

Rising to the Occasion

The public health crisis of the last seven months has put respiratory health in the spotlight. We've used this time to think strategically and take steps to protect our community more effectively than ever.



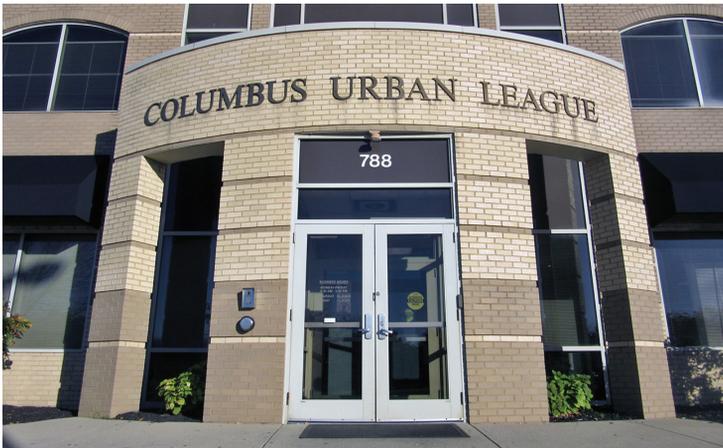
Our New Location: All Together, Better

We're thrilled to announce that, as of February 13, 2020, The Breathing Association has moved to a brand-new location at 788 Mount Vernon Avenue, in the King Arts District. We have fond memories of our years in Upper Arlington. But for so many reasons, this move is a win for us, our partner organizations, and the people we serve.

Making the connection

Relocating The Breathing Association from its home of 30+ years was the result of a strategic planning process to make our services more accessible to the people we serve. Always at the center of planning was the hope to co-locate with another organization whose services complimented those provided by TBA. After dozens of conversations, meetings and tours past board chair, Kim Campbell and CEO Joanne Spoth met with Stephanie Hightower, CEO of Columbus Urban League.

It seemed like a natural fit.



6,500 square feet of newly configured space

Moving to enhance our mission

The new TBA location is:

- More accessible for many of our constituents. It's on a bus line and in the ZIP code that has the greatest need.
- More affordable for us. In a smaller space, we can operate more efficiently.
- Brand new and better equipped than the old location

We now have two exam rooms and a patient bathroom for conducting drug tests.

In addition, we're now in close proximity to other organizations that offer services our clients often need, such as job placement and housing assistance. These services are offered through the Central Ohio Pathway Hub, an alliance overseen by the Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus. TBA is a member organization.

"We are delighted to partner with The Breathing Association and welcome them to our headquarters," Stephanie said. "Our community disproportionately suffers from chronic health conditions such as lung disease and it is a tremendous benefit that the premier advocate for respiratory wellness is now nearby and easily accessible. In addition, together we can capitalize on many synergies to improve and integrate services and more thoughtfully manage overhead costs for office space."

As soon as our community opens up and gets back to normal, we would love to show you around.

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear TBA Members and Friends:

Soon we will begin the season of thanks and reflection on the many blessings we have in our lives. This pandemic has put The Breathing Association in a unique position. While the coronavirus derailed some of the big, exciting initiatives we had planned our mission called on us to pivot in our service model. But we were founded to fight threats to respiratory health, and that's what we've continued to do.

Our teams immediately changed our service model to provide remote service delivery and telehealth so our constituents were able to receive the care and services they needed.

We believe lung health is a human right and we're proud to help make it possible for everyone in our vibrant, diverse city. To meet this need we relocated our organization earlier this year to be closer and more accessible to those we serve. This move was the result of several years of strategic planning by our board and conversations with community leaders.



We are so happy that we have returned 'back to our roots' in light of the fact that our first free clinic location was right downtown at 40 S. Third St. From the beginning we have been supported by the community and are ever grateful for the support of our donors, community and government partners who support our work. It is because of your support that we are providing COVID testing via our clinic and on our Medical Mobile Unit. It is because of your support that eligible households can receive air conditioners, fans and payments on their utility bills so they can breathe easier.

In this season of giving thanks, please accept our sincere appreciation for your support and please continue to help us so that all residents in central Ohio can enjoy better breathing for better lives.

Thank you for supporting our efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Spoth". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joanne Spoth
President & CEO

Stay Tuned

Postponed events – stay tuned for updates:

Annual Mother's Day Luncheon

This year's Mother's Day Luncheon, with Stephanie Hightower as the honoree, had to be canceled. Fortunately, the Fawcett Center refunded our deposit and with any luck, we'll be able to hold the event again next year. We have temporarily shifted our attention from fundraising with events to focusing on the many grants that have been available to us, including the CARES ACT Utility Fund.



Teen Vaping TV Town Hall

When Covid-19 hit, we were partnering with local school districts and WBNS 10-TV to hold a one-hour televised Town Hall on the topic of teen vaping. The show, which was scheduled to air in May, has been postponed. Our focus has not changed, however, because of the serious effects that Covid-19 has when combined with vaping, we will remain a front leader on the topic.



Grand Opening

Our facility is beautiful and we worked very, very hard to make it highly functional, accessible and affordable. Our plan was to host a grand opening celebration. We hope that someday in the near future we will share it with all of you and our community.

Mobile Medical Unit Upgrades: Wherever You Go, There We Are

While our MMU was out of service, Alisha Hopkins, our CNP, MSN Director of the Lung Health Clinic, worked with TBA partners strategically to set up temporary locations around town to serve our constituents.



Despite the convenience of our new downtown location, there will still be people who can't make it there. For them, the Breathing Association's Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) can be a godsend. It drives around the city to 15 partner locations, bringing free healthcare and home energy assistance to more than 1,300 uninsured or underinsured residents per year.

By 2018, the MMU was outdated and constantly breaking down. We feared we might have to take it off the road for good.

Then, generous donors stepped in.

The Breathing Association received \$100,000 grants in both 2019 and 2020 from the Human Services Grant in partnership with the City of Columbus and also \$100,000 from Columbus Gas through NiSource Charitable Foundation. This has enabled us to upgrade our MMU and return it to active service on June 1st of this year.

During the Covid-19 shutdown, we:

- Updated the MMU's medical equipment
- Overhauled the mechanics
- Remodeled the interior to make it more private
- Wrapped the outside with an updated clean look

"At Columbia Gas, we know the economic crisis has affected many families and appreciate the work The Breathing Association is doing to help central-Ohio residents with their health and energy needs," said Vince Parisi, President and Chief Operating Officer, Columbia Gas. "Our focus throughout the pandemic has been to help our customers who are struggling and The Breathing Association's Mobile Medical Unit is a great opportunity to support our customers where they need us."

The map above highlights the many locations the MMU stops at. For a complete schedule, please go to our website.

Crucial Ongoing Services

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

Record-breaking job losses. Stay-at-home orders. A hot, humid summer. We've expanded our HEAP program to make sure that even with all these challenges, people can breathe cool, healthy air at home.

Smoking Cessation Classes

In person classes have been few and far between and that holds the same for the Smoking Cessation Classes. But classes are still going on, thanks to the power of the internet and Zoom. For the first time in a 10 year history, classes are being held virtually.

NEW! NEW! NEW!

Covid-19 testing

We now offer CDC-compliant Covid-19 testing at our Mount Vernon Avenue clinic and through our MMU.

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE!



Our People: Breathing Hope into Our Community

Fresh faces at TBA

Heather McCary

Heather is an 18-year veteran in the fields of respiratory care. She will be working directly with the Lung Health Clinic. She comes to us from Ohio Health Grant Medical Center, where she served as the COPD educator and COPD home program project lead.



Benjamin Gibbs

Benjamin is a 2019 Denison University graduate with a year of experience working in Washington D.C. He is a new staff member in our HEAP Department.



Bonnie Legg

Bonnie, a graduate of The Ohio State University, is also new to our HEAP Department. She has a background in Anthropology and Spanish.



Heather Fogle

Heather is also new to our HEAP Department. She came to us with years of experience servicing and support people in the community.



Familiar faces, moving on

Joyce Johnson

Joyce officially retired after 15 years of service in September. She led our Senior Outreach Program and additionally completed her last five years as the Director of Tobacco Cessation. Thank you, Joyce, for your dedication to seniors in our community. We wish you all the best in your retirement!

The Power Behind the Scenes

From connecting with donors to planning our fundraising initiatives, our board members work tirelessly to keep us afloat. We're pleased to announce that Chris Slagle will be serving as our new Board Chair.

2020-2021

The Breathing Association Board of Trustees

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**Full details of our board can be found
on our newly designed website.**

Check it out!

www.breathingassociation.org

Thank You To Our Donors!

Joann L. Arnold

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Cynthia Strahler

The Behal Law Group LLC

The Columbus Foundation

Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease

Ryan Yeater

Susan A. Zimmerman

Client Spotlight

Excerpts from Diana Losey's MMU Recipient Story*

Here is some of what one grateful client had to say about her experience with our MMU:

"COPD is no joke. I had no idea what was wrong with me ... but when I went in there they knew right off the bat.

"... They took me in. They gave me medicine. They showed me how to get my medicine. I had no medical coverage or anything like that. So they told me to call this place, and she called them for me, too. And they started to supply my medicine free.

"... Oh my gosh, it has changed my life tremendously. I can go up and down the steps with my laundry. I couldn't do that before. The "Breathing Bus" has helped me live my life normally.

"... If you're feeling bad, you don't leave there feeling bad. You leave there smiling."

Diana Losey



*Watch the video of Diana's full story on our Mobile Medical Unit webpage.

Grants & Donations

Ohio Development Services Agency

\$1,877,997 HEAP grant for the Home Energy Assistance Program

CARES Act Funding for Utilities Assistance

\$125,000 from the City of Columbus to help those impacted by Covid to cover their energy bills

CARES Paycheck Protection Program

\$409,800 to maintain payroll, hire back employees and cover overhead expenses

Ohio Department of Health CARES Resource Coordination Grant

\$60,000 – The Breathing Association was selected by the Columbus Public Health to receive funds to serve families and individuals with income at or below 200% of Federal Poverty level

Uninsured Care Fund

\$9,482 from the Charitable Healthcare Network to support the lung health clinic

The Harry C. Moores Foundation

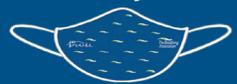
\$10,000 provided to support the lung health clinic

The Big Give

\$13,000 in donations from individual donors through The Columbus Foundation. Every donor received a branded face mask

Additional masks are available, and we'd love to have your support as well.

For a \$11 donation, we'll send you a mask that shows your commitment to our cause.



Thank you for your generosity. It means the world to all the people we help.

PLEASE GO TO WWW.BREATHINGASSOCIATION.ORG
FOR MORE DETAILS!