A HEALTHIER FUTURE TOGETHER

LUNG HEALTH VICTORIES JULY 2021-JUNE 2022
With your help, we’re building a future free of lung disease. A world without asthma, COPD, or lung cancer. A world with clean air, where everyone breathes easier. These successes are only possible because of donors, supporters, advocates, and event participants like you.

To learn more about the educational programs, research, and policy work your contributions support, visit resphealth.org.

Together we kept taking steps toward healthy lungs and clean air for all.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS WE MADE A DIFFERENCE:
ASTHMA

VIRTUAL ASTHMA MANAGEMENT TRAINING | In partnership with the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA), we developed a new tool for childcare providers across the state to help children under their care living with asthma. Since its release, more than 2,500 people have viewed the English or Spanish versions.

ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES IN CHICAGO CHILDREN | We released a report that shines a light on the toll of asthma in Chicago communities. The report shows Black children ages 5 to 19 years old are more than four times as likely to end up in a hospital emergency room due to asthma than white children, which is an even greater disparity than in 2016. We continue to raise awareness about the critical need for investment in education programs like Fight Asthma Now© and we pledge to continue to work with partners to address these needs.

ENVIRONMENT

HISTORIC VICTORY FOR CLEAN AIR AND LUNG HEALTH | After three years of advocacy and leadership with many partner organizations, we helped secure the passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) – a nation-leading equitable climate law. CEJA sets Illinois on the path to 100% clean energy by 2050, and we continue to lead implementation of these efforts – particularly working with lawmakers to accelerate transportation electrification across the state.

ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION | On the heels of a new report identifying serious health risks from diesel pollution in Illinois, we are leading a coalition to secure passage of Advanced Clean Truck rules. This effort, made possible by a grant from the Energy Foundation, would lead to the electrification of heavy-duty trucks – reducing current threats of diesel emissions.
LUNG CANCER

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO LUNG CANCER SCREENINGS | To improve access to lung cancer screenings for high-risk populations in Illinois, we coordinated with healthcare partners to identify barriers to these screenings. Together, we were able to successfully advocate for $1 million in funding in Illinois to help people learn about and use these services. Expanding access to these preventative services will help identify lung cancer in people most at risk, saving lives along the way.

COVID-19

HELPING PEOPLE MANAGE LONG COVID | Thanks to a grant from Will Rogers Institute, we are launching a new project to develop patient-facing resources about the potential impacts of long COVID. As emerging research continues to document the lasting effects of long COVID, we will be on the front lines of raising awareness about these new challenges and helping people most vulnerable manage their health.

COPD

EXPANDING RESOURCES FOR COPD CAREGIVERS | Caring for a family member or friend living with COPD can be hard. An estimated 16 million people live with COPD and millions more have symptoms but are not yet diagnosed. This highlights a growing need to support caregivers in the COPD community. In partnership with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute’s Learn More Breathe Better™ Program, we created an online version of our COPD Caregiver’s Toolkit. Now, informal caregivers across the country can more easily access resources to help navigate the challenges of providing care to their loved ones.

Support from community partners and RHA advocates has helped lead to policy change in Illinois.
RESEARCH

INNOVATIVE LUNG DISEASE RESEARCH | We awarded grants to fund new research into lung cancer, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), and COPD. One of the lung cancer studies from Dr. Maria Lucia Madariaga is looking at new techniques to study lung tissue, with the goal of better targeting and improving cancer treatments. Our annual Solovy Award for Advancement in COPD was awarded to support Dr. Laura Feemster’s COPD research efforts at University of Washington.

BARBARA RHODE WATCHES HER DAUGHTER & GRANDDAUGHTER CLIMB FOR HEALTHY LUNGS & CLEAN AIR AT HUSTLE CHICAGO® STAIR CLIMB.
THANK YOU.

TOGETHER WE TOOK STEPS IN PURSUIT OF A FUTURE FREE OF LUNG DISEASE.