

## **Tufts Health Plan Foundation celebrates 10 years of investing in communities**

In its first decade of operations, the Tufts Health Plan Foundation has invested more than \$31 million in community grants in Mass., N.H. and R.I. Established in 2008, the Foundation promotes health and wellness with a focus on older people.

The Foundation is the only regional funder focused exclusively on healthy aging. Grants fund efforts to create vibrant, inclusive communities—cities and towns that are great places to grow up and grow old.

Emphasizing a collaborative and inclusive approach, the Foundation is a convener, collaborator and thought partner.

“We fund age-friendly work that is relevant and reflects what communities want,” said Nora Moreno Cargie, president of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation and vice president of corporate citizenship for Tufts Health Plan. “Each community follows its own path. Some towns focus on nutrition and access to healthy foods; others start with transportation or housing or civic engagement. What’s important is that older people are included in the process.”

The Foundation supports several local efforts. Some of these include Age-Friendly Berkshires, Age-Friendly Boston, and Age-Friendly Lawrence in Massachusetts; the Local Initiative Support Corporation’s intergenerational farmers’ markets in several Rhode Island communities, and the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission’s work to create age-friendly communities in the Manchester region.

At the state level, the Foundation has been a leading funder of the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative and Age-Friendly Rhode Island. The Foundation also supports the Alliance for Healthy Aging in New Hampshire.

Moreno Cargie serves on the Governor’s Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts and co-chairs the group’s transportation workgroup. Lydia Greene, Tufts Health Plan’s chief human resources officer, serves on the council’s age-friendly employers’ workgroup.

Visit the Foundation website to learn more about our [work](#) and view a full list of community investments.

### **New mini-grant program**

To celebrate Tufts Health Plan Foundation’s first decade in community, The Momentum Fund, a new mini-grants program this year. This fund will support age-friendly and dementia-friendly work in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Grants of up to \$10,000 will advance early-stage initiatives and innovative efforts; \$100,000 has been allocated for each state.

“There is momentum in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island to create stronger communities for all generations, but communities often find it challenging to secure resources to support early-stage initiatives and innovative efforts,” said the Foundation’s Senior Program Officer Phillip Gonzalez. “The Foundation created the Momentum Fund to address this gap.

The first Momentum Fund grants were announced in late October. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

## Employees caring about community distinguishes our brand

Throughout the year, Tufts Health Plan employees demonstrate their commitment to community.

During our annual Volunteer Day, 773 employees completed 2,100 hours of service through 35 community organizations in four states. That was a 48 percent increase in participation over last year. And it doesn't stop there. Employees volunteer all year long—our goal is to complete 10,000 hours of community service this year to mark the Foundation's 10 years.

Recognizing that community—where we live, work and play—influences health, our community service programs focus on addressing social factors—that play a role in determining health—economic stability, housing, hunger, neighborhood and built environment, and education.

Through drives, employees give generously to support this work. So far this year, employees have donated more than 1,200 lbs. of food for those served by the New Hampshire Food Bank, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and the Watertown Food Pantry. Household items —valued at more than \$5,000—were donated to help people experiencing homelessness as they settle into new homes. Items included baskets and buckets of cleaning supplies, paper goods and toiletries, new toasters, coffeemakers, cookware, sheets and towels. Donations went to clients of Amos House in Providence, and Hearth and HomeStart in Massachusetts. Employees again stepped up during our annual back to school drive. They generously donated 138 backpacks filled with school supplies, valued at more than \$10,000. Donations went to the Cambridge Salvation Army, the Home for Little Wanderers, the Walker School and Watertown Boys & Girls Club. In Rhode Island, the Boys and Girls Club of Providence's received 500 backpacks filled with school supplies to students during the organization's annual Block Party.



Volunteer Day 2018

## **Report highlights Tufts Health Plan Leadership in corporate citizenship**

Tufts Health Plan's corporate citizenship report, [\*What It Means to Lead\*](#), shows how we've deepened our commitment to our values, our employees and our community while also redefining the future of health care.

We are proud to share the stories of how our company puts words into action, the innovative business practices that distinguish us, and how our products and services are breaking barriers to access. Our community engagement distinguishes our brand.

We hope you will take a minute to read the [report](#).