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I had a lump scare a few years ago. I was so scared. People don't know men get it too. Get screened!

— John Francese, community member, at a HEP breast cancer screening event



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It is my lifelong passion to educate people of all communities on the critical importance of maintaining good health. It was a pleasure to support the Healthcare Education Project at their community health education program outreach.

— Winnie Benjamin, entrepreneur, at a HEP health fair



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It's refreshing to sit in a familiar, safe environment such as one's church and glean information about healthcare from people you trust. HEP advocates are empowering our communities with this knowledge.

— Pastor Everette Samuel, Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church

Meet our healthcare advocates



✉ Jose.Candelario@1199funds.org

"Now more than ever we're called to defend access to healthcare as a fundamental right for all of us."

— Jose Candelario
Bronx



✉ Marcelle.Dinnall@1199funds.org

"As a healthcare advocate, I believe that education and empowerment are the levers to uplift people. Working at HEP makes this a reality."

— Marcelle Dinnall
South East Queens, including Far Rockaway



✉ Jennifer.Clarke-Craig@1199funds.org

"As a person who knows how it feels to be without health insurance, I am inspired to speak for those who have no voice on healthcare issues."

— Jennifer Clarke-Craig
Brooklyn



✉ Jenny.Palaguachi@1199funds.org

"Working in the community to protect and advocate for access to affordable and quality healthcare is HEP's goal as well as mine."

— Jenny Palaguachi
Staten Island and South Brooklyn



✉ Victoria.Coit@1199funds.org

"Working at HEP gives me access to information that affects the core of the community, and a platform to organize and engage community members."

— Victoria Coit
Syracuse and Central New York



✉ Susana.TorresCano@1199funds.org

"HEP is my American Dream and gives me the opportunity to challenge inequality in healthcare and educate our communities."

— Cruz Torres
Northwest Queens



✉ Sara.Couch@1199funds.org

"Healthcare is a subject I am quite passionate about. Marrying my passion with advocacy makes every day rewarding."

— Sara Couch
Capital Region



✉ Luis.Valenzuela@1199funds.org

"HEP's mission to promote and protect accessible, quality and affordable healthcare resonates with me."

— Luis Valenzuela
Long Island



✉ William.Covington@1199funds.org

"The best part of this work is working with community allies to put pressure on the political system and seeing the results: more people getting better healthcare!"

— Bill Covington
Western New York

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1199SEIU
United Healthcare Workers East

healthcare education project

Healthcare • Education • Action!

GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
GNYHA



Healthcare



Education



Action

healthcare education project

Protecting access to healthcare in New York State

Who we are

Since 1999, the Healthcare Education Project (HEP) has been delivering on its mission to protect and expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for all New Yorkers. HEP is a unique labor-management alliance between 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA). Together, the two organizations represent 350,000 healthcare workers and over 250 not-for-profit hospitals, nursing homes and home care providers.

HEP is a community-based advocacy organization that believes that healthcare is a basic right for all people. Toward this goal, it organizes communities to support progressive healthcare legislation, conducts campaigns to educate public officials and community members on healthcare issues, works to protect healthcare funding, and holds public events such as health fairs and free health screenings throughout the year.

HEP continues to be one of the most influential advocacy voices on healthcare in the country. To find out more about us, visit our website or contact our healthcare advocates in your region (see reverse).

Seventeen years of campaigns and accomplishments



1999 GNYHA and 1199SEIU form HEP. It pushes for funding to create Family Health Plus, which is enacted in 2000.



2000 "Cover Every Child" campaign in NYC launched to increase enrollment in the Child Health Plus (CHP) insurance program.

2001 HEP and over 50 diverse organizations urge New York State to provide low-income legal immigrants access to Medicaid and Family Health Plus.

2002 Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Act passed.

2003 \$1.9 billion in proposed Medicaid cuts restored to hospitals and nursing homes in Governor Pataki's budget.

2004 HEP organizes a door-to-door community outreach program to enroll adults and their children in FHP and CHP.



2005 \$800 million in cuts and new taxes to hospitals averted, as well as over \$450 million to nursing homes, in Governor Pataki's budget.

2006 Healthcare cuts averted in Governor Spitzer's budget.

Dramatic expansion of CHP for all under-19 children, including those who are undocumented.

2007 Medicaid enrollment campaign directed at eligible immigrants launched.

2008 HEP campaign averts \$200 billion in federal cuts over five years that were aimed at New York State hospitals.



2011 ACA summit in New York City brings together 120 stakeholders from around the state. This is the kick-off for annual ACA regional statewide summits.

HEP "takes over" Beltway Metro stations with ads opposing federal hospital cuts.

2012 HEP holds year-round public educational events on the health risks of sugary drinks and their link to obesity and diabetes, which are two major public health problems in New York State.



2013 Ebola educational session featuring a Centers for Disease Control presentation held for over 5,000 healthcare workers and hospital executives.

HEP runs major media ads in Washington, DC, to remind Congress about Ebola preparedness costs borne by hospitals, and ads in New York City thanking healthcare workers for their efforts.

2014 HEP runs "No More Hospital Cuts" ads in Washington, DC, opposing proposed federal healthcare cuts.



2015 Breast cancer awareness campaign launched statewide to inform the public about New York State's free breast cancer screenings initiative and to drive calls to the state's hotline.



2016 HEP plays an active role both in New York and nationally in preventing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and cuts to Medicaid funding.

