

GIVING

THE METROHEALTH FOUNDATION - SPRING 2024



2024 Minority Men's
Health Fair: April 27

HEALTH EQUITY CLE:
PAVING NEW PATHS TO HEALTH AND HOPE

INSIDE: 10 years of MetroHealth's School Health Program

Welcome to this issue of *GIVING*, the publication that honors the generosity of our donors and celebrates the life-changing impact of philanthropy on our patients, caregivers and community.

With the one-year anniversary of the opening of The Glick Center now behind us (how time flies!), we are looking toward new funding priorities in the years ahead.

As an outstanding safety-net hospital, MetroHealth has always cared for every individual who needed it, regardless of their ability to pay. It is a position we are humbled to hold in a region where more than one-third of the population has historically been marginalized or excluded from opportunities to access our area's many health-promoting resources.

We are committed in our responsibility to monitor, measure and strive to eradicate disparities in health. We believe that health equity – **a fair and equal opportunity for every person to be as healthy as possible** – is achievable, and we hope to bring the greater MetroHealth neighbors and community together to collectively remove obstacles to health.

This is no small feat. We have ambitious philanthropic goals this year, and exciting new approaches to get us there.

In this issue, **we will introduce the Health Equity CLE Fund**, a unique philanthropic opportunity to dedicate resources to researching, reducing and ultimately eliminating disparities in health.

To be successful in our work will require **purposeful, authentic relationships** among funders, MetroHealth and the greater community. With this in mind, we are excited to welcome Romona Brazile, Executive Director of Community Health, Engagement and Impact, and the community engagement team to the Office of Strategic Philanthropy and Community Engagement. They bring decades of outreach and engagement experience across Cleveland communities, and we are so fortunate to have their collaboration and depth of knowledge to inform our ongoing work. Learn more about them later in this issue. We also very recently welcomed Dr. Wendy Ellis Jones to the team as Executive Director, Health Equity Sponsorship, Engagement and Partnerships. Wendy's vast fundraising experience and her proven ability to build lasting partnerships will create additional opportunities toward advancing MetroHealth's health equity initiatives.

We believe that community leaders and stakeholders, especially MetroHealth's closest neighbors, are experts in what their communities need. By fostering a spirit of philanthropy and connection, together we can all help build the bridges between MetroHealth and those individuals and families who may feel disconnected from their healthcare services and initiatives. We aim to ensure the Greater Cleveland community feels connected to MetroHealth in ways that strengthen participation and influence change.

This is the root of our health equity work. We hope you will join us in helping it grow.

Sincerely,



Kate Brown
President
The MetroHealth Foundation



Alfred F. Connors Jr., M.D.
Chair
The MetroHealth Foundation Board of Directors

INTRODUCING: The Health Equity CLE Fund



Throughout Cleveland, far too many individuals and families face a variety of barriers to accessing healthcare – especially high-quality preventive screenings and opportunities for health education and conversation – resulting in serious health inequities.

We are proud to introduce the Health Equity CLE Fund.

Through the Health Equity CLE Fund, you can help eliminate those barriers – and widen our front door.

As Greater Cleveland’s super-safety-net hospital, MetroHealth welcomes everyone seeking care, regardless of their ability to pay.

MetroHealth’s Health Equity CLE Fund will enable MetroHealth caregivers to connect directly with the Greater Cleveland community in ways that create new access points to care, increase understanding of

overall health and risk factors, and ultimately bolster the well-being of all Clevelanders by eradicating health disparities.

The fund supports MetroHealth’s deepening connection with historically marginalized communities, especially through our Multicultural Health Fairs & Expos and Minority Men’s Health Fair, which have already saved lives by identifying life-threatening conditions through free health screenings available to all.

The Health Equity CLE Fund will allow us to look critically at our own biases, respond to challenges with flexibility and humility, and ultimately create scalable models for eliminating health inequities across the nation.

We have a responsibility to our patients, our caregivers and all Clevelanders to understand how to dismantle those barriers and pave new paths to health and wealth.

Are you ready to become a Health Equity Champion?

Contact Lynn Iams: liams@metrohealth.org | (440) 592-1398 to discuss funding opportunities, customized recognition packages specific to Minority Men’s Health Fair, other Multicultural Health Fairs & Expos, Healthy Conversations and more.



Mark Your Calendars:

The Minority Men's Health Fair Returns April 27, 2024

Walter B. Jones, Jr.

Now in its third year at MetroHealth, the Minority Men's Health Fair provides the opportunity for men of color across Cuyahoga County to access free screenings and services to better understand their health status and risks. The free event offers education and more than 30 screenings for health issues prevalent in minority men, including prostate cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, skin cancer and mental health concerns, among other conditions.

MetroHealth's Charles Modlin, MD, Vice President, Chief Health Equity Officer, created the free health fair in 2003 to address disproportionate disease rates in Black and brown men. Research clearly shows fatality rates decrease with the early detection of preventable diseases. The mission of the annual Minority Men's Health Fair is to effectively engage these groups by expanding their access to care and preventive screenings. The health fair welcomes **all** men (and women) 18

years of age and older, regardless of race, ethnicity or other demographics.

MetroHealth will host this year's fair in two locations: The Alex B. Johnson Campus Center at Cuyahoga County Community College's Metropolitan Campus and MetroHealth's Cleveland Heights Medical Center.

More than 700 men from throughout the community attended the 2023 fair, and with your support, we can make this year's event even more successful.

If you are interested in contributing to the Minority Men's Health Fair through the Health Equity CLE Fund, please contact Lynn Iams at liams@metrohealth.org or (440) 592-1398.

And save the date for the Multicultural Women's Health Fair & Empowerment Expo on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

Information on the 2024 Multicultural Children's Health Fair & Expo will be released later this spring.

Late last year, we said goodbye to Walter Jones, beloved member of the MetroHealth community, who passed away in December. Walter joined The MetroHealth System in 2014 and provided the strategic vision and leadership for the planning, design and construction of The Glick Center, the expansion of the Critical Care Pavilion and the planned renovation of MetroHealth's three-million-square-foot campus.

He was an ardent supporter of The MetroHealth Foundation, and we could always count on him to share his passion for the project and for MetroHealth with all of you. He led hundreds of tours, sometimes at the last minute, providing an authentic behind-the-scenes look delivered as only he could with expertise, pride and humor. We are blessed to have known him and to have worked alongside him.

Minority Men's Health Fair

Saturday, April 27, 2024
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Two locations:
Cuyahoga Community College
Alex B. Johnson Campus Center
2900 Community College Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115
The MetroHealth System
Cleveland Heights Medical Center
10 Severance Circle
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118



School Health Program CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

In 2023, MetroHealth's School Health Program commemorated 10 years since it launched as a single clinic at Cleveland Metropolitan School District Mound STEM Elementary School in the Slavic Village neighborhood.

Since then, it has become a national model for school-based health, providing clinical services for more than 4,800 students enrolled at more than 25 schools throughout Cuyahoga County.

Over the course of its 10-year history, the program's team of providers, nurses, program assistants, drivers and community health workers have earned essential community trust, and the results have been extraordinary. Students who participate in the program show improvement in academic performance and are 97% more likely to have completed a well-child exam.

But none of these numbers illustrates the program's success more than a

single moment that played out in the parking lot of John Adams High School a few years ago.

Tamara Foster, a graduate of John Adams High School, was visiting the school when she spotted the MetroHealth School Health Program mobile clinic; she saw a familiar face working there. She went straight to Family Nurse Practitioner John Yousef, APRN-CNP, and opened her arms wide for a hug.

"He helped me with a very difficult time of my life," said Tamara. If the mobile clinic had not been at her high school, Tamara said, she would not have been seen by a provider during that time, and the presence of the clinic made all the difference.

"It was a hard, hard time, and he was the main person who was there for me and was that shoulder to lean on if I needed someone to talk to," she said.

"It helped a lot having people in your corner who believe in you."

Katie Davis Bellamy, MSN, RN, PHNA-BC, Executive Director of Community and Corporate Health, said members of the School Health Program team work hard to earn their place in the school communities they serve.

"You have to build the relationships," she said. "It doesn't mean you just build a clinic, and then everyone is going to show up. They need to trust you."

Thanks to sustained philanthropic support over the last 10 years, the School Health Program has earned a national reputation as an innovator for initiatives that push beyond the traditional model of school-based care to address the youth mental health crisis.

In 2022, the School Health Program received the prestigious Gage Award from America's Essential Hospitals. The national honor was validation for all that the program does to improve the health and lives of Greater Cleveland's children. But, for the team, the most gratifying reward comes with the work itself.

"Caring for students and their families is beyond satisfying," said Julie Cobb, RN, who manages the program. "Their acceptance of us, willingness to entrust their children to us and gratefulness for our services is an honor and a privilege that we do not take lightly."

The MetroHealth Foundation is grateful for the ongoing support that makes the School Health Program possible.

This year, The MetroHealth Foundation aims to raise \$150,000 to continue the School Health Program, an essential service that builds community trust, health and access. If you are interested in supporting the School Health Program, contact Lynn Iams at liams@metrohealth.org or (440) 592-1398.

Thank You...

The MetroHealth Foundation thanks its partners and supporters who have given major gifts in the last several months, including:

- The Roots & Wings Foundation awarded a significant gift to support MetroHealth transformation and programs for prenatal through age three.
- Vic Cohn and his late wife, Ellen Cohn, graciously donated four Frederick Brown art pieces to add to MetroHealth's curated collection in The Glick Center.
- Sameer Kishore, president and CEO of Milestone Technologies Inc., made a transformational gift to the MetroHealth Autism Assessment Clinic (MAAC).
- The Fred A. Lennon Charitable Trust gave a transformational three-year challenge grant to support the MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute's Functional Electrical Stimulation program.
- Gilead Sciences, Inc. has provided a major gift for The Focus on Cleveland program, which supports HIV and Hepatitis C screenings throughout The MetroHealth System and the Cuyahoga County Jail.

NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS



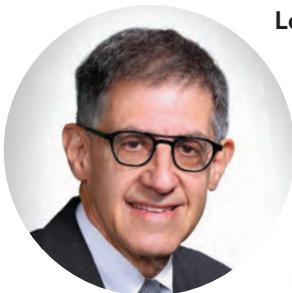
Dolores (Lola) Garcia is an attorney and partner at Ulmer & Berne LLC, where she counsels business clients both before and after litigation arises on wide-ranging issues involving business disputes, commercial contract interpretation, and compliance issues. She was recently named to *The Best Lawyers in America* and received the Trailblazer

Award from Case Western Reserve University's Latinx Law Students Association in 2023. Garcia also serves on the boards of Say Yes Cleveland, SPACES and Providence House.



Dr. Lisa Ramirez is a clinical psychologist, Associate Director of Pediatric Psychology at MetroHealth and Director of Community and Behavioral Health in MetroHealth's award-winning School Health Program. She is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. A MetroHealth employee

for more than a decade, Dr. Ramirez was named one of Crain's Cleveland Business's Notable Latino Leaders in 2023 and received a Gage Award from America's Essential Hospitals for her work in the School Health Program.



Lawrence Mack made his career in finance at KeyBank and recently retired as executive vice president. His volunteer work includes serving as past board chair of Montefiore; board member at the Mandel Jewish Community Center; past board member, member of the audit committee and chair of the cash committee at the Jewish Federation of

Cleveland; board member and b'nai mitzvah usher of The Temple-Tifereth Israel; and board member of Ohio Jewish Communities.



Dr. Luis Tollinche is Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at MetroHealth as well as Professor of Anesthesiology at Case Western Reserve University, where he teaches and supervises MetroHealth Anesthesiology Residents and oversees the Program Director for MetroHealth's Anesthesiology Residency.

Dr. Tollinche serves on several national committees in the American Society of Anesthesiologists and previously held academic and clinical appointments at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Department of Strategic Philanthropy and Community Engagement

The MetroHealth Foundation now resides within MetroHealth's Office of Strategic Philanthropy and Community Engagement. This department oversees efforts to sustain The MetroHealth System through The MetroHealth Foundation, which garners philanthropic support, and through the time, talent and trust of the greater MetroHealth community and its collaborative partners.

Meet the individuals leading MetroHealth's community health engagement:

Romona Brazile, Executive Director of Community Health Engagement and Impact

Romona Brazile joined The MetroHealth System in May 2022. In her role, she is committed to improving population health focused on equity, collaboration, community engagement and advocacy. She previously served as Interim Co-Director of Prevention & Wellness Services at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. A native Clevelander and product of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Brazile is a first-generation college graduate and holds bachelor's degrees in nursing and communication from Kent State University and Cleveland State University, respectively.

Jaime Garay, Manager, Health Equity and Outreach

Jaime Garay started his career at MetroHealth 15 years ago in the Department of Social Work where he worked with the previously incarcerated through the Community Advocacy Program (CAP), a medical-legal partnership with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. In his current role, Garay focuses on community engagement and diversifying MetroHealth's community partners. Garay earned his master's degree in social work from Cleveland State University and a master's in healthcare business administration from Baldwin Wallace University.

Rev. Dr. Tony Minor, Manager, Faith-Based Community Engagement

Dr. Minor joined the team at MetroHealth in 2018 to enhance the system's connections within Greater Cleveland's faith-based community. In his role, he manages a community-wide network of faith-based organizations to collaboratively improve the health of community members. He currently spearheads MetroHealth's Pathways to Health and Healing, a faith-based initiative designed to equip faith communities to respond to health disparities, barriers to care, community trauma, toxic stress and grief. He is a graduate of Morehouse College, holds a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center and earned his Doctor of Ministry as a Martin Luther King Scholar at the United Theological Seminary.

Margie Colon, Community Outreach Liaison

As community outreach liaison, Margie Colon has made over 200 connections within the community, where she advocates for the Latin community, MetroHealth and beyond. Known as "Pura Salsa" in the Latin community, Colon has dedicated her life to sharing her passion for dance with others and promoting her culture. After Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, Colon led a fundraiser to send support and supplies to the island. Over the last 20 years, she has been hosting annual Thanksgiving dinners for the nurses and staff at MetroHealth in honor of the care provided to her family while her young son was a patient. Her tireless dedication to her craft and her community serves as a reminder that we all have the power to make a positive impact in the world.

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Your fundraisers to benefit MetroHealth

Raise money for a cause – and have a great time doing it! From golf tournaments to lemonade stands to hosting a dinner party, there are countless ways to organize a meaningful event that benefits MetroHealth. Thanks especially to a handful of recent contributors:

- **American Cruisers** has generated more than \$10,000 in donations annually from its benefit car show, held at the GM Parma plant every spring. To enter a car in the show, the organization requests a donation to the MetroHealth Burn Care Center.
- **The Central Basin Bass Club** once again donated proceeds from its annual bass-fishing benefit tournament to MetroHealth. Over the last 25 years, the club has given a total of nearly \$50,000 in tournament proceeds to MetroHealth's Child Life and Education Program.
- **The John Patrick Carey Foundation** raised \$10,000 in 2023 to support the John Patrick Carey Fund for Pediatric Research at MetroHealth. The fund was established by Matt and Erika Carey in memory of their son, Patrick, who passed away at age six from complications of rare and complex medical issues. MetroHealth is humbled and honored that Patrick's family continues to support pediatric research to keep his memory alive and prevent future losses for families like theirs.
- **Match One Medical Marketing Consultants (pictured)** raised \$3,000 for MetroHealth's BREAST Program Gap Fund for use toward imaging appointments, transportation, and other breast-related items, like mastectomy supplies, for those who can't afford them. The donation was garnered from the company's #PINKOUTPIX fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Interested in hosting your own event to benefit MetroHealth? **Contact Lynn Iams at liams@metrohealth.org or (440) 592-1398.**