

Honoring a
LIFETIME TRUSTEE
of The HAP Foundation



George Yapp

Each month, The HAP Foundation recognizes a Lifetime Trustee for their extraordinary contribution to end-of-life care. This month, we are proud to acknowledge George Yapp.

After serving as a pilot in the United States Air Force and later as a global business leader, George has spent decades advancing hospice care. He served as Founding Director and Chairman of the Hospice of Northeastern Illinois Foundation and co-chaired the campaign to build the Pepper Family Hospice CareCenter. Last year, The HAP Foundation honored George with the Diane and Michael Beemer Philanthropic Award. His leadership and philanthropy continue to expand access to care and support for families across the region.

The HAP Foundation is deeply grateful for George's contribution to hospice care in Illinois.

Lake County Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative



The HAP Foundation is proud to have been selected by the Hunter Family Foundation, the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County, and the Steans Family Foundation to lead the Lake County Community Health Worker (CHW) Learning Collaborative and Medicaid Assessment Initiative. This project will further HAP's collaborative efforts with Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) and Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA), each of which will provide their expertise as partners in this grant-funded initiative that reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the CHW workforce and advancing sustainable financing approaches that support long-term community health and well-being. We look forward to working together and building relationships among Lake County CHWs and

their organizations to advance community health across Lake County and Illinois. A full announcement is available [here](#).

The HAP Foundation Selected as an Ambassador to Strengthen the CHW Workforce



The HAP Foundation is pleased to be selected by the Illinois Public Health Association as one of five Ambassador organizations dedicated to strengthening the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce across Illinois, ensuring culturally responsive support, and expanding access to CHW certification. HAP's work will focus on the north region that includes Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, Lake, Carroll, Ogle, DeKalb, Kane, DuPage, Kendall, Will, Grundy, La Salle, Lee, and Whiteside counties.

In the first year, HAP will mentor three community anchor organizations: **VNA Healthcare**, **Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago**, and **Illinois Migrant Council**, with additional organizations joining over

the next two years of the grant.

As part of this initiative, The HAP Foundation will provide training and technical assistance to the anchor organizations to support data collection, foster community engagement, and advance CHW certification and policy advocacy efforts. This work is made possible through a three-year grant awarded to IPHA by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The grant aims to expand CHW certification, strengthen community partnerships, and raise awareness of the vital role CHWs play in improving health outcomes across Illinois.

Review and Update Estate Planning



The start of the new year is a great time to review and update your estate plan and the legacy charitable gifts that you have in place as you reflect on last year's finances and prepare to file your 2025 tax return.

If you made plans to leave a legacy gift to The HAP Foundation prior to 2022, it may be necessary to update your estate plan. If you have the

JourneyCare Foundation, Horizon Hospice, Midwest Palliative and Hospice, or any of the earlier iterations of these groups named in your documents, you simply need to **update the name to The HAP Foundation**. Our tax identification number remains the same, 36-3820916. Please talk to your advisor as soon as possible to update your plans as the previous organizations have discontinued.

We appreciate your continuous support of hospice and palliative care. To further discuss your legacy gift options please contact Christine Post-Duncan, Senior Executive Director, Finance and Estate Planning at cpost-duncan@thehapfoundation.org or 312-741-1280.

[Join the Conversation!](#)

The Community Health Learning Collaborative (CHLC) is a monthly convening of Community Health Workers (CHWs), Promotores de Salud, Community Health Representatives, CHW Allies, community members, and clinicians providing opportunities to discuss emerging issues in community health care, share organizational announcements, and experience fellowship with like-minded individuals! Each CHLC convening includes education programming to encourage us, inform our work, and open dialogue about critical issues that impact our organizations. Not able to attend? Check HAP's [community education page](#) for recordings of previous sessions. To learn more, contact Maureen Burns at mburns@thehapfoundation.org.

Please join the CHLC for a virtual session on Friday, January 30, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT. This session will feature Mecca Perry of Mecca Elevated. Mecca is a sound artist and experienced sound meditation facilitator, weaving together art, healing, and community. She will curate this well-being experience by incorporating sound and meditation rooted in nature's elements: earth, air, water, and fire. With over a decade of experience, Mecca empowers others through a visceral, down-to-earth approach. This session is designed to resonate with the unique needs and intentions of participants, fostering a deeply personal and transformative connection with sound. Please email mburns@thehapfoundation.org to receive an invitation and link

for the virtual meeting.

Please join the CHLC for a virtual session on Friday, February 27, 2026, from noon to 1:30 p.m. CT. This session will feature Jonathan Eig, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *King: A Life*. As we celebrate Black History Month, we invite you to this moderated discussion on the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Please email mburns@thehapfoundation.org to receive an invitation and link for the virtual meeting.

Upcoming Community Support Groups

Dementia Caregiver Support Groups

Join us for The HAP Foundation's Dementia Caregiver Support Group, offered both virtually and in person. Our monthly sessions provide caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia with education, guidance, and a supportive community led by trained Community Health Workers.

- Join us virtually on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CT via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#)
- Join us virtually on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CT via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#)

Grief Circles

Are you grieving someone's death? Are you looking for support and community with others who are grieving? This group, facilitated by HAP Community Health Workers, uses peer support to build community among participants while honoring and processing grief. It is open to any adult who is grieving the death of any person.

- Spanish group: Wednesday, January 21, 2026, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. CT. [Register here.](#)
- English group: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. CT. [Register here.](#)
- Spanish group: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. CT. [Register here.](#)