

LUNG HEALTH VICTORIES
JULY 2019-JUNE 2020



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HEALTH
ASSOCIATION®

EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGES.
REMARKABLE PROGRESS.
HEALTHY LUNGS AND CLEAN AIR
FOR ALL.

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Next Generation
Advocates: 2020

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COVID-19 RESPONSE COVID-19 presented an unprecedented lung health challenge. We immediately turned toward providing credible information and support to vulnerable communities, including people with chronic lung disease, and our team worked to understand and address health equity issues causing more harm to underserved communities. RHA is also providing funding for important research into COVID-19 and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).



EMERGENCY ASTHMA MEDICATION IN SCHOOLS In Illinois, more than 280,000 children are reported to have asthma. After successfully advocating for the law to allow schools to keep emergency asthma medication on hand, we worked with Illinois Department of Public Health to develop guidelines for schools and have proposed legislation to make medications available so that all schools can create a safer environment for students.

PEORIA COAL PLANT CLOSURE & SETTLEMENT For more than 50 years, the E.D. Edwards power plant has burned coal and contributed to dangerous levels of air pollution in central Illinois. This year, with the help of environmental partners and our pro bono legal counsel, we won an \$8+ million settlement that will be reinvested in the local community, and the plant will close.

CHICAGO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AIR POLLUTION & HEALTH STUDY With support from the Joyce Foundation and University of Chicago, we studied the relationship between exposure to air pollution and chronic illness. The study was the first of its kind in Chicago and showed that people living near high volume bus routes and garages have more lung health problems. We will use the findings to advocate for cleaner transportation and stronger air protections.

ASTHMA EDUCATION EXPANDED Our school-based asthma education reached hundreds of additional students across Illinois. With support from the Illinois State Board of Education, we were able to reach students with asthma in high-need communities from outside St. Louis to Waukegan and everywhere between.

VAPING RESPONSE & RESOURCES This year we saw youth e-cigarette use skyrocket and an outbreak of vaping-related lung injury. We developed resources aimed at dispelling myths about vaping and e-cigarettes, including a guide for parents to help them talk to their kids about the dangers of vaping. These resources were shared with parents in partnership with local schools.

NATIONAL TOBACCO PROGRAMS We took our evidence-based quit smoking programs to Trinity Health locations across the country. *Courage to Quit*[®] is now offered in healthcare settings from California to Connecticut. In addition, hundreds of medical professionals have learned how to talk to patients about quitting through RHA's *Counsel to Quit*[®] course for healthcare professionals.

COPD HOSPITAL-TO-HOME GUIDE We worked with University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) Population Health Sciences Division to help COPD patients and caregivers transition to home after a hospital stay. The goal is to help patients stay healthy at home and reduce hospital readmissions.

LUNG CANCER RESEARCH We funded Loyola University professor Dr. Maurizio Bocchetta's lung cancer research. He and his team are investigating whether a certain enzyme can be used to stabilize lung cells and prevent cancer growth. Researchers like Dr. Bocchetta work to increase knowledge and understanding of disease development to support those affected by lung cancer.

*Together we can create a future free of lung disease. A world without lung cancer, asthma, or COPD. A world with clean air, where everyone breathes easier. To learn more about the educational programs, research, and policy work your contributions support, [visit **respealth.org**](https://www.respealth.org).*





RESPIRATORY HEALTH ASSOCIATION®

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**Together we will keep taking
steps toward healthy lungs
and clean air for all, whatever
the future holds.**

THANK YOU.

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