A year of remarkable perseverance – and hope

This past year was unprecedented by all accounts. The coronavirus outbreak has challenged our nation, our communities and our team in a profound way. I’ve had the privilege to watch our team members unite to fight this battle and not only meet, but exceed the unexpected challenges with open hearts and ready hands. The stories of heroism across our team are extraordinary tales of problems solved, unforgettable moments, fearless resolve and lives transformed.
Through it all, we knew that we were not alone. We had your support every step of the way. Your generous contributions helped us to stay focused on delivering remarkable patient care during one of the hardest years we’ve endured as an organization.

In 2020, our communities relied on our expertise to keep them safe, and our patients found comfort in the compassion shown by our team members. They were scared. They were unsure. We understood, and we were prepared to be there for them however they needed us. Your generosity helped us be there for our own team as well. Many of our team members faced financial challenges as the pandemic took its toll on households everywhere. We created the Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund and contributed more than $10 million to help our team members and their families pay for necessities such as rent, utilities, gas and groceries. Contributions from our parent board members, regional foundation boards, the executive team, our team members and many of you — our neighbors and friends — have further boosted the fund.

The Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund also gave team members access to child care and subsidized summer camps while schools and day cares were closed. Additionally, the fund helped pay for temporary hotel lodging for team members on the front lines who worried about exposing their high-risk loved ones to COVID-19. We also provided lunch and dinner for many of our teams at our hospitals and screening centers.

Long before the pandemic intensified the spotlight on health disparities, our organization had been working to close health equity gaps and address social determinants of health in the communities we serve. In our COVID-19 response, we took swift action to look after our most vulnerable populations.

Your commitment to our foundation has also helped us distribute thousands of free masks in our communities, deploy mobile health units to bring critical services to underserved areas, provide multilingual educational resources and ensure every person who needs to be tested or wants to be vaccinated can count on Novant Health. We know there’s more work to be done, and we have prioritized creating equity as one way we can improve the health of all communities, one person at a time.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our team, our patients and their families. COVID-19 won’t define our lives forever. As we look ahead, our focus on providing equitable care to everyone will ensure a brighter future for all we serve.

We will rise stronger, together.

Carl S. Armato
President and CEO, Novant Health
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### 2020 Novant Health Foundation
#### philanthropic summary

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*Grant requests are secured and managed by our Corporate Grants team. Novant Health Foundation is deeply grateful to receive grants from national/regional, private, family and community foundations to support programs and services across the Novant Health system.

**Pledge totals include documented planned gifts.
2020

Novant Health team members and communities joined together to battle COVID-19

Jan. 15
Novant Health increased supplies of PPE.

Jan. 21
First confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States.

Jan. 21
First confirmed COVID-19 case in N.C.

March 3
Gov. Roy Cooper issued statewide stay-at-home order.

March 26
The David A. Tepper Charitable Foundation contributed a lead gift to launch the Novant Health COVID-19 Relief Fund (now the Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund).

April 1
Community rallied together to provide masks, meals, PPE and encouragement for Novant Health team members.

April 3
Novant Health contributed $10 million to support team members who experienced personal hardship due to COVID-19.

April 19
Tommy John contributed $85,000 in undergarments to Novant Health team members.

May 1
Lowe's and Metrolina Greenhouses provided 25,000 floral arrangements to encourage and thank healthcare front-line workers.

May 10
Bud and Suzanne Baker of Winston-Salem gifted $50,000 to support child care for Novant Health team members.

April 23
The Good Fellows Club of Charlotte committed $50,000 to provide additional relief.

Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund support and impact
Aug. 12
Novant Health Wallace Cancer Institute at Rowan Medical Center opened its doors.

Sept. 29
Novant Health Cancer Institute at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Oct. 22

Dec. 1
Pediatric wellness kits provided to families in Thomasville to help manage stress.

Aug. 6
James Blount, Novant Health team member, received funds to cover his rent. “One more month gives me a fighting chance,” he said. “I can go to battle for one more month. I can make it.”

Sept. 4
Sponsors from canceled golf tournaments donated $21,000 to the Novant Health Wellness and Education Center and $44,000 to Novant Health Rowan Medical Center.

Sept. 10
Novant Health’s Mask the City initiative provided 220,000 masks to underserved communities.

Nov. 19
Jennifer James, Novant Health team member, received much-needed funds after she was out of work due to contracting COVID-19. “Asking for help is never easy, but I’m so grateful I did.”

Sept. 29
Novant Health received its first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and began vaccinating team members.

Dec. 26
Novant Health launched online COVID-19 vaccine information and support tool.
Together, we fought a global pandemic

When COVID-19 took the world by storm in spring 2020, Novant Health teams responded with courage, ingenuity and perseverance. We educated the public on the fast-moving virus, took part in clinical trials to aid in the race for a vaccine and partnered with community organizations to help save lives.

Day after day, we saw the impact of that work. Our team has trained for these moments, and your support provided us with the resources we needed to combat an unprecedented public health crisis.
From the front lines

The patient was experiencing shortness of breath, but he came into the emergency room still able to speak.

Then, all of a sudden, he was slipping in and out of consciousness. It all felt like a dream. But somewhere in that dream, he knew Amanda Chilton would do whatever it took to save him. He could see it in her eyes.

That's what the patient told Chilton 10 days later when he had finally beaten COVID-19.

She and other critical care nurses at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center had poured all of their resources into caring for the patient, all while covered head-to-toe in personal protective equipment. In a time when families can’t visit their loved ones, it was the only human contact the patient had.

“These patients don’t know us. If they’re awake, all they can see is your eyes. You just hope and pray that God gives you the kindest, most gentle, comforting eyes possible in those moments.”

Amanda Chilton, critical care nurse at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center
“I do feel like nurses are the backbone of healthcare. We’re there for people in their worst moments. These are not experiences those people necessarily want to remember, but we get letters all the time thanking us. It’s been challenging, but we feel a sense of duty. My dad will ask me sometimes how I do what I do, and I tell him, ‘If I don’t do it, who will?’ That’s the attitude that nurses have. We need to step up because we’re willing to be that person.”

Rob Stumbo, nurse and house supervisor at Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center

“Our unit is special. We have five nurses who have been here for over 30 years, and 10 or so people who have been here for over 15 years. It’s not common for nurses to stay in place for that long. And they all have kids. They all have families they have to take care of. And nobody had issues. They just went right into the COVID-19 unit and got to work.”

Clifton Edwards, assistant nurse manager at Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center
Together, we gave hope
Almost as quickly as Novant Health team members responded to the pandemic, our community rallied to support them. Novant Health Foundation quickly established the Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund (formerly the Novant Health COVID-19 Disaster Relief Fund) to provide assistance for our team members. The fund also offered a way to get personal protective equipment and other critical supplies into the hands of healthcare workers across our network, as well as medical equipment such as ventilators, telemedicine devices and tablets to help patients stay connected to their loved ones. When underserved communities needed additional screening centers, funds also supported and helped accelerate this initiative.

"The Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund helped us rise to the challenges brought on by the pandemic. Not only have the communities we serve benefited greatly as a result, but we’ve been able to protect and support Novant Health team members as they demonstrate their selfless commitment and tireless efforts on the front lines.” — Ann Caulkins, senior vice president, Novant Health and president, Novant Health Foundation

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Novant Health team members provided remarkable care to our communities, often while enduring their own financial hardships. The fund raised nearly $13 million in gifts from Novant Health, our executive team, our team members and our communities, allowing us to support more than 10,000 team members with $10.79 million in approved assistance in 2020 alone. Our mission continues today.

23,162
Count of requests

$10.79M
Approved and/or paid

17.4%
Transportation

27.4%
Food

30.6%
Housing

1.8%
Other

22.8%
Utilities
When you walk into the kitchen of Novant Health Kernersville Medical Center, you might find a cup of coffee, a cookie or a sandwich. But if James Blount is there, you’ll find something else when you need it most: a friend.

As a chef and a cashier, Blount greets every customer with a warm smile and a helping hand. Because many of his customers are patients and loved ones of patients, he knows they are often experiencing challenging circumstances, which, for some, could be the most emotionally trying time of their lives. Blount does what he can to get to know each person and make them feel at home.

“I have to make sure their experience is the best that it can possibly be. I need to talk to this person face-to-face, and I need to let them know I am here. Because when I’m there, Novant Health is there, too.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Novant Health leaders implemented heightened safety protocols, including reducing the cafeteria’s access and hours. Just as all team members did, Blount understood and embraced the changes, but the impact on him was significant. He didn’t know how he was going to pay rent.

But help was right around the corner. Blount applied for assistance from the Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund and received enough funds to cover his rent for a month.

“I am honored and grateful,” he said. “One more month gives me a fighting chance. I can go to battle for one more month. I can make it.”
Jennifer James began her career with Novant Health just as the pandemic hit in March, after a steady practice of calling every two or three weeks to see if the nursing team had an open spot. Her persistence made a strong impression, and soon she was working five night shifts a week with COVID-19 patients.

Her work had shown her what COVID-19 could do, so when her fever spiked and she lost her sense of taste, she understood the potential risks. Then, as she realized what quarantine would mean for her ability to work and earn money, her anxiety shifted course.

“The only thing I could think about was getting back to work. Not only was I worried about my health, but I was worried I was going to lose my brand-new, beautiful apartment I had worked so, so hard to get,” James said. “I was working five days a week, and, suddenly, I wasn’t working at all.”

She called the team member help line at Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center, and a nurse sent her information about the Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund. She applied immediately and, soon after, received funds to help with her rent.

“Asking for help is never easy, but I’m so grateful I did,” James said. “I no longer have to worry about becoming homeless or the stress of trying to work as many hours as possible to make up for lost time. I would like to thank the foundation, Novant Health and my medical surgical staff at Brunswick Medical Center from the bottom of my heart for always having my back and being so supportive. I’m never going to leave this company, and I plan to work my hardest for Novant Health as they have worked so hard for me.”
Together, we cared
Latazia Harris is a critical care assistant nurse manager at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center. At the start of the pandemic, her unit began specializing in the testing and treatment of COVID-19, which put Harris on the front lines of a global pandemic. She is also a mother to a son with special needs. His name is Josiah. He has a tracheostomy and is prone to respiratory issues.

And as the COVID-19 crisis began to take shape within the walls of her hospital, Harris had to carve out a plan — one that would allow her to do her job to the best of her abilities while keeping her son safe. The foundation heard her concerns and responded, using contributions from its Hope for Remarkable Team Aubergine Fund to pay for Harris’s stay in a hotel while she worked so she could avoid putting her son at risk.

“To work for an organization that makes those resources available, it’s definitely something that is appreciated because it alleviates some stress. And it continues to help us stay where we are, in the hospital, doing our jobs. It also speaks to one of the reasons why I chose to come to Novant Health: They appreciate their team members. And this is just another example of that.”
Jessica Ramey works in infection prevention for Novant Health Rowan Medical Center, and when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it presented a new and challenging reality. That’s when Ramey got to work building her own face shields. She went to the craft store and bought what she needed to construct a few prototypes. In a short time, she’d built a few new face shields by hand, and they worked.

Ramey knew she was going to need more. She also knew she would need help. She found it in a group of volunteers at Memorial Baptist Church in Kannapolis.

Ramey sent them the schematics and the supplies she’d purchased and gave them strict guidance on how to keep their manufacturing process safe for themselves and for the healthcare workers who would receive the face shields once they were complete.

“They got to work right away. We tried them here at Rowan Medical Center first to make sure they were safe, and it was really a blessing for us. The face shields help protect our masks and allow us to wear those masks longer. The team really values having them.”

They produced so many face shields that Ramey had to tell them to pause production. But Memorial Baptist Church isn’t stopping entirely. They continue to donate snacks and drinks to Rowan Medical Center, and Ramey ensures those gifts make it to every department in the hospital.

“You would be surprised what a water and a pack of crackers can do — just to know that people care and that they’re trying to make our days a little easier.”
Medical director, Novant Health Women’s Heart & Vascular Center, Sandy Charles, MD

With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, there has been an increased focus on improving health equity in our communities. For Sandy Charles, MD, that objective has been top of mind her whole life.

Charles is the medical director at Novant Health Women’s Heart & Vascular Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. As a non-invasive cardiologist, she uses imaging and other technology to help women manage their risk of heart disease and other conditions.

“It’s been an amazing journey, being welcomed with open arms, spearheading the women’s heart program and just really having an impact,” Charles said.

Because of generous contributions to Novant Health Foundation, we were able to step up and support Charles and the noninvasive imaging team. Last fall, your donations funded ergonomic workstations, including standing desks, to allow team members who spend up to eight hours a day reviewing studies the opportunity to stand up while they work, which minimizes neck and back strain.

“When I heard the news, I was walking on cloud nine for a couple of days,” Charles said. “Having the ability to stand and shift positions is wonderful. I can be as thorough with my work without compromising my health. I really appreciate it.”

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has touched every community and every life across the nation. A crisis like the pandemic not only shines a spotlight on existing health disparities; it exacerbates them. Novant Health designed and invested in strategies to reduce disparities and promote health equity in underserved communities. Before the pandemic, Novant Health had been working for years to close health equity gaps and address social determinants of health in the communities we serve.
Wallace Cancer Center
Novant Health Rowan Medical Center
Opened: August 2020
Features:
• Genetic counseling for cancer risk detection
• Medical and radiation oncology treatments
• Cancer nurse navigators guiding patients through treatment and recovery
• Integrative medicine treatments such as massage and acupuncture
• Clinical trials from nationally ranked partners for certain conditions
• Support services including a patient and family library, support groups and the Look Good, Feel Good boutique
• Comprehensive infusion center
• On-site ancillary services including imaging, laboratory, pharmacy and palliative care

Together, we grew
While navigating a pandemic response and a new normal, we continued in our unwavering commitment to further remarkable care in our communities. Your generous gifts made the opening of these clinics and institutes possible.
Together, we took a **stand**
Tanya Blackmon, executive vice president and chief diversity, inclusion and health equity officer

On diversity, inclusion and equity: “I did not want to be a figurehead in this position. If we’re going to do this, we’re going to go big and implement in a way that truly added value,” Tanya Blackmon said. Her subsequent approach and leadership have yielded tangible results. Case in point: She heard from more than 700 team members across all levels of the organization over the course of a systemwide tour. On the tour, Blackmon learned that the executive team at Novant Health did not reflect the workforce across the system. While the workforce was 82% female, there was only one woman serving on the executive team. Four years later, those numbers have transformed dramatically as Carl Armato, Novant Health’s president and CEO, wanted to ensure that he had multiple perspectives represented. Today, 40% of the executive team are women, and 40% are people of color.

On remarkable health equity: “It’s patient-centered. So, we listen to the voices of our patients. It’s affordable. So, we take care of people who cannot afford to pay for their care. And it means you’re going to get the highest quality of care, no matter what,” Blackmon said. “Health equity is about recognizing both the visible and less visible characteristics of diversity of people, understanding their unique needs and providing the best care for each of them.”

On social justice: “It takes courage to take a stand as an organization. When Novant Health published our position on ‘Black Lives Matter’, that was courageous,” Blackmon said. “We said we exist to save lives, all lives. We said we believe that Black lives matter. We said if society isn’t healthy, no one is healthy. And we said we have zero tolerance for racism, and I think it was very bold and very appropriate that we did that.”
On remarkable health equity: “We really do have to do things differently for different types of people,” said Ophelia Garmon-Brown, MD. “A lot of times our healthcare providers will say, ‘I treat everybody equally.’ But equal care may not be what people need because those who have not had access to care for a long time may need things done differently to achieve health equity.”

On serving others: “A dollar, if that’s what you can do, is wonderful,” Garmon-Brown said. “But it’s not just about your money. It’s about your time. It’s about your talent. Whatever you have a passion for.”

On teamwork: “I have been amazed at how many of our team members come to work every day and give remarkable care but are struggling: struggling to pay the rent, struggling to have transportation, struggling to get their food, struggling in so many various ways ... This is not a corporate push. This is a human push. This is a teammate push. This is a community push. Because we know, as we push together, we can push ourselves up an incredible hill and make a difference in the lives of others.”

Ophelia Garmon-Brown, MD, senior vice president, chief community health and wellness officer, Novant Health
Angela Davis, clinical supervisor at Novant Health Huntersville Pediatrics & Internal Medicine

On diversity and inclusion: “I had no idea when I started with Novant Health how big they were with diversity and inclusion. It’s not just saying it for show. We really do this,” Davis said. “I look at people who are way higher up than me, and I see women, Black women, Black men, Asians and Hispanics. And it really means a lot because, for me, it shows me that I can go as far as I want to with this organization. My race, my gender — they don’t limit me at all.”

On social justice: Davis and her team members took part in a peaceful protest that is part of a broader movement across healthcare institutions called White Coats for Black Lives. For eight minutes and 46 seconds, Davis knelt outside Novant Health Huntersville Pediatrics & Internal Medicine. Next to her was a colleague — a white physician named William Flannery, MD. “As I’m kneeling there, I saw him praying, and it just brought tears to my eyes,” Davis said. “I just imagine that his prayers are for this world to be a better place for me and my children and people who look like me and for our patients. It was just a really eye-opening moment: It’s not just people who look like me who want change and equality; it’s everybody.”

On health equity: “At Novant Health, they see a patient. They don’t see a Black patient. When I come to work at Novant Health, they see a nurse. They don’t see a Black nurse. They embrace that part of me, and it makes me really happy to be part of this team,” Davis said. “We’re here to help heal people, and we don’t realize that our words can be a lot more healing than our actions. I tell my team to try to be understanding. And if you don’t understand, we’re here to help each other understand.”
Grants

Bilingual health workers funded to serve in underserved communities

Health equity has been a key area of focus across the Novant Health system for a long time. Now, thanks to your generosity, Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation has launched a pilot program to place community health workers in neighborhoods where they are needed most.

With a $150,000 grant, the community health worker program will add three community health advocates over the next year. Novant Health is currently recruiting to fill the positions with team members who are fluent in both English and Spanish.

Community health workers specialize in engaging with the community around the overall determinants of health. They help patients in at-risk populations with both health education and advocacy. After getting to know the patient, they connect them with community resources when necessary. Once onboarded, the team members will work across east Charlotte and west Charlotte with the goal of serving additional communities in the future.
The Hearst Foundation funds nurse home visits for Forsyth and Davidson County families and newborns

The Hearst Foundations recently awarded a $125,000 grant to Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center Foundation to support a postpartum nurse home visit program in Forsyth and Davidson counties. The program provides free home visit services to all Forsyth County and Davidson County mothers and newborns who deliver at Forsyth Medical Center or Novant Health Thomasville Medical Center. Since 2016, the program has provided support for thousands of mothers and babies and connected families to nurturing community resources.

“Partnership with the Hearst Foundations will result in higher quality postpartum medical care, more positive parenting, reduced anxiety for families and less infant emergency medical care,” said Ann Caulkins, senior vice president of Novant Health and president of Novant Health Foundation. “We are grateful for the Hearst Foundations’ commitment to Forsyth and Davidson County families, and to a great start in life for newborns.”

North Carolina Healthcare Foundation funds vital support during COVID-19

The North Carolina Healthcare Foundation (NCHA) awarded Forsyth Medical Center Foundation a $149,975 grant for a COVID-19 hospital preparedness program. This funding supports the urgent preparedness and response needs of hospitals, health systems, and healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. Thanks to NCHA grant support, Novant Health Digital Health and Engagement team is providing remote monitoring equipment to certain COVID-19 acute care discharge patients, along with high-risk pregnancy and postpartum patients as part of COVID-19 preparedness measures.
When we thank our donors for making a difference in the lives of those who need it most, we’re also thanking thousands of our own team members who believe in the difference we can make together and give back through our Giving. Serving. Together. campaign.

Despite the hardships of 2020, team members gave more than $1.2 million to support each other and local nonprofit organizations in our communities.

Compassionate culture, remarkable care

Thousands of Novant Health team members across the organization gave:

• $671,637 through Novant Health regional foundations to provide financial assistance for patients and team members, along with many other Novant Health programs and patient-centered initiatives.

• $556,119 to support community needs and priorities through local nonprofit organizations aligned with our mission to improve the health of our communities, one person at a time.

“Giving. Serving. Together., our team member campaign, is our opportunity to give back to our communities. We are all important, and we cannot achieve our mission without working together.” — Pam Oliver, MD, president, Novant Health Physician Network

Together, we’re STRONG
Legacy giving – Plan today to make a future impact

McGarry family supports health equity through planned giving

Planned giving is where mission and legacy come together. To address health disparities, breakdown barriers and build up our most vulnerable communities, Richard “Rick” McGarry and Carter Hammett-McGarry have elected to support Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation through a planned gift.

The McGarrys’ gift will support initiatives through Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Foundation to support underserved populations in west Charlotte with mobile health and mammography units. Mobile units embed Novant Health team members within the community and allow us to partner with local organizations to provide testing and treatment through on-site clinics. The mission of promoting diversity and inclusion is an important one for the McGarrys, both of whom are ordained ministers and academic leaders.

“Therefore planned giving, we are able to build a relationship with a team of people who understand our values, interests and passions,” Carter Hammett-McGarry said. “We can influence policy and encourage initiatives.”

Your legacy. Our future.

At Novant Health Foundation, legacy giving is an important part of charting our future as an organization and ensuring every family has access to high-quality healthcare for years to come. A charitable bequest allows you to leave a powerful legacy, inspiring the generations to come through your generosity and commitment. If you’re interested in exploring ways to include Novant Health Foundation in your will and estate plans, please contact Sharon Harrington at Novant Health Foundation for more information at scharrington@NovantHealth.org or by phone at 704-384-5331.
Reflecting on this past year, I am confronted with a full range of emotions. I feel inspired and thankful for the work of Novant Health’s front-line team members, who have cared for our patients and communities with resilience and grace. I am saddened by lives lost, families burdened and the fatigue this pandemic has caused. I am immensely proud of the work we have accomplished as an organization to come together like never before to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, and I am relieved we are so much closer to winning this battle.
I am also humbled by the generous community support and displays of gratitude every step of the way. Every gift, your gift—no matter its size or form—provides hope and healing for our patients and their families throughout the region and helps us continue the important work of saving lives. Together we have made an impact by securing the health and well-being of our patients, supporting our team members as they faced hardships and ensuring vaccinations are delivered equitably, one person at a time.

While COVID-19 dominated much of our work this past year, our team at Novant Health never lost sight of everything else that needed to be done. You helped us advance significant and meaningful goals across our healthcare system. When fundraising events were canceled, supportive sponsors stood at our side and turned sponsorship dollars into contributions. Even when it seemed like much of the world had ground to a halt in 2020, we put on our masks and pushed on, building new facilities and expanding lifesaving services to ensure we could continue providing remarkable care, now and in the future.

2020 was the most challenging year many of us have experienced, but we are looking ahead and moving forward. This past year showed us how vital healthcare is to all those who live in every community we serve. Regardless of zip code, neighborhood or ability to pay, Novant Health will continue its commitment of reducing disparities and ensuring all patients have access to remarkable care.

As we move forward into 2021, we will continue to focus on comprehensive and transformative community initiatives designed to re-engineer the way we provide healthcare by addressing social determinants through a lens of health equity. The organization’s commitment to community involvement and benefit means continuous creation of programs dedicated to improving the health of our patients, neighbors and our communities’ most vulnerable citizens.

Together we are making a difference in our communities. Your meaningful support, brought to life in the stories throughout the pages of this report, strengthens the foundation of our organization and continues to inspire us to achieve these goals.

Thank you for all you do for our communities, our patients, our team members and for Novant Health.

Sincerely,

Ann Caulkins
Senior vice president, Novant Health
President, Novant Health Foundation