** every three years as required by the Internal Revenue Service.

This report highlights the health needs of children and families across Boston, with special emphasis on the neighborhoods of Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Mission Hill, and Roxbury. The assessment also looked at children living in the communities served by Boston Children's locations outside of Boston. For a complete list of these communities, see the [full report](#).

The assessment shows that many families are struggling with rising housing costs, food insecurity, and limited access to health care – especially mental health services. Youth mental health concerns are widespread, with high rates of anxiety and depression, particularly among LGBTQ+ and immigrant youth.



Chronic conditions like asthma and obesity remain prevalent, disproportionately affecting communities of color.

Environmental health issues, including air pollution and climate change, are emerging threats to child development and well-being. Safety concerns in schools and neighborhoods also impact youth, contributing to stress and missed school days.

Despite these challenges, the assessment underscores the resilience of Boston's communities and their commitment to creating healthier, more equitable environments for children to grow and thrive.

This assessment informs the Community Health Implementation Plan, which outlines how Boston Children's plans to address the needs identified through 2028.

The CHNA is an important process, but it is only one of the many ways that Boston Children's works to understand the needs in the communities we serve. The Office of Community Health is always learning from colleagues across the hospital and listening to our community partners. This allows us to help direct the hospital's expertise and resources in the most effective way to improve community health.

**For the full report, and to learn about the needs assessment process, visit [bostonchildrens.org/chna](http://bostonchildrens.org/chna)**

## FAMILY FOOD CONNECTIONS: ACCESS TO FRESH FOODS

Family Food Connections is Boston Children's Hospital's food pantry in Jamaica Plain. Opened in January 2022, the pantry is part of Boston Children's commitment to supporting families and helping to promote food access.

The pantry is located at the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments, a Boston Housing Authority development, and next to Boston Children's at Martha Eliot.

Family Food Connections offers a welcoming, accessible space where families can choose from fresh fruits and vegetables, healthy foods, and pantry staples. The pantry uses a choice-based model so visitors can select the foods that best fit their needs, preferences, and cultural traditions.

The name Family Food Connections reflects the idea that the pantry is about more than food alone. The space was created to help strengthen connections—recognizing the important role food plays in bringing families and communities together.



Visit [bostonchildrens.org/familyfoodconnections](https://bostonchildrens.org/familyfoodconnections) for more information.



## FAMILY FOOD CONNECTIONS: BY THE NUMBERS

OCTOBER 1, 2024- SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

**65,697**

visits to the food pantry

**96%**

of visitors are from Boston

**140,000**

pounds of food per month was distributed

**98,000**

pounds was in fresh produce

**6,743**

unique households served by the pantry

**15,185** adults and **8,330** children

# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BOSTON EXPANDS WITH THE MILDRED C. HAILEY TEEN CENTER

In October, the Mildred C. Hailey Teen Center in Jamaica Plain celebrated its grand opening, making it the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston's ninth club in the city. The new teen center, located in the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments, is a collaborative partnership between Boston Children's Hospital, the [Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston \(BGCB\)](#), and the [Boston Housing Authority \(BHA\)](#).

Boston Children's is providing a crucial three-year, \$480,000 start-up grant for the teen center. The center had been jointly operated by Boston Children's, the BHA, Tree of Life, residents, and community partners for many years but was not able to fully realize its potential given limited resources and staffing challenges. The addition of BGCB brings an experienced youth serving organization to the table that will provide a high-level of service delivery to Mildred C. Hailey's youth and families.

The Mildred C. Hailey Teen Center is designed to serve preteens and teens age 10 to 18 and will offer programming focused on youth development and skill-building, workforce readiness programs, academic support, and enrichment activities such as cooking and music lessons. The center will also feature two of BGCB's signature programs: Keystone and Torch Clubs, which help teens develop leadership skills and engage in community service.



"Boston Children's is proud to be part of a vibrant and committed community – alongside residents, organizations, and city and state leaders – working together to support the growth and success of our young people," says Dr. Shari Nethersole, Vice President of Community Health and Engagement at Boston Children's. "This collaboration honors the enduring legacy of those who have long championed this work, recognizing the dedication and efforts that laid the foundation for today's progress."

The grand opening featured remarks from youth from the teen center; Dr. Kevin Churchwell, CEO of Boston Children's; Kenzie Bok, BHA Administrator; Robert Lewis Jr.; Nicholas President and CEO of BGCB; Josefina Osorio, Mildred C. Hailey Tenant Taskforce; Representative Samantha Montaño; City Councilor Ben Webber; and City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.

# PHOTOS FROM THE MILDRED C. HAILEY TEEN CENTER GRAND OPENING



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## RECOGNIZING OUR EMPLOYEES FOR VOLUNTEERING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

The Employee Community Volunteer Awards recognizes Boston Children's employees for their role as volunteers with community organizations in their communities.

Funding for the award comes from the David S. Weiner Award for Leadership and Innovation in Child Health. The Boston Children's Board of Trustees established this award in 1997 to acknowledge former President and CEO David Weiner's 30 years of service to the hospital. It was an annual award to support an employee's program at the hospital and to recognize their dedication to child health.

In 2023, the Office of Community Health revised the award to recognize multiple employees for their community service efforts.

In 2025, many applications were received for this award and six employees were selected.

The community organizations are supporting children and families in the New England area and received \$5,000.

## 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Chuck Blanchette**  
**Research Operations**  
*The Key Foundation*

**Kathleen Hong**  
**Hale Center for Families**  
*CASA Project Worcester County*

**Caylee Pallatto**  
**Boston Children's Hospital Trust**  
*FriendshipWorks*

**Grace Rahman**  
**Department of Cardiology**  
*Science Club for Girls*

**Debbie Soprano**  
**PPOC**  
*Li-Fraumeni Syndrome Association*

**Arkey Taylor**  
**Supply Chain Administration**  
*Boston Raiders Youth Football and Cheer Organization*

# COMMUNITY HEALTH SHOWCASE: CELEBRATES COMMUNITY HEALTH

In May the Office of Community Health hosted the 2025 Community Health Showcase. The purpose of this event was to celebrate Boston Children's community health efforts and provide an opportunity for hospital staff to come together and learn from each other.

The event kicked off with a presentation about the Community Mission by Dr. Shari Nethersole.

After that, 31 poster presenters shared their work during three poster sessions. The poster presenters spoke on a variety of topics.

The event drew 120 people from a range of departments throughout Boston Children's. It provided an opportunity for networking, information sharing and highlighting the Community Mission.



## BOSTON CHILDREN'S ANCHOR STRATEGY

At Boston Children's we have a strategic focus and vision for our **Anchor Strategy**. This is a framework for making business decisions through four key pillars: hiring and workforce development, purchasing, investment, and sustainability.

In 2018, Boston Children's joined the **Healthcare Anchor Network**, a national collaboration of 65 hospitals and health care systems working to build more inclusive and sustainable local communities. This commitment amplifies the community mission of Boston Children's by incorporating into business practices a commitment to address economic and racial inequities in community conditions that are social contributors to poor health.

### **Hiring and Workforce Development:**

Intentionally hiring and retaining individuals from neighboring communities to ensure that our employee profile is truly reflective of the community we serve and contributes to local economic well-being. Human Resources advances the strategy by partnering with over 20 community-based organizations to actively recruit from under-represented communities, developing programs to engage job seekers for high-demand positions at Boston Children's.

**Purchasing:** Supporting nearby businesses by buying locally whenever possible, with a focus on increasing participation of minority-owned businesses. Supply Chain Management has increased the number of minority- and women-owned business vendors the hospital has contracts with. It hosts Supplier Diversity Days to give suppliers an opportunity



to present products and services, and mentoring others on securing certification with minority and women business councils.

**Investments:** Investing in local projects that may have a below-market financial rate of return but that offer a social return such as projects that address affordable housing, food insecurity, and early childhood education.

**Sustainability:** Implementing approaches to advance reductions in hospital-generated greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to local climate resilience.

The hospital's anchor strategy is a collaborative effort. The Office of Community Health convenes a monthly work group with staff from the President's Office, Human Resources, Purchasing, Patient Services, and the Office of General Counsel to coordinate and align this work. With support from the hospital's Investment Office, the Office of Community Health is pursuing some "impact" investments in affordable housing and minority business development.

# BOSTON CHILDREN'S SPONSORED THE ANNUAL HEALTHCARE ANCHOR NETWORK CONVENING

In October, Boston Children's Hospital was proud to co-sponsor the Healthcare Anchor Network Convening. The week focused on bringing together mission-driven health systems and community partners from across the U.S.

The 2025 convening was the largest one yet for the Healthcare Anchor Network and explored innovative strategies to advance health equity and foster inclusive local economies. The event kicked off with a powerful conversation exploring the historical and present-day dynamics of Massachusetts and Greater Boston. Local experts discussed how anchor institutions can boost the resilience of communities and contribute to meaningful, people-centered change.

Dr. Kevin B. Churchwell, Boston Children's Chief Executive Officer, participated in an inspiring fireside chat. He emphasized the hospital's longstanding partnership within the community and how our Anchor Strategy emphasizes our commitment to our community. Dr. Shari Nethersole, Vice President of Community Health and Engagement, moderated a panel that explored how anchor institutions and community partners can build trust, elevate community voice, and turn collaboration into long-term impact.

Tara Agrawal, Director of Community Investment, from the Office of Community Health, presented on Boston Children's approach to place-based investment. She was joined by local partners from the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation and LISC Massachusetts, as they explored how place-based investments support healthier, more resilient communities. They highlighted real-world examples of how mission driven hospitals can leverage their financial resources to help preserve affordable housing and fuel local economic development.

Stacy Walker, Director of Community Health Programs and Partnerships, from the Office of Community Health, led an "immersive learning experience," an in-depth walking tour, of the Jackson Square neighborhood in Jamaica Plain. More than 60 participants from hospitals and health systems across the country were able to see and discuss the investments that Boston Children's has made in the community in the areas of affordable housing and youth development, and then see firsthand the Family Food Connections, the hospital's food pantry open to hospital patients, residents, and surrounding neighborhoods.



# COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP GROUPS

Boston Children's Hospital's Office of Community Health relies on two leadership groups, the Board Committee for Community Health and the Community Advisory Board, to assist in implementing the hospital's community mission.

## Board Committee for Community Health

Winston Henderson (chair), Vice President, General Counsel, Clear Scientific Inc.

Dick Argys, Executive Vice President, Hospital Chief Operating Officer, Chief Culture Officer

Kevin Churchwell, MD, Boston Children's President and CEO

Ruth Ellen Fitch, JD, Attorney

Margaret Fry, MD, President and CEO, Pediatric Physicians' Organization at Boston Children's Hospital (PPOC)

Robert Gittens, Executive Director, Bridges Homeward

Steven Gortmaker, PhD, Harvard School of Public Health

Jana Karp, Med, Executive Director, Boston Youth Sanctuary

Celeste Lee, Brandeis University

Shari Nethersole, MD, Boston Children's Vice President, Community Health and Engagement (ex-officio)

Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, Executive Director, Sociedad Latina

Wendy A. Watson, formerly of State Street Bank

Michael Widmer, formerly of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

Lisa S. Wieland, President, National Grid New England

## Community Advisory Board

Alexandra Oliver-Dávila (chair), Executive Director, Sociedad Latina

Yi Chin Chen (vice chair), Friends of the Children-Boston

Sage Carbone, Fenway Community Development Corporation

Jill Carter, EdM, MA, Boston Public Schools

Patricia Flaherty, Mission Hill Resident

Carol Miranda, JP Tree of Life: Arbol de Vida

Shari Nethersole, MD, Boston Children's Vice President, Community Health and Engagement (ex-officio)

Andrea Swain, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

May Vaughn, Roxbury resident and Executive Director of Girls' LEAP

Jeremiah Woodberry, Child and Adolescent Health Division (CAHD), Boston Public Health Commission





## BOSTON CHILDREN'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM

### **Shari Nethersole, MD**

Vice President, Community Health and Engagement

### **Tara Agrawal, PhD**

Director of Community Investment

### **Jessica Clement**

Project Manager

### **Jennifer Fine, MPA**

Senior Manager of Communications and Projects

### **Sarah Gees Bhosrekar, DrPH**

Evaluation Manager

### **Stephanie Gómez, MPH**

Manager of Community Partnerships

### **Debbie Lay, MPH**

Senior Project Manager

### **Marisa Otis, MPH**

Manager of Community Programs

### **Rebeckah Orsatti, MBA**

Business Operations Administrator

### **Haley Piette, MPH, CHES**

Project Coordinator

### **Abdul Hakim Qavi**

Family Food Connections Supervisor

### **Marioli Rodriguez**

Program Coordinator I

### **Stacy Walker, MBA**

Director of Community Health Programs and Partnerships

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**Boston  
Children's  
Hospital**

Office of  
Community Health