



Delivering health, social, and economic solutions every day—and for every person.

Annual Report, 2019 Forward

You are the foundation of Denver's health.

At the heart of a rapidly changing city sits an institution that cares enough to change with it—Denver Health. For over 160 years, Denver Health has taken on every challenge to become a springboard for health, opportunity, and well-being for everyone in Denver. Thanks to visionary donors, Denver Health's doors are open in every corner of our community, and its heart never closes. Denver Health runs ahead of the pace of innovation needed for our growing and diverse city. This annual report is the story of our donors, whose work in 2019 at the intersection of health, social justice, and economic opportunity laid the foundation for public health during a pandemic—and provided hope for a better life for all in the future. See how your contributions make a difference:

[Anchor Institution](#)

[Events](#)

[At a Glance](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Stories of Impact](#)

Click on the links above or use your arrow keys to move through the report. Click on the Denver Health Foundation logo to return to this page from anywhere in the document. Hover over the black squares on the image corners for captions. This PDF is best viewed using [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

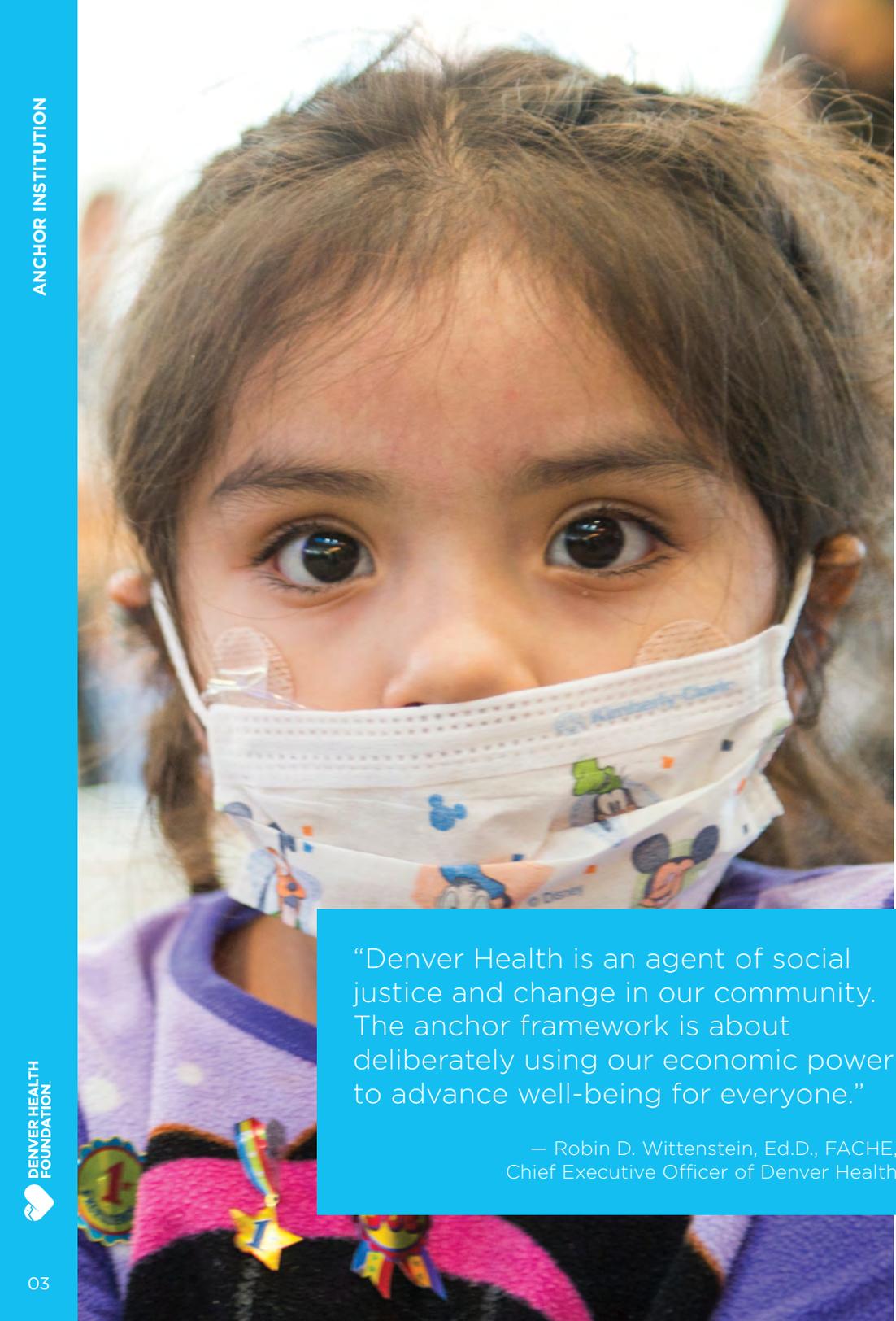


An anchor for physical, social, and economic well-being.

Lack of opportunity is a chronic disease. Denver Health treats it inside and outside our walls. Diabetes, hypertension, depression, infant mortality, and heart disease are among the chronic health conditions that disproportionately impact the most vulnerable in our community. Denver Health gives all patients a fighting chance through the exceptional care in our hospital and our 10 community health clinics. We also use our economic power as a nonprofit business to provide access to employment, housing, education, and nutrition which are at the root of too many problematic health conditions and resulting deaths.

Through partnership with our donors, Denver Health impacts social and economic determinants of health. We seek and hire diverse talent, working to ensure we outreach to communities that may not otherwise have the chance to apply. We provide professional training that puts their talent to work for all of Denver. And we use our purchasing power to support local businesses owned and operated by women and people of color.

Nobody in Denver should be at higher risk for disease and death due to racism, how much they earn, where they live, or how much food they can afford to put on the table. Our donors anchor these efforts at Denver Health, placing us at the crossroads of improving every measure of well-being for all.



“Denver Health is an agent of social justice and change in our community. The anchor framework is about deliberately using our economic power to advance well-being for everyone.”

— Robin D. Wittenstein, Ed.D., FACHE,
Chief Executive Officer of Denver Health

Tremendous impact by tremendous people.



In 2019, donors gave \$9,287,267 to support patients at Denver Health.

3,326 individuals and 325 organizations chose Denver Health as the place to make an impact.

Denver Health's 18 School-Based Health Centers cared for **12,644 students** over the past year.

Donors granted Denver Health employees **\$39,110** in career-advancing scholarships.

The Jails to Communities program provided **149 city and county inmates** with much-needed addiction therapy.

The Center for Addiction Medicine received a generous **\$750,000 grant** and, in 2019, treated **801 patients**.

1,860 Denver Health employees made personal gifts totaling \$429,000 towards the mission of the health system.

This is the story of your impact.

Education, culture, resources, and access—we know that all of these affect physical and mental health outcomes. Denver Health donors change lives by supporting the extra care beyond hospital walls that creates better health, social, and economic outcomes.

Healthy Communities

Donors impact all factors that contribute to healthier lives—from primary care to emergency services, community outreach, and behavioral health.

Social Supports

Access, prevention, and transitional housing are among the social factors that Denver Health addresses to affect health and speed healing.

Economic Opportunities

Denver Health's economic investments elevate employees and low-income communities through training, employment, and local sourcing.





The gift of a strong start in life.

Denver Health's maternity wards are filled with tears of joy and families with unlimited love but very limited resources. Donors to [Newborns in Need](#) build upon love and hope—and have a big impact by making sure every baby has the essentials for a healthy beginning. From diapers for families who cannot afford them to baby's first book—donors give new parents peace of mind that they have what they need for their infant in the earliest months. Together, we give one-third of the babies born in Denver a strong start in life. In 2019, almost 30,000 items—valued at \$117,418—were donated

“We’re just very fortunate. We’re new parents and we’re struggling. It means a lot, so thank you.”

— Mariah and Malcolm, parents of Yohupa, the first child born at Denver Health in 2020



to make sure that 3,525 newborns, 90% of whom are born to families living below the federal poverty level, went home with the essentials they need. Generous donors and more than 1,000 volunteers made sure that babies like Yohupa, the first child born this year at Denver Health, began life with a foundation of support and care.



Better mental health care for Denver's children.

Dr. Nancy Gary, a clinical psychologist, has dedicated her career to providing physical and mental health care to children and families in Denver. She knows that caring for a child's mental health sets them up for success in life, with measurably better outcomes in health, learning, and personal accomplishment. She sees how instability and traumatic experiences in childhood can cause significant social and emotional challenges. Knowing how hard it is for many families to find needed mental health care for their young children, Dr. Gary chose to make an impact at Denver Health.

“Infant mental health supports are scarce. Denver Health's infant mental health program has the power to create a long-term difference in young children's lives.”

— Dr. Nancy Gary



Her giving ensures services like postpartum depression screenings for mothers, social/emotional development screenings for young children, and substance abuse treatment for parents are available to Denver families. Thanks to generous donors like Dr. Gary, Denver Health's infant mental health program provides all young children and their families access to family-friendly, trauma-informed care—regardless of their financial means.

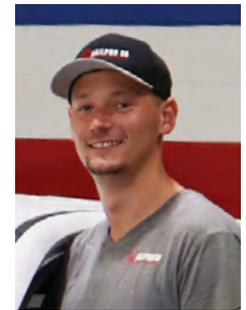


Fighting Opioid Use Disorder with healthy innovation.

Addiction can take everything away from you—your health, career, home, relationships, and even your freedom. When addiction results in incarceration, it can seem impossible to overcome. But with the help of a unique Denver Health program, former inmates like Nathan Evans can rebuild their lives. The Jails to Communities program treats inmates suffering from Opioid Use Disorder. Doctors make certain that inmates leave incarceration sober and with the right resources for recovery by providing medication and therapy while in prison and seamless connection to ongoing care after release. Jails to Communities is one of many initiatives in which Denver Health works outside hospital walls

“When I got help from the program, that was definitely the light at the end of the tunnel that let me see my future as what it could be, what it should be.”

— Nathan Evans, Jails to Communities participant



to remove barriers and produce breakthrough health outcomes. All of it is made possible by donors who act as a foundation for innovation and service. A generous \$750,000 gift from The Denver Foundation’s Colorado Health Access Fund allows Denver Health’s Center for Addiction Medicine to help patients like Nathan fight addiction—no matter where they are. Every patient is treated with respect and given the right supports to serve as a springboard for getting their lives on track—and staying on track.



The gift of life-changing epilepsy care for all.

A person's resources should not determine the quality of care they or their loved ones receive for a life-altering condition. Donors like the Gordon family make this a reality in Denver, especially when it comes to cutting-edge treatment for epilepsy.

Brooke Gordon's diagnosis of epilepsy at age 17 was the beginning of a journey to manage and treat the condition that she still lives with today. She knows first-hand the importance that quality care plays. The Gordons recognized that not everyone can afford the best treatment and saw the potential for Denver Health to deliver this critical care to those with a severe seizure disorder.

“Denver Health is an institution that is absolutely essential for vulnerable populations to get the medical help they need, no matter their ability to pay.”

— Brooke and Tom Gordon



Their transformational gift to The Brooke Gordon Epilepsy Center enabled the acquisition of state-of-the-art surgical equipment, i.e., robotic stereotactic assistance (ROSA)—elevating patient care and providing a foundation for managing their condition and living a full life. This gift helps Denver Health achieve its mission to provide care and hope to each and every person, each and every day.



“People who make it to the U.S. to seek asylum are among the strongest, most resilient people I know. They have fled war and violence and left their culture and family to seek safety. This takes a degree of inner strength beyond anything I know.”

— Dr. Janine Young, Medical Director of the
[Denver Health Refugee Clinic](#)

Refugees find safety and asylum with the support of Denver Health.

Selam and her daughter had to leave their country in order to live safely. This is a familiar story to those who immigrate to and seek asylum in our city due to threats to their health and lives. Each story is different—all are harrowing. Donors who support Denver Health’s immigrant and refugee programs make sure these stories have happy endings. Physicians help the legal system understand clinical evidence of what refugees have endured and will face again if forced to return to their countries of origin. As a result, 80% of asylum cases are won when forensic medical evidence is presented.

Selam’s story is one of resilience and strength that illustrates the necessity of the specialized services for immigrants and refugees made possible by our donors. Despite many risks, Selam and her 11-year-old daughter Maraki left their home in Ethiopia to seek asylum in America. Denver Health completed a forensic exam that provided physical evidence of their mistreatment—allowing Selam’s lawyer to argue for and win asylum. While this is only the first step of their journey, Denver Health donors helped to build the foundation for health and success for Selam and her daughter—and secured a new future for their family.



Partnerships elevate health for seniors in need.

Great things happen when public agencies, people, and philanthropy come together to solve problems. Many seniors living in the Sloan's Lake neighborhood were particularly vulnerable to health problems due to a lack of affordable housing, food, and health care. A partnership between Denver Health, Denver Housing Authority, The Colorado Health Foundation, and other generous donors brought the [Sloan's Lake Health Clinic](#) (SLHC) to life when it broke ground in 2019—to provide a new life for vulnerable seniors in the community. SLHC was designed to provide primary and clinical care

In partnership with the Denver Housing Authority, The Colorado Health Foundation, and generous donors, Denver Health's Sloan's Lake Health Clinic will provide an estimated **20,000 medical visits** and care for **5,500 patients** each year.

to all residents in need, with a particular focus on ensuring seniors have access to health care, affordable housing, and food. The clinic houses a dialysis unit, a senior activity center, and affordable housing for up to 175 individuals. In a fast-paced city where growth is inevitable, Denver Health works tirelessly to make sure that neighbors in need are not left behind. Thanks to the generosity of Denver Health donors and a generous grant of \$300,000 from The Colorado Health Foundation, these transformational services can be easily accessed by those who need them most.



Nursing scholarships elevate care and community.

Nursing scholarships are just one way donors advance the physical, social, and economic well-being of everyone in Denver. As a large public employer, Denver Health can offer greater economic opportunity as it offers the greatest care to all. Our commitment to recruiting a diverse workforce extends to providing professional opportunity and advancement to those who would otherwise struggle to afford it. We support our employees in finding rewarding career pathways and providing financial support to achieve their goals.

“In honor of my brother, this scholarship assists Denver Health staff in nursing school and aims to increase diversity and provide economic opportunity.”



— Dr. Bill Burman,
Executive Director of Denver Public Health

Through the Sabin Scholarship and John Mortensen Burman Scholarship, outstanding Denver Health nursing students may apply for funding to cover the cost of their tuition. These Denver Health staff are able to further their expertise and enhance the level of care provided at our hospital and clinics. Having diverse professionals from our community is the best way to care for and elevate all in our community.

Honoring the donors who strengthen the foundation of Denver's Health.

Paramedics Luncheon

Donor gifts totaling \$70,632 directly benefitted the [Paramedics Fund](#), supporting scholarships, resources for paramedic staff, and the purchase of much-needed equipment.



Refugee Outreach Clothing for Kids (R.O.C.K.)

Generous gifts including backpacks full of school supplies, clothing, shoes, and toys were provided for more than 200 refugee families through the [2019 R.O.C.K. event](#).



NightShine Gala

More than 1,500 donors gathered in support of the Ernest E. Moore Shock Trauma Center, raising \$509,842 at the 2019 NightShine Gala. The Denver Health Foundation honored Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock with the Wellington E. Webb Award for Outstanding Achievement in Healthcare Philanthropy.



Hot Rocks

Denver's top chefs gathered for the annual Hot Rocks Griller Challenge in 2019, where donors contributed \$53,874 towards men's health services at Denver Health.





“Time and time again, you – our donors – have demonstrated your compassion and strength to overcome unprecedented challenges. We are so grateful to have you as partners.”

— Josh Hanfling

Thank you for being the foundation of Denver’s Health.

To our invaluable partners,

Last December, we never could have predicted what this year would bring. A global pandemic, an overdue national reckoning with racial injustice and a breakdown in civil discourse—unsettling realities regardless of one’s personal politics. Despite the challenges this year has brought, we reflect with gratitude on 2019—on how you came together as a community, strengthening the foundation of support for the patients and providers at Denver Health. Your selfless generosity has carried us through these most difficult challenges.

Your support last year enabled our health system to remain nimble and has given our physicians and staff the ability to adjust operations to provide continued, safe access and services to all who come through our doors. You came together as we faced COVID-19 to raise \$2.5 million in community support of our frontline workers. And we’ve been able to do this without abandoning the quality of care that has driven our mission for more than 160 years.

We share this 2019 annual report forward in appreciation of your generous gifts that ensure Denver Health continues to deliver the very best care to every member of our community.

Sincerely,

Josh Hanfling

Denver Health Foundation Board Chair

Linda L. Ford

Denver Health Foundation Executive Director

The Board of Directors' support is a springboard for health in the city of Denver.

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