

Winter/Spring 2019

# COMMUNITY BENEFIT BULLETIN

A quarterly update from the Department of Community Benefit

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue shows what happens when you put middle schoolers in charge of a farmers market and how the Kindness Grants shines a light on a very serious disease.

## BRIDGING THE GAP TO ACCESSIBLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The Department of Community Benefit at City of Hope has partnered with our neighboring school Beardslee Academy to offer a local farmers market in the community. This partnership was sparked by interest to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to families that attend the school and surrounding neighborhood. It's part of our commitment to give back to vulnerable communities in need and decrease health disparities by offering produce

that is economically priced and easily accessible. Through our partnership, we learned that many individuals who are a part of this community don't eat fruits and vegetables regularly because they don't have access.

Community Benefit is about organizing thoughtful community collaborations and partnerships, and addressing the root causes that create barriers to good health. With this new partnership, we are able to provide organically

grown produce on a regular basis. The garden is run by sixth through eighth grade academy students. This provides leadership opportunities for the students as they learn how to set up the market and sell the produce. The farmers market is available on the fourth Monday of each month at Beardslee Elementary from 2 to 3 p.m. The school is located at 1212 Kellwil Way, Duarte, CA 91010. We invite you to attend an upcoming market.



# KINDNESS GRANT SHINES A LIGHT ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE



On Feb. 2, 2019, the City of Hope diversity resource group, CPAD (Connecting People of African Descent), convened an incredible group of professionals and community members to learn about the research behind sickle cell disease and discuss the advocacy efforts needed to move progress toward a cure.

The topics discussed were:

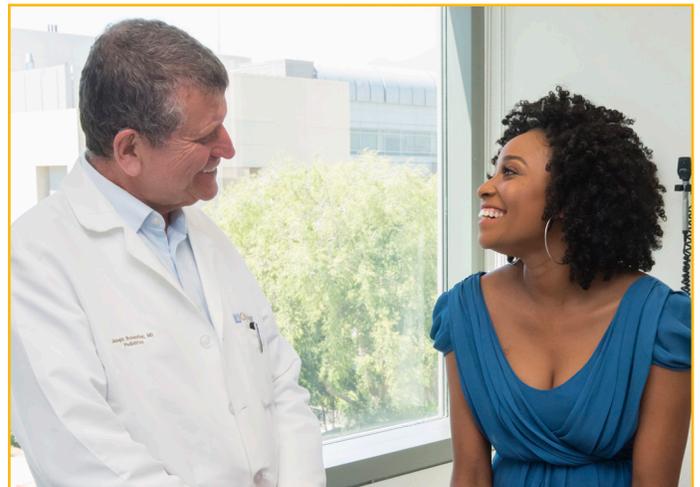
- 1) Emerging issues in patient and patient advocacy
- 2) Emerging scientific and medical advances
- 3) Partnership opportunities with local organizations servicing the sickle cell patient

Leading experts on sickle cell, transplantation and genome editing presented the latest advances in research and medicine. Sickle cell experts from local hospitals and institutions shared the exciting things happening at their facilities. Rick Kittles, Ph.D., City of Hope's founding director of the Division of Health Equities and founder of African Ancestry, skillfully moderated the event. Alexis Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, and 2018 president of the American Society of Hematology, was the keynote speaker. Patient advocate, Cierra Jackson, shared her story of being cured of sickle cell disease right here at City of Hope.

This event highlighted, front and center, how conscious and unconscious bias and institutional racism have impacted the ability to move the agenda

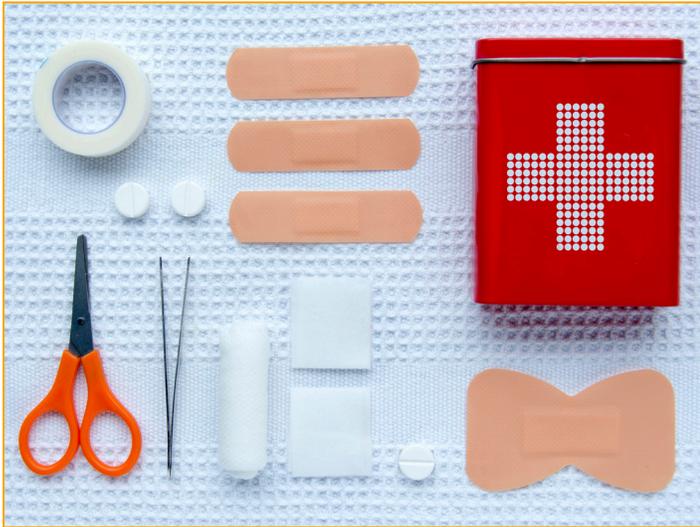
forward and to find a cure for a predominately African-American disease. It also demonstrated the breakdown in the health care system to provide continuing care for children with sickle cell disease who transition into adulthood. The disparities in care and the discrimination that many experience when seeking care were also discussed. It was a powerful day full of passion and a strong sense of community.

Emilee Bargoma led the charge in pulling this beautiful day together. She dedicated the day to the memory of her brother Yusuf A. Bargoma who lost his fight with sickle cell disease. She very passionately showed her appreciation for the "tireless work by SCD patients, advocates, scientists, physicians and health care professionals fighting every day to win the battle." Bargoma added, "I'm just grateful that the Kindness Grant provides me the platform to do just that!"



Joseph Rosenthal, M.D., Barron Hilton Chair in Pediatrics, with patient advocate Cierra Jackson, who shared her sickle cell journey at the symposium

# UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



## Gauze for a Cause

April 1 through 30

Many of our patients cannot afford expensive postsurgery supplies. Please donate any sterile unused drain sponges, gauze pads, surgical tape, alcohol prep pads, sterile cotton tipped swabs and bacitracin antibiotic ointment to the Department of Community Benefit.

Contact Nancy Clifton-Hawkins for more details at [nchawkins@coh.org](mailto:nchawkins@coh.org).

## Duarte Senior Center Food Distribution

Fourth Thursday of the month

**2 to 3:30 p.m.**

1610 E. Huntington Drive

Duarte, CA 91010.

*No reservation required.*

## Garden of Hope - Garden Club

Meets every Friday morning

from **8 to 10 a.m.** and in the

early afternoon from **noon to 2 p.m.**

*Check out the Garden Club Chatter for more details.*



To deepen understanding about Community Benefit activities here at City of Hope, send us a note:

[CommunityBenefit@coh.org](mailto:CommunityBenefit@coh.org). We would love to hear from you!

City of Hope, 1500 E. Duarte Road, Duarte, CA 91010 • [CityofHope.org](http://CityofHope.org)