

# MAKING AN IMPACT IN MISSISSIPPI

*We are grateful for leaders and organizations who have provided vital financial support, joining with us to serve the communities we call home. Your generosity is helping us make a big impact. We are doing great work, but there is still so much to be done to improve the overall health of our state.*

- **UMMC EVERSCARE FAMILY FEEDING PROJECT:** The American Heart Association is boldly responding to issues surrounding healthy food access and nutrition security in Metro Jackson communities. The AHA has identified significant funding from local companies and individual donors to support the UMMC EversCare Clinic Food Pantries, which provide approximately 7,200 pounds of food to community members each month. In addition to providing healthy living resources for recipients, the AHA has identified a number of volunteers from local businesses to assist in the packing and distribution of the food bags.
- **RESEARCH:** Nine active research grants are currently being funded by the AHA in Mississippi, totaling more than \$1.74 million. Research institutions include Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi and University of Mississippi Medical Center.
- **MAGNOLIA MEDICAL FOUNDATION:** In Mississippi, 30% of adults have higher odds of living with diabetes and have limited access to fruits and vegetables. Magnolia Medical Foundation is a National Diabetes Primary Prevention community-based program whose patients are referred from federally qualified health clinics and community clinics targeting diabetic patients in underserved communities. The AHA has partnered with Magnolia to conduct food security screenings in the community and refer community members to diabetes and heart disease self-management programs. Additionally, the AHA staff and local volunteers have helped to establish a food pantry within the Magnolia Medical Foundation, which has already provided approximately 14,000 pounds of food for Jackson area residents since July 2021. Magnolia was also recently rewarded an AHA grant through the Voices for Healthy Kids initiative to support work on the MS Gulf Coast.



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## TARGET:BP™

- **TARGET:BP:** 65 Mississippi clinics are participating in the Target:BP Program, an initiative formed by the American Heart Association in partnership with the American Medical Association in response to the high prevalence of uncontrolled blood pressure. Target:BP helps healthcare organizations and care teams improve blood pressure control rates through a no-cost quality improvement program.

## GET WITH THE GUIDELINES.

- **GET WITH THE GUIDELINES:** 57 Mississippi hospitals are currently participating in one or more of the American Heart Association's Get With the Guidelines quality improvement modules, helping medical professionals apply the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment and improve patient outcomes. 23 of the 57 hospitals have received awards in one or more modules.



- **KIDS HEART CHALLENGE:** Approximately 160 Mississippi schools are participating in the Kids Heart Challenge Program, which teaches students the importance of exercise as part of a heart-healthy lifestyle.
- **TELECOMMUNICATOR CPR:** If someone is experiencing an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest event and does not receive CPR, their chance of survival decreases by 7-10% per minute. Our emergency response systems in Mississippi desperately need to require TCPR training for telecommunicators. This can immediately save lives. This is why our advocacy team is working tirelessly to ensure that 911 callers receive proper CPR instructions via phone when time really matters.



- **HYPERTENSION & STROKE PREVENTION FUNDING:** During these unprecedented times, it is critical that we prioritize resources and support for those most at risk and impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this, the American Heart Association is working with Dr. Thomas Dobbs and the Mississippi State Department of Health to seek funding from state lawmakers to support community health projects in our most rural and underserved communities. These funds would be used to expand healthy living infrastructure in Mississippi.