TOP 10 SUCCESSES
JULY 2016 - JUNE 2017

8 With the help of pro bono counsel, we continued successful efforts to reduce coal-fired power plant pollution in Illinois. In 2017, RHA prevailed in the liability phase of a lawsuit against the E.D. Edwards plant near Peoria, setting the stage to reduce air pollution by thousands of tons each year.

9 RHA coordinated local efforts to help COPD patients, caregivers and respiratory therapists advocate for improved Medicare coverage of pulmonary rehabilitation services for COPD patients.

10 We launched Health Care Professionals for Healthy Lungs to mobilize the health community around climate change, clean air, and health protections at the local, state and national levels.

Support from our donors, event participants, and mission partners made these and other lung health victories possible. Please join us as we continue to prevent lung disease, promote clean air, and help people live better through education, research and policy change. Learn more at lungchicago.org.

RESPIRATORY HEALTH ASSOCIATION®
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1. Respiratory Health Association and its partners secured passage of the Illinois “Asthma Emergency Response Protocol” bill, requiring schools to prepare staff to address asthma emergencies. We worked with Illinois Department of Public Health and the State Board of Education to implement the new law by developing and delivering a webinar training to more than 1,000 school staff statewide.

2. RHA is participating in local research efforts concerning asthma and COPD management, and we funded grants in lung cancer, pulmonary fibrosis and COPD to scientists at University of Illinois and Northwestern University.

3. Addressing the needs of families affected by COPD, we developed a first-of-its-kind “tool kit” of resource materials for caregivers of people living with COPD. RHA is now pilot testing the toolkit with caregivers, COPD patients, and researchers.

4. RHA trained National Urban League representatives from Washington D.C., Atlanta and Philadelphia affiliates to provide our Courage to Quit® tobacco cessation program. This expansion should further reduce smoking rates in urban populations.

5. Thanks to our advocacy champions, more communities adopted “T21” laws, raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 in Naperville, Deerfield, Maywood and Highland Park. These laws help decrease youth smoking.

6. We provided our Fight Asthma Now© program to nearly 2,000 Chicago area schoolchildren and Asthma Management training to 2,500+ school personnel and caregivers.

7. RHA and its allies helped secure passage of Illinois’ Future Energy Jobs bill, assuring greater use of renewable energy in the state and further reductions in air pollution from other energy sources — a law that will avoid thousands of asthma episodes.