A Message from Our Leaders

Improving the health of our communities has been core to Kaiser Permanente’s mission for nearly 75 years. It is who we are as an organization.

We recognize that many factors impact health, beyond the high-quality care we provide to our patients and members. Personal behaviors, genetics, social, economic, and environmental conditions all contribute to health outcomes. Our Community Health work addresses where these factors intersect. As an organization, we have an ongoing commitment to ensuring access to health for individuals, and to improving conditions for health and equity in our communities.

In 2018, our work focused on advancing health access, healthy behaviors, and community safety, to promote physical, social, and emotional wellness. This included work to address stigma around mental health.

To optimize the health of our members and communities, we also continued work to help improve the economic, social, and environmental conditions in the communities where they live. This includes addressing economic opportunity – so that children and families are financially stable – as well as supporting educational attainment, so that young people thrive in school and are prepared for college and career success.

And we see a direct correlation between housing stability and affordability and good health. Kaiser Permanente is therefore forging partnerships with homelessness service providers, affordable housing organizations, researchers, homelessness advocates, and city and county officials, to build a more robust and coordinated system to improve health in the communities we serve.

We believe that by leveraging all our expertise and resources, and by working together, we will continue to create total health in our communities.

Janet A. Liang  
President, Kaiser Permanente Northern California  
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Health Plan

Yvette Radford  
Vice President, External & Community Affairs  
Kaiser Permanente Northern California
Our Unique Approach

While many businesses and non-profit hospitals make philanthropic donations to support the community, Kaiser Permanente is uniquely able to leverage a full range of assets to improve the conditions that determine health.

**Provide** charitable care to share our expertise with community health providers

**Invest** grants and donations to advance health equity

**Partner** with other organizations to affect positive change

**Buy** supplies and materials from diverse local businesses

**Engage** our leaders and employees in community activities

**Build** facilities to promote healthy environments and local economies

**Hire** and advance to promote equity, diversity, and reentry into the job market

We recognize that no single organization can address longstanding, complex issues such as homelessness, economic equity, and mental health stigma. We believe that by partnering with other organizations and leveraging a full range of Kaiser Permanente’s assets, we can make long-term, sustainable change.
Improve Conditions for Health and Equity

Where community needs are greatest, we make direct investments to meet immediate needs and address the root causes of poor health through efforts that support:

- Homelessness and housing
- Economic opportunity
- Healthy eating and active living
- Community safety and resilience
- Health and wellness programs and policies in schools and cities

Examples of our partnerships and their impact:

- 855,000 students and hospital patients received fresh, seasonal produce through our support to the Community Alliance with Family Farmers.
- 165,000 youth and adults learned health-related lessons through our Educational Theatre Program.
- 15,200 people benefiting from the greening of Melrose Leadership Academy in Oakland and the Iron Triangle in Richmond, through our support of the Trust for Public Land, which engaged 1,565 community members in planning, designing, and constructing the green spaces.
- 283 people received training in our School of Allied Health Sciences, improving their career potential.
- 97 nurses and nursing students received scholarships through our Dolores Jones Nursing Scholarship program and 23 scholarships awarded to trainees in our School of Allied Health Sciences.

Advance the Future of Community Health

We work in partnership with our communities, using our collective knowledge to identify and implement creative solutions to address complex community health problems.

We are:

- Inspiring young people to pursue careers in health care
- Conducting research to identify and eliminate health disparities
- Advancing innovation to achieve greater and more equitable health outcomes

Examples of our partnerships and their impact:

- 1,477 residents were trained in our Graduate Medical Education programs and clinics and 117 mental health professionals expanded their expertise in our Mental Health Training Program.
- 298 youth received work experience and exposure to non-clinical health careers in addition to being supported by dozens of Kaiser Permanente volunteer mentors and supervisors.
- 195 nurses, care team members, and staff provided 320 youth from across the region a chance to explore health careers with realistic, hands-on simulations through our Youth Career Days events at the Garfield Innovation Center.

Ensure Access to Health Care and Social Supports

Providing health services to those in need is foundational to our mission. We did this through:

- Medi-Cal and charitable health coverage
- Charitable health care (Medical Financial Assistance)
- Support for community health care organizations

Examples of our partnerships and their impact:

- Thousands of students, teachers, staff, and parents received trauma-informed, resilience building support from 18 organizations serving schools.
- $2 million of local produce procured for people in need through our support to the California Association of Food Banks.
- 314 students bridged to appropriate school personnel for situations related to depression, anger, eating disorders, and potential violence by our Educational Theatre team.
2018 Community Benefit Investment

$1.2 billion
Total Community Investment by Kaiser Permanente

$736 million*
Kaiser Permanente Hospitals

+$497 million
Kaiser Permanente Health Plan

$854M MEDI-CAL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

$229M CHARITABLE COVERAGE AND CARE

$62M HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

$50M PHILANTHROPY

$23M RESEARCH

$14M OTHER

*As reported in SB 697, a state-required report for all non-profit hospitals.
Connecting Housing to Health

Housing plays a critical role in supporting individual health. It is a struggle for those in economically disadvantaged communities to maintain health improvements achieved in a medical setting if they lack stable housing. Kaiser Permanente recognizes that a root cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing.

We continue to forge partnerships with homeless service providers, affordable housing organizations, researchers, homeless advocates, and city and county officials, working together to build a more robust and coordinated homeless response system to improve the health of our communities. Some examples from 2018:

- Partnered with the San Francisco Foundation and a trio of nonprofit agencies to help keep Oakland residents in stable housing. The foundation, with a major contribution from Kaiser Permanente, provided a total of $9M in funding to launch Keep Oakland Housed and sustain it through the year 2022.
- Invested about $5.2 million to preserve a 41-unit affordable housing complex in East Oakland.
- Launched an effort to end homelessness for more than 500 Oakland residents over age 50 who have at least one chronic condition in partnership with Bay Area Community Services.
- Committed $50 million in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, which has matched that amount, for a total of $100 million to create a national loan fund that will help protect affordable housing on a national level.
- Joined the Partnership for the Bay’s Future, a public-private housing partnership that will build a large investment and policy fund to address the regional affordable housing crisis.
- Supported the City of Oakland, which purchased a single room occupancy hotel, and will renovate the building and provide housing and social services to approximately 150 homeless adults each year.

The work in Northern California is part of Kaiser Permanente’s larger effort to leverage a full range of its resources to address the issue of homelessness, including the $200 million Thriving Communities Fund that our national headquarters established to address housing stability and homelessness.
Helping Our Communities Thrive

Oakland Thrives is a citywide effort to make Oakland the healthiest city in the nation by focusing on the social conditions that directly influence the health of children, youth, and families. Oakland Thrives brings together public agencies, businesses, philanthropic foundations, higher education institutions, faith communities, and local non-profits to harness community ideas and focus on five areas: health, education, wealth, safety, and housing.

Kaiser Permanente has a key role in Oakland Thrives, providing funding and lending its expertise as a health care organization and one of Oakland’s largest employers. By supporting the progress underway, Oakland Thrives is building a foundation for long-term, sustainable change.

Another tangible example of Kaiser Permanente’s work to help create wealth equity in our communities is our support of Inner City Capital Connections (ICCC), an acceleration program for small businesses. Business owners and entrepreneurs representing 60 small- and medium-size businesses from underserved communities in the Sacramento area met last October for an all-day mini-MBA day session. The day included seminars on business strategy, marketing, and capital growth. The ICCC program is part of a continued partnership between Kaiser Permanente and the national non-profit Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC), an organization that helps small, diverse businesses grow and prosper – positioning them to provide the meaningful employment opportunities to their communities.

With Kaiser Permanente’s sponsorship, in 2018 ICIC launched cohorts of the program in Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Baltimore. In 2019, we will support additional cohorts launching in Baltimore, Sacramento/Stockton, Portland, San Diego, Los Angeles and Oahu.

Business owners receive 40 hours of free training, education, and mentorship, and have the chance to attend the national ICIC conference, where they present their business plans to investors.
Continued Innovation to Reduce Mental Health Stigma

In the United States, 1 in 5 adults and 20 percent of youth ages 13 to 18 live with a mental health condition. Almost 7% of the U.S. population have had at least one major depressive episode in the past year. Even though depression and other mental health issues are common and touch nearly all of us, the associated stigma often keeps people from talking about it or seeking treatment.

Building on the momentum of Kaiser Permanente’s ongoing Find Your Words public awareness campaign focused on reducing mental health stigma, Kaiser Permanente in Northern California hosted the organization’s second mental health forum in 2018, serving as a catalyst for fresh thinking.

The forum, in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California, convened hundreds of Northern California community leaders, community partners, and mental health and wellness experts in Oakland. Speakers included former basketball star Chamique Holdsclaw, actress Gabourey Sidibe, and entertainer and activist Common, all of whom had a personal experience with mental health issues and stigma. Other participants highlighted the impact of social media on mental health, the importance of peer support in a medical setting, and how to build resilience in our youth.

Attendees also participated in breakout sessions to discuss topics such as strengthening the community safety net, building mental health-friendly communities using faith-based strategies, and promoting a culture of wellness via school-based interventions. Some recipients of Kaiser Permanente’s $2 million investment from the prior year—to support innovative approaches to address mental health stigma in our Northern California communities—were highlighted in videos throughout the day.
Northern California Regional Community Health
2018 AT-A-GLANCE

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