



RESPIRATORY HEALTH ASSOCIATION®

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

HUSTLE CHICAGO®

WORLD CLASS CHARITY STAIR CLIMB ★ ★ ★ ★



2026 EVENT RECAP

THANK YOU FROM OUR CEO

On behalf of Respiratory Health Association, thank you for joining us for the 29th Hustle Chicago® stair climb and helping to make this year's event such a success.

Your partnership plays a critical role in advancing our mission. Through your support, we're able to expand programs that improve lung health, increase access to vital resources, and continue our work to promote clean air across the communities we serve. This work reaches thousands of individuals and families each year. The impact of your participation extends well beyond event day.

We're proud to see the climb continue to grow as a leading corporate engagement opportunity, bringing companies across the region together in support of lung health.



ROB ANDERSON

President and CEO ,
Respiratory Health Association

\$800,000+

Raised by Hustle Chicago® 2026

\$250,000+

Raised from corporate support

\$22,000,000+

Raised throughout the event's history

We are proud to partner with organizations that prioritize both the health of their employees and the well-being of the broader community. Your leadership and engagement help drive this work forward in a tangible way.

Thank you for your continued support of Respiratory Health Association and for being an integral part of Hustle Chicago. We look forward to continuing to build on this momentum together!



HUSTLE CHICAGO STATISTICS

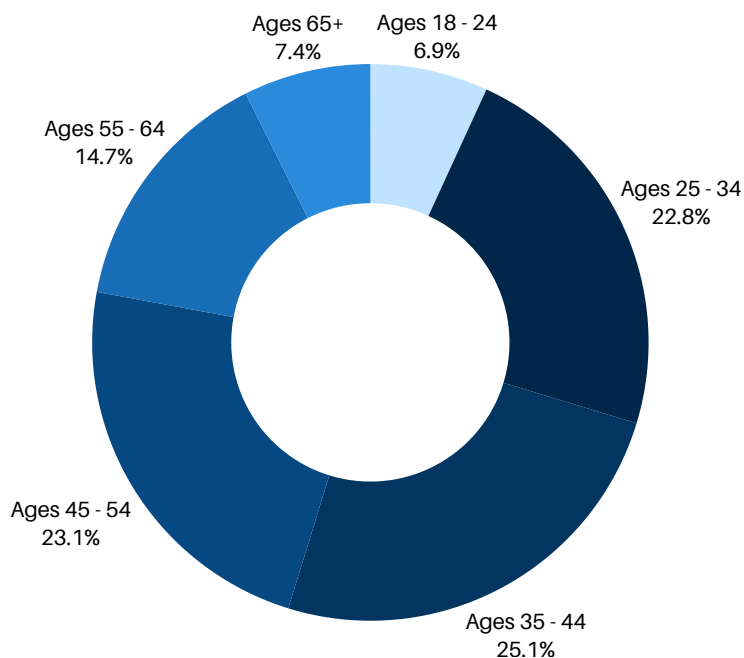
- **Over 2,100 people registered for Hustle Chicago** in 2026, taking on the Omron Full Climb, the Half Climb, and the virtual climb.
 - The event sold out in early January, nearly a month earlier than in 2025.
 - Our **highest individual fundraiser** raised **over \$7,400**
 - **46%** of climbers were taking on the challenge of Hustle Chicago for the first time.
 - **42%** of climbers have been personally impacted by lung disease.
- With roughly **1,900 climbers** crossing the finish line this year, Hustle Chicago was the largest timed stair climb in the United States for the second year in a row.
- **185 teams** participated in the event
 - **Team Lockton** was the highest fundraising team, raising **over \$66,000**.
 - The largest team to climb, **HIGH STEPPERS**, comprised of **121 members**.
 - Over **45 corporate teams** took on the climb as a workplace challenge.
- The average amount fundraised was **\$238/climber** and **\$2,325/team**.
- The fastest climb time in the Towerrunning USA Championship was **10 minutes and 37 seconds**, achieved by AbbVie team member Sean Eisen. The fastest climb time in the general Omron Full Climb was **12 minutes and 13 seconds**, achieved by firefighter Jesse Skrak.
- **27 network news stories** were run about this year's Hustle Chicago climb.

CLIMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER BREAKDOWN

Each year, Hustle Chicago is proud to highlight its commitment to diversity and inclusion, with a **balanced gender representation**. The 2026 event was no exception, reflecting a strong sense of community and participation across all gender identities:

- **50%** of climbers identified as **male**
- **49%** of climbers identified as **female**
- **1%** of climbers identified as **nonbinary**



AGE DISTRIBUTION

The challenge of Hustle is embraced by climbers of all ages. This year:

- **The majority (roughly 25%)** of our climbers were **ages 35 - 44**.
- Our youngest climber was **5 years old**
- Our oldest climber was **84 years old**

45% of Hustle climbers are within the 35-55 age range, with the median climber age being 44 years old.

NOTE: while our climbers tend to be in their 30's and 40's, over the past years, the median climbers age has been trending downwards.

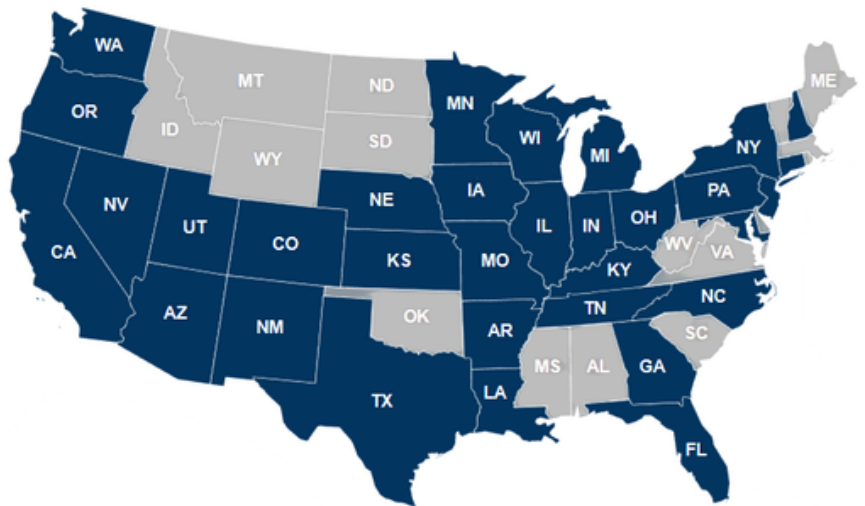


STATE AND NATIONAL REACH

Hustle Chicago has long been a beloved tradition in the heart of Chicago, but this year's event reached new heights in participation and geographic reach.

Climbers traveled from **37 counties across Illinois**, including 7 state legislators, demonstrating the strong local support behind the event and its mission.

Hustle's impact also extended well beyond Illinois. Participants from **33 different states** traveled to Chicago to take part in the climb.



Notably, about **7% of participants traveled from outside the Midwest** to take part in the climb. The farthest-traveled climber journeyed **more than 2,400 miles** from southern California, while the shortest commute belonged to a participant who lived just steps away across the street.



SPOTLIGHT: REP. KELLY CASSIDY

State Representative Kelly Cassidy (Illinois' 14th District) took on the climb for the first time this year. Joined by her son, Rep. Cassidy challenged herself to complete the climb and later shared reflections on the experience in her newsletter.

CLIMB DIVISIONS



FIREFIGHTER

Each year firefighters and firehouses take on Hustle Chicago to honor their colleagues who gave their lives at the World Trade Center on 9/11. This year:

- **43** firefighters and first responders climbed.
- Firehouses from **Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, Colorado, Oregon, and Florida** participated.



ELITE AND TOWERRUNNING

Our prestigious Elite Climb and the exclusive Towerrunning USA Championship showcase the competitive stair climbers from around the country, each competing in their own division.

- **21 climbers** took part in our Elite Climb
- **24 climbers** raced in the Towerrunning USA Championship



CORPORATE CLIMB

Companies from all around the Midwest take on Hustle Chicago to build employee camaraderie while showcasing their commitment to philanthropy. This year:

- **Over 45** corporate teams took on the climb
- Corporate climbers **raised over \$250,000** cumulatively
- **80%** of corporate climb teams boasted returning participation, with **nearly 50%** of growing in team size



**WGN-TV HUSTLE
CHICAGO SEGMENT**

WATCH



**CBS 2 HUSTLE
CHICAGO SEGMENT**

WATCH



**FOX 32 CLIMB
DAY COVERAGE**

REQUEST



**ABC 7 EYEWITNESS
NEWS COVERAGE**

REQUEST



**WGNAM RADIO
HUSTLE SEGMENT**

REQUEST

CORPORATE SPONSORS



COMED

ComEd has been a sponsor of Hustle Chicago since 2007 and boasts a consistently large team presence.

ComEd is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation, a Fortune 200 energy company with approximately 10 million customers. ComEd powers the lives of more than 4 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population.

OMRON

For more than a decade, **Omron** has participated in Hustle Chicago and sponsored the Omron Full Climb, the cornerstone of our event.

Omron is the world's leading manufacturer and distributor of personal heart health and wellness products. Since pioneering the first blood pressure monitor, Omron has remained dedicated to advancing home healthcare through cutting-edge technology.



RELATED MIDWEST

In 2026 **Related Midwest** returned for its second year sponsoring Hustle Chicago.

The Chicago office of Related Companies, Related Midwest is the preeminent developer of luxury condominiums and rental homes as well as mixed use properties in Chicago.

CORPORATE SPONSORS



abbvie

ABBVIE

AbbVie has been a valued partner of Hustle Chicago. We were thrilled to have AbbVie back at welcoming a team of new and old climbers to take on the 94 flights of the former Hancock Building.

AbbVie is Chicago-based global biopharmaceutical company focused on creating medicines and solutions that put impact first.

ALLIANT CREDIT UNION

Alliant Credit Union has been a steadfast supporter of Hustle Chicago, and 2026 was no exception. Alliant provided branded towels for all climbers at the Finish Line and boasted a robust turnout for its climb team.

With over 85 years of history and more than \$19 billion in assets, Alliant stands as the largest credit union in Illinois and one of the largest in the country.



ALLIANT



Constellation

CONSTELLATION

We're proud to have **Constellation** as a key corporate partner in Hustle Chicago. As one of our largest fundraisers, Constellation brings energy to the climb, underscoring its dedication to clean air and healthy lungs for all in Chicago and beyond.

A Fortune 200 company, Constellation is the nation's largest producer of clean, carbon-free energy.

CORPORATE SPONSORS



DuaneMorris®

DUANE MORRIS LLP

A long-term Respiratory Health Association partner and a mainstay of our events, **Duane Morris** returned to 875 N Michigan Ave this year to take on the climb!

Duane Morris boasts more than 900 attorneys and its Chicago office serves a client base of Fortune 500 companies, privately held middle-market companies, emerging growth companies and entrepreneurs.

LG GROUP

LG Group not only took on the challenge of Hustle Chicago, but also sponsored the Hustle Chicago VIP Reception at the Hilton Chicago Magnificent Mile Suites the night before the climb.

LG Group is a full service real estate development, construction, and design firm with a portfolio focused on hospitality, retail, core and shell, and multi-family.



lg group



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SYSTEM

LOYOLA MEDICINE

We were thrilled to see **Loyola University Health Systems & Loyola University Chicago** grow its team, host a table at our After Party, and join us again for Hustle Chicago!

Loyola University Health System is a nationally recognized medical center, boasting a Level I trauma center and top medical care across specialties.

CORPORATE SPONSORS



LOCKTON®

LOCKTON

Over 17 years, **Lockton** has raised \$500,000+ for Hustle Chicago. This year, their exceptional team achieved a major milestone, becoming our top fundraising team by raising over \$66,000.

As the world's largest independent insurance brokerage and risk management firm, Lockton exemplifies leadership, commitment, both in business and in supporting our RHA's mission.



JENNER & BLOCK



NORR



sanofi



WIPFLI

EVENT PARTNERS



875 N MICHIGAN AVE

875 N Michigan Ave (the former John Hancock Center) has been Hustle Chicago's partner since the climb began 29 years ago.

We're grateful to work with **360Chicago**, the building's owner and operator **HEARN**, its security team **Marksman-Titan Security Group**, and its custodial team **Harvard Maintenance**.

HILTON CHICAGO SUITES

As a long-standing partner of Hustle Chicago, the **Hilton Suites Chicago/Magnificent Mile** hosts the event's After Party and VIP Reception along with offering discounted room rates for Hustle climbers.

The Hilton's team works closely with ours to ensure seamless event coordination. Their commitment to excellence makes them an invaluable, and we're proud to continue this strong partnership.



TOWER RUNNING



TOWERRUNNING USA

Towerrunning USA selected Hustle Chicago to host its national championship, inviting the United States' top-ranked stair climbers as well as a select group of international competitors to take part in the climb.

Towerrunning USA is the official organizer for stair climbing events in the United States and holds over 100 climbs across the country each year.

AFTER PARTY



Each year, the Hustle Chicago After Party, held alongside the climb, serves as a celebration and gathering point for participants, offering a lively atmosphere complete with food, drinks, and an engaging expo featuring sponsors and vendors. The After Party is an opportunity for climbers and guests to unwind, network, and enjoy additional offerings after the climb. This year:

- **14 vendors** showcased their products and services at dedicated After Party tables.
- **Approximately 1,700** climbers and guests attended the After Party throughout the day.
- Both **national and local brands** contributed food and beverages to the event.



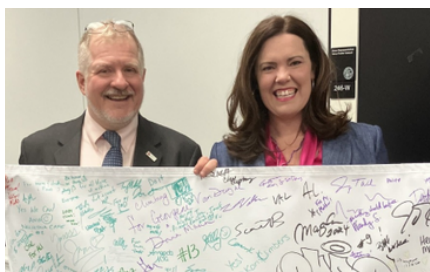
[RESPHEALTH.ORG/HUSTLE](https://resphealth.org/hustle)
HEALTHY LUNGS AND CLEAN AIR FOR ALL

MISSION SUCCESSES

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Respiratory Health Association's vaping education program had a record reach during the 2025–2026 school year. So far, our educators have met with:

- **11,702 students** (6,860 students in Chicago and 4,842 students in Suburban Cook County)
- **823 adults** and caregivers, including **over 500 CPS school nurses**.



**CAP THE COPAY
ADVOCACY MILESTONE**

[LEARN MORE](#)



**LUNG CANCER
RESEARCH FUNDING**

[LEARN MORE](#)



**ASTHMA CAREGIVER'S
HANDBOOK**

[LEARN MORE](#)



LIVING BETTER TOGETHER® COPD CONFERENCE

Respiratory Health Association welcomed patients and caregivers for the nation's largest COPD conference.

Over 20 years, the conference has reached **3,000+ people**, with **83% of attendees noting that the** conference has inspired them to better manage the condition.