

## Nyx White, Teenage EMT, Brings Visibility to Tuberculosis

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*In this series, Pathways spotlights advocates of tuberculosis, the world's leading cause of death from an infectious disease.*

After reading John Green's most recent nonfiction book, [Everything Is Tuberculosis](#), published in early 2025, Nyx White decided to apply for Hill Day, an annual advocacy event uniting tuberculosis (TB) advocates from across the nation.

"It's really important to advocate for TB," White said. "It's easy to ignore it because TB doesn't seem to affect me or a lot of people, but it does impact everyone. You just might not notice it."

Even though TB is curable and preventable, the disease continues to kill [millions](#) of people worldwide. Green, White, and others emphasize limited access to medication and healthcare in the developing world, and the misconception of TB as a disease of the past in developed countries, as primary contributors to its persistence.

White, a 19-year-old from the Bay Area who is certified as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and works as a lifeguard, was initially drawn to TB advocacy because of their passion for healthcare. "Healthcare workers can be very easily impacted by infectious diseases," they said. "But it's also important to advocate for TB because it's an issue of fairness."

As a social disease associated with malnutrition, poverty, and housing insecurity, TB predominantly affects underprivileged people in the developing world. However, the disease also impacts U.S. citizens, including a recent [outbreak](#) at a high school in San Francisco earlier this year in January 2026.

During Hill Day in March, White recalled gazing out into the crowd and feeling a wave of amazement upon observing the number of attendees and seeing the event's impact on TB survivors. They estimated over 300 people attended, compared to only 14 during the inaugural Hill Day.

"TB survivors have been trying for years to be heard. And we can actually make progress," they said.

Organized by TBFighters, Partners in Health, and other health organizations, the event combines training on TB advocacy and meetings with representatives in an effort to earmark greater funding towards the Global Fund and health funding in developing countries.

“Fundamental to our political system is the people saying what they want and the representatives doing it,” White said. “Healthcare, and TB in particular, is a nonpartisan issue, so it’s very important to go and say people are dying, and we have the power to stop it.”

White encourages anyone to attend Hill Day and join TB advocacy efforts. “This is a disease that is treatable, that is curable. When we advocate, we can make improvements.”