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

"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

"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

“Women now, women need to demand access to healthcare as a fundamental right at all ages”

— Jamaa Statler, Nurse

"I try to raise havoc that women have a right to a healthy womb. I am hopeful we can do this because women are so vital in healthcare teams”

— Joanna Chey, Social Worker

“Working at HEP, I have learned that every school is a microcosm of society and the issues that our students are facing is a microcosm of society.”

— Yvonne Corder-O’Connell, Nurse Practitioner

"Healthcare is a public good, one that needs protection. Everyone needs coverage at affordable rates and everyone needs access now.”

— Susan Statler, Community Health Worker

"Healthcare is a must, working with a community allows you to empower your neighbors and help them navigate healthcare systems.”

— Terri Clark, Community Health Worker

"I am proud to work with a community about our rights to a healthy body, mind, and spirit. We have a right to be healthy.”

— Dr. T. Imogene, Women’s Health

"As a Healthcare advocate I help educate and empower people when it applies to HEP’s issues. I am happy to do so!”

— Anthony Waddell

"Working for the community to young people + getting people who are uninsured afford health insurance in New York and who can afford so!”

— Jamie Blandford

"As someone who knows as a child of a healthcare professional, I know what it is like to have access to health care.”

— Nena F. Blandford, Attorney

"HEP now has the opportunity to give back to the health care and educate our communities.”

— Filip Sassert, Community Health Worker

"HEP is now a true 501c3 and now the opportunity to educate people on healthcare access and educate our communities.”

— Jenny Palaguachi

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

— Luis Valenzuela

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

— Cruz Torres

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

— Luis Valenzuela

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

— Luis Valenzuela
Who we are

Since 1999, the Healthcare Education Project (HEP) has been delivering on its mission to improve health and provide 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, they 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: 1199SEIU and GNYHA form HEP. It pushes for funding to create Family Health Plus, which is enacted in 2000.
- 2000: HEP and over 50 diverse organizations launch the “Cover Every Child” campaign in NYC to increase enrollment in the Child Health Plus (CHP) insurance program.
- 2001: HEP and GNYHA form GNYHA Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Act passed.
- 2002: $6 billion in proposed Medicaid cuts restored to hospitals and nursing homes in Governor Pataki’s budget.
- 2003: HEP runs successful campaign in support of Governor Cuomo’s Medicaid Redesign Team recommendations.
- 2004: 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.
- 2005: Medicaid expansion campaign launched as eligible immigrants enrolled in Governor Pataki’s budget.
- 2006: HEP campaigns against the governor’s proposed federal healthcare cuts.
- 2007: HEP runs “No More Hospital Cuts” ads in Washington, DC, opposing proposed federal healthcare cuts.
- 2008: HEP plays an active role in Washington and New York opposing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and cuts to Medicaid funding.
- 2009: Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Act passed.
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- 2014: Medicaid expansion campaign launched as eligible immigrants enrolled in Governor Pataki’s budget.
- 2015: Medicaid expansion campaign launched as eligible immigrants enrolled in Governor Pataki’s budget.
- 2016: Medicaid expansion campaign launched as eligible immigrants enrolled in Governor Pataki’s budget.
- 2017: Medicaid expansion campaign launched as eligible immigrants enrolled in Governor Pataki’s budget.
- 2018: Medicaid expansion campaign launched as eligible immigrants enrolled in Governor Pataki’s budget.

More than 50 million in care and new taxes to hospitals avoided, as well as $1.9 billion in proposed Medicaid cuts restored to hospitals and nursing homes in Governor Pataki’s budget.

HEP builds four 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.

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” Grand Central Terminal with ads opposing federal healthcare cuts.

$800 million in cuts and new taxes to hospitals avoided, as well as $1.9 billion in proposed Medicaid cuts restored to hospitals and nursing homes in Governor Pataki’s budget.

ACA regional statewide summits.

Medicaid expansion campaign launched as eligible immigrants enrolled in Governor Pataki’s budget.

HEP plays an active role in Washington and New York opposing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and cuts to Medicaid funding.

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

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).