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**Our Vision:**
A world free of lung disease.
Your Lung Health Champion

If the past year has taught us anything, it’s that threats to our lungs have never been so acute. That’s why the mission of the American Lung Association, as your trusted champion for lung health, is more important than ever.

Never have we faced so many challenges to our lung health, including lung cancer, COPD, asthma, RSV, the flu, smoke from increased wildfires, vaping and more. The ever-evolving threat of COVID-19 has cemented its place among that long list of ongoing risks to lung health that our dedicated volunteers and staff work year-round to reduce or eliminate for all Americans.

We have doubled down on our efforts to help all of us breathe easier. Lung health research is more important than ever, which is why we have again increased our research investment and expanded the breadth of our research program. We’ve launched new research grants, expanded our Airways Clinical Research Centers network and to improve diversity in research funding and began sponsoring a scholar in the prestigious Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program.

Our commitment to you in the year ahead is to continue to be your trusted leader in lung health. We will also continue to be excellent stewards of your donations, with 90 cents of every dollar going to program services that support our lifesaving mission. With you as our most valuable partner, our vision of a world free of lung disease can become a reality.

When you can’t breathe, nothing else matters.
As part of our effort to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion across our organization, we hired a Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the American Lung Association. This is in addition to our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council which has done so much to advance our mission in all communities.

Throughout the year we have celebrated the diverse history of both our country and our organization, through our publications, events, advocacy and educational outreach. We’ve honored the contributions of diverse communities to lung health over our long history and redoubled our efforts to support the lung health needs of diverse and under-served communities across the country.

Through the work of our DEI Council, we were proud to recognize observances honoring many diverse groups, like Indigenous Peoples Day, PRIDE Month and Hispanic Heritage Month. During Black History Month, we presented a “Spotlight Series” of partners who make significant contributions to lung health in the Black community, and for Women’s History Month we unveiled an updated webpage highlighting trailblazing women in public health. Throughout the year, our Each Breath Blog series celebrated the contributions of Asian Americans, Jewish Americans and many others.

We also worked to expand our Breathe Well, Live Well asthma program to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), such as Alcorn State University and Florida A&M, and promoted our grants and our overall mission and philosophy to encourage more grant applicants from HBCUs.
Improving Diversity in Respiratory Care
We began sponsoring a scholar in pulmonary medicine in the prestigious Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program, developed to increase the number of faculty from historically marginalized backgrounds pursuing careers in medicine, dentistry or nursing.

Improving Access to Lung Cancer Clinical Trials
The Black community is disproportionately impacted by lung cancer and underrepresented in lung cancer clinical trials. Our campaign “Awareness, Trust and Action” worked to close this gap by educating about lung cancer clinical trials and empowering all lung cancer patients, including Black Americans, to participate. This project was made possible by support from AstraZeneca, Bristol Meyers Squibb, Genentech and Merck.

Increasing Information Access for More Americans:
We expanded our website to the 10 most-used languages in the U.S. to educate more people about COVID-19, lung cancer and other lung diseases. Lung.org is now available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese (simplified Mandarin), Filipino, French, German, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese.
As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in this country, our response has adapted as well. Our COVID-19 Action Initiative continued to show real impact as the catalyst for new COVID advocacy, outreach and the COVID-19 and Respiratory Virus Research Award which provides funding of $100,000 a year for two years.

As a founding partner of the White House Vaccination Task Force, we invited Americans to become an American Lung Association Vaccine Ambassador by downloading our Vaccine Toolkit and using its information to educate their family and friends about the importance of lifesaving COVID vaccinations. Our Better For It toolkit also continued outreach to populations that are historically hesitant about vaccinations to help them make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccination.

In September 2021, our COVID Relief Freedom From Smoking® (FFS) Plus Program provided a 1-year free membership to Freedom From Smoking Plus to hundreds who wanted to quit smoking during the pandemic.

Our Lungcast™ podcast series, presented in partnership with HCPLive, continued to provide healthcare professionals with the latest science in COVID-19 and other lung health topics and including sessions on COPD, lung cancer screening, sleep apnea and more.

Throughout the year, our growing and engaged social audience relied on us to give them information they could trust across our social channels: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.
Reducing Mask Confusion
To reduce misinformation and confusion about mask use during the pandemic, we produced a series of communications explaining the types of masks and their proper use, including this widely-shared infographic.

Long COVID Support
In October 2021, we were pleased to announce the launch of new online community called Living with Long COVID. This community allows those facing long COVID and their loved ones to connect with other people in their shoes for peer-to-peer support. It joins our ten other online support communities. The full list is available at Lung.org/community. Additionally, our Better Breathers Clubs began welcoming those with Long COVID symptoms into their online and in-person support groups.

Increasing Vaccination Rates in Children
With COVID vaccines approved for children over 6 months old, we hosted a National Roundtable on Increasing Vaccination Rates in Children in October 2021. This virtual roundtable featured policy, medical and public health experts to discuss strategies on increasing vaccination rates in youth and adolescents. We then produced this easy-to-read summary to help families, friends, and coworkers communicate the benefits of vaccinating children in their communities.
Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the U.S., a fact many Americans are still unaware of. Our LUNG FORCE initiative continues to raise awareness, fund research, provide education, support patients and caregivers and unite Americans against lung cancer and for better lung health.

In November 2021, we observed Lung Cancer Awareness Month, a crucial time in the effort to defeat lung cancer, sharing new lung cancer resources, inspiring patient stories and lifesaving lung cancer screening information. Our Lung Health Barometer surveyed 4,000 women and men about their awareness and understanding of lung cancer. See what it found.

Radon, a radioactive gas found in many homes and other buildings, is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer. During January, National Radon Action Month, and throughout the year, we encourage everyone to test their homes for radon. Once detected, there are cost-effective ways to reduce that risk. The Lung Association has played a pivotal role in reducing radon exposure in America and led the effort to create the new five-year National Radon Action Plan with the goal of reducing health inequities to protect all Americans from radon exposure.

On April 6, LUNG FORCE Advocacy Day, LUNG FORCE Heroes—those personally affected by lung cancer—held virtual meetings from across the country with their members of Congress about the urgent need to address lung cancer. They asked Congress to support $49 billion in research funding for the National Institutes of Health and $11 billion in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They also urged them to make quality healthcare more affordable for millions of Americans by making the expanded premium tax credits permanent.
Turquoise Takeover
May saw our Turquoise Takeover 2022 celebration. From coast to coast, landmarks, news anchors and LUNG FORCE supporters turned turquoise, the signature color of LUNG FORCE, in support of ending lung cancer. Over 150 landmarks illuminated in turquoise including LAX Airport, One World Trade Center, The Willis Tower Niagara Falls and this stunning laser display at Hoover Dam!

PSA Links Hope and Early Detection
In May, we released, in partnership with the Ad Council, a new PSA—A Hope Story. This powerful public service announcement is part of a third round of creative for our “Saved By The Scan” campaign to raise awareness of lifesaving lung cancer screening. The campaign generated over 140,000 quiz completions and garnered $12.8 million in donated media in FY22.

‘State of Lung Cancer’ Report
In November 2021, we released our annual “State of Lung Cancer” report, which examines key lung cancer indicators in each state. This year’s report revealed that lung cancer survival has increased but remains significantly lower for people of color. The report is an important opportunity for the public, federal and state leaders to better understand how they can help turn the tide against lung cancer.

Special Cancer Research Award
Kellie Smith, PhD, of Johns Hopkins University, was awarded our first-ever Pierre Massion Lung Cancer Discovery Award, in honor of Dr. Massion’s legacy. Dr. Smith hopes to find a way to prevent or delay relapses in patients with early-stage non-small cell lung cancer. Learn about her innovative research and how she inspires other women researchers on our Each Breath blog.
Ensuring clean air is a cornerstone of our mission because clean air is essential for healthy lungs. The American Lung Association works to ensure that the air we breathe is clean and safe from harmful pollution. Healthy air was even more important during the COVID-19 pandemic as research showed that exposure to air pollution was linked to worsened impacts from COVID-19.

This year we funded multiple research projects that will build our understanding of the many ways air pollution impacts the lungs. And we continue to advocate for strong policies to clean up air pollution and curb climate change. We work to educate the public, media and our nation’s leaders about the harmful effect dirty air has on health and what we need to do to clean it up.

In late 2021, we saw the impact of our clean air advocacy with two important actions on ozone and methane pollution. First, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its decision to reconsider the inadequate ozone standard that the previous administration adopted. The Lung Association and partners sued EPA over the weak standard and urged the agency to do a reconsideration. We also advocated to reduce pollution from the oil and gas sector, including methane emissions that are rapidly accelerating climate change and toxic air pollution. In November 2021, EPA released a proposed rule to cut methane and other harmful pollutants from new and existing oil and gas operations.

Climate change has made wildfires more frequent and severe. We addressed the ever-worsening threat of wildfires in a new report that weighs the benefits and risks of prescribed fires to reduce health harms of catastrophic wildfires. Fueled by climate change, wildfires are increasingly exposing more Americans to the potentially deadly effects of breathing wildfire smoke. We also updated our resources on how individuals can protect themselves from wildfire smoke at: Lung.org/wildfires.

In December 2021, we celebrated a clear victory when EPA finalized stronger cleaner cars standards that strengthen limits on greenhouse gas emissions for light-duty vehicles for model years 2023-2026. However, we were disappointed by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of West Virginia v. EPA, which limits EPA’s authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from coal and oil-fired power plants. We continue to advocate for EPA to fully implement the Clean Air Act to protect the public from climate change.
Zeroing in on Healthy Air
We continued our focus on reducing tailpipe pollution with the release of our “Zeroing in on Healthy Air” report on the health and climate benefits of a widespread shift to zero-emission cars, buses and trucks and clean, non-combustion electricity. It shines a light on the 110,000 lives that could be saved, the value of climate impacts avoided and more.

Promoting Zero-Emission School Buses at U.S. Capitol
As part of our advocacy efforts to convince Congress to invest in transitioning school buses nationwide from diesel to electric, we held a stand-up press conference on September 14, 2021 on Capitol Hill. With an electric school bus as our backdrop, Senator Tom Carper, other members of Congress, and representatives from national children’s health and nursing organizations joined us to speak. Each highlighted the health benefits of zero-emission, electric school buses and called on Congress to make the switch. A letter signed by 500 health professionals and sent to Congress helped drive the point home.

‘State of the Air’
On April 21, we released the 23rd edition of our annual “State of the Air” report. This year’s report showed that despite some nationwide progress on cleaning up air pollution, more than 40% of Americans live with unhealthy ozone or particle pollution. The report finds that people of color are significantly more likely to breathe polluted air than white people. As the nation works to address climate change and continue reducing air pollution, we must prioritize the health of disproportionately burdened communities. How’s the air where you live? Find out now.
We are the trusted champions for patients with lung disease and their caregivers. We understand the unique challenges they face and work year-round to improve their quality of life. Our work helps patients understand and manage their conditions and make critical treatment decisions. We're also working to make sure they have affordable, quality healthcare and we invest in research to find new ways to prevent, treat and cure lung diseases.

Asthma makes breathing difficult for millions of Americans, including 5.5 million children. This year, we published our new Indoor Air Quality in Schools Guide and updated and continued our other asthma resources including our Asthma Friendly Schools online module, Kickin’ Asthma, Open Airways for Schools and much more.

Our Airways Clinical Research Centers (ACRC) Network is the nation’s largest not-for-profit network of clinical centers in the country dedicated to asthma and COPD research. ACRC conducts large patient-focused clinical trials with the goal of having a near-term impact of lung health. This year, we published the results of our major National Institutes of Health funded clinical trial, Asthma BMI Baseline Study (ABBS), which evaluated asthma symptoms and the impact on quality of life for people who have poorly controlled asthma with an elevated body mass index (BMI). It concluded that interventions are seriously needed to improve life quality for those with poorly controlled asthma and obesity.

We increased research funding, investing $13.2 million to accelerate lung health research for 2021-2022. Our annual Advancing Research publication illustrated our ongoing research initiatives, from patient stories to scientific articles, and researcher profiles and created a new way to keep up with our cutting-edge research program with our Research News webpage.

Throughout the year, we continued to create new and strengthen existing support resources for lung disease patients, such as our Better Breathers Network. We also expanded our online support communities adding a group for those with Long-COVID symptoms.
First-Ever Millennial Lung Health Study Now Enrolling

Lung disease is a leading cause of death in the U.S. This year, enrollment expanded for the The American Lung Association Lung Health Cohort—the first-ever large-scale lung health study tracking 4,000 young adults (ages 25-35) during their peak lung health. The Lung Association's Airways Clinical Research Centers (ACRC) Network is conducting the research by working closely with researchers at prominent medical institutions across the country. IRB00236497 | Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Sugar

Little Airways, Big Voices
To bring the voice of families impacted by asthma in childhood to the forefront of drug development and research, we teamed up with the Allergy & Asthma Network, American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders, and Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America to create “Little Airways, Big Voices.” We began by hosting a public patient-focused drug development (PFDD) meeting in September 2021, to hear from patients and caregivers about what's most important to them in asthma treatment development.

Fend Off the Flu
Our new Fend Off Flu educational campaign set out to increase influenza knowledge and vaccination rates. This educational campaign aims to reach those disparately affected and increase influenza knowledge and acceptance, especially communities at higher risk of influenza infection and complications.

Quality and affordable healthcare access is crucial to all Americans, especially lung disease patients. In July 2021, we hosted our Leading for Lungs Day of Action to urge Congress to further expand access to quality and affordable healthcare and make transformative investments in clean energy, clean transportation and environmental justice to address air pollution and climate change. Lung Association volunteer advocates held 12 virtual meetings with key Senate offices, and many more joined in with our new tool that makes it easy and automatic to connect with your members of Congress.

When healthcare enrollment opened, and then expanded at healthcare.gov, we rolled out a series of updated tools to help people understand their choices and the enrollment process.
Creating a tobacco-free future for America is a core part of our mission. Tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke causes more than 480,000 deaths every year in the U.S. and tragically, each day thousands of kids still pick up a tobacco product for the first time. E-cigarettes are tobacco products and they are being used at epidemic proportions by young people, threatening to addict another generation to nicotine. The American Lung Association has committed $2 million toward research to understand the alarming effects of vaping on kids and find a solution to vaping related lung injury.

As part of our education and awareness efforts on youth vaping, we continued promoting our “Get Your Head Out of the Cloud” campaign, produced in collaboration with the Ad Council. This campaign reached 160,000 American parents with facts and guidance on how to have the vape talk with their kids.

In August 2021, we announced the Vape-Free Schools Scholarship Fund, a new effort to fund schools’ implementation of our Vape-Free Schools Initiative, so that more kids can access cessation, support and education. The scholarship drive sought to raise funds to give schools across the country access to online training and resources to help students quit vaping. The Vape-Free Schools Initiative includes Not On Tobacco® (N-O-T) our voluntary quit smoking program for teens and INDEPTH: An Alternative to Teen Nicotine Suspension or Citation | American Lung Association.

We also launched NOT for Me, a web-based program that gives students the tools to quit smoking or vaping. It teaches teens about the importance of physical activity, nutrition, enhancing their sense of self-control and more.

As the new year rolled around, we encouraged smokers to keep their New Year’s resolution to quit, and start a tobacco-free life in 2022 providing tools and support to help, including our Lung HelpLine and Tobacco QuitLine (1-800-LUNGUSA), Freedom From Smoking® program and support groups.
New Study: Young E-Cigarette Users Develop Wheezing, Other Symptoms
A new Lung Association study, published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, revealed that young adults who used e-cigarettes were more likely to develop respiratory issues within one year of vaping than those who do not use e-cigarettes. The study’s findings underscore the importance of the Lung Association’s work to end youth vaping. Learn more.

‘State of Tobacco Control’ 2022
Our 20th Annual “State of Tobacco Control” report celebrated the progress we’ve made over the last two decades to create a tobacco-free future but found that products like e-cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products create concern for losing another generation to tobacco, including vaping. The report also called on the Biden administration to remove menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars from the marketplace. Just three months after the release of our report, the FDA proposed removing these harmful and highly addictive products from the market.

Halting Vaping Among Latino Teens
As a member of the Lung Association’s Research Team, Francisco Cartujano, MD, received our 2021-2022 Catalyst Award for his project, “Kick Vaping: A Vaping Cessation Text Messaging Intervention for Latino Young Adults.” The project aims to develop and evaluate the practicality and effectiveness of his Kick Vaping initiative, a text messaging intervention to help Latino young adults stop vaping.
From the very beginning, the American Lung Association has been a volunteer-driven organization. Today, volunteers are still at the very heart of our organization. We take great pride in the generosity and dedication they show year after year, gathering together across the country and devoting their precious free time to support our special events.

This past year, we returned to in-person events, while always keeping the health and safety of our participants and event volunteers as the top priority. Indoor stair climbs moved outdoors to parks, landmarks and sports stadiums, like Soldier Field in Chicago, PNC Park in Pittsburgh, Busch Stadium in St. Louis and Raymond James Stadium in Tampa.

Top events for the year included our Detroit Climb, Boston Climb, Milwaukee Climb, Scale the Strat in Las Vegas, and our largest event, the 38th Annual Trek Across Maine. Our LUNG FORCE Walks and Run/Walks continued from coast to coast, and our 41st Annual Corporate Cup took over the streets of Omaha Nebraska.

We want to thank the thousands of selfless, energetic and creative volunteers that proved once again that America has a passion for healthy lungs and loves getting active to support our mission.

On the Move For Lung Cancer
Once again, our volunteers showed their unflagging spirit by participating in LUNG FORCE Walks and Run/Walks across the country. These incredible events allowed them to celebrate our power to bring about positive change by committing to end lung cancer and honor the memory of those we’ve lost and lift up those who need our support.
Champions Unite to Support Lung Health

We teamed up with Southern California professional athletes to host Champions Unite. Champions Unite is a one-of-a-kind off-field talent show to support lung health for all. Players from the San Diego Padres, Los Angeles Dodgers, Clippers, Lakers and more competed in a fun way to show off their talent and support lung health.

Fight For Air Climb Firefighter Calendar

Every year, thousands of firefighters from across the country participate in our Fight For Air Climb, to raise awareness and funds to support our vision of a world free of lung disease. Our popular Firefighter Calendar returned for a second year to celebrate these firefighters and our mission to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease! And this year, Perry, one of the featured firefighters, wrote a blog about why he supports the Lung Association.

American Lung Association E-Store

Our E-store, was restocked with all-new American Lung Association and LUNG FORCE branded clothing and other items that support our mission through each merchandise purchase. This year, more and more of our event participants came sporting their new Lung Association gear.
Lifesaving Research
Nothing spread hope like research because research holds the promise of a healthier tomorrow for us and future generations. Your donation makes our broad spectrum of research. With your help, we are funding the brightest medical minds to unlock the secrets of COVID-19, lung cancer, asthma, COPD, pulmonary fibrosis and many others to make them things of the past.

Reliable Information and Resources
With your donation, you make it possible for the Lung Association to be the trusted source for information and support needed by lung disease patients and their caregivers. Resources like our Better Breathers Network and Lung HelpLine and Tobacco Quitline (1-800-LUNGUSA) help people learn how to protect their lungs, understand their lung disease, manage their symptoms, make treatment decisions and more. Our Vape Free Schools Initiative and other tools are helping kids turn their back on vaping and smoking. And our ever-growing storehouse of educational and support resources for patients and caregivers is constantly improving and adapting to their needs.

Using the Law to Protect Your Health
Through your generous support, our advocacy efforts make your voice heard at the local, state and national level. The advocacy efforts of both volunteers and staff support and defend laws that protect our lungs. We make sure the law shields children from deadly air pollution and tobacco products, protects quality and affordable healthcare for people with lung disease, champions increased federal medical research spending and so much more.

A Top-Rated Charity
We are also a proud holder of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Guide Seal, a Platinum rating from GuideStar and membership in the National Health Council. We also hold the top 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest independent charity evaluator. This places the American Lung Association among the very top of U.S. non-profits.
Working Together to Save Lives by Improving Lung Health and Preventing Lung Disease

The American Lung Association gratefully acknowledges the companies and foundations that have provided financial support in fiscal year 2022 for our lifesaving mission. Their support not only helps fuel our mission, but also demonstrates their trust in the American Lung Association to make a real difference in the health of Americans.

Corporations and Foundations

- CVS Health
- 3M
- Elevance Health Foundation
- DIYHERO
- Energy Foundation
- HCSC Health Care Service Corporation
- Pfizer
- sanofi
- Electric School Bus Initiative
- World Resources Institute
Corporations and Foundations (continued)
Cause Marketing Supporters

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Health Industry Council

American Lung Association Health Industry Council members are fellow champions of lung health. Meeting twice yearly, at exclusive networking opportunities among corporate leaders, they gain meaningful and relevant information on policy, research and patient education and support efforts.
For nearly 120 years, we’ve earned the trust of our donors, as good stewards of their support, who will put their gifts to the best possible use. Our work directly touches more than 25 million Americans each year and supports millions of Americans with our pioneering model of education, advocacy and research. Out of every dollar donated, 90 cents go to our lifesaving mission.

Where Your Money Goes

As a Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance Accredited Charity, the American Lung Association values financial accountability and is committed to transparency with our donors and the general public. We also hold a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, a Platinum rating from GuideStar and are a member of the National Health Council.

FY21 National Financial Documents
- 2022 Audited Financials
The American Lung Association is governed by a dedicated and diverse volunteer Board of Directors and managed by an experienced team of staff who guide its lifesaving mission daily.

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