

A Letter from the Editors

Dear *Pathways* Reader,

We are proud to present this special issue of *Pathways: Stanford Journal of Public Health*, dedicated to the global fight against tuberculosis (TB).

Despite being curable for over 70 years, TB remains among the top 10 causes of death worldwide and the single leading cause of death from infectious disease, claiming more than 1 million lives annually. The majority of those affected are among the poor and the marginalized, amplifying the systemic injustices in public and global health today.

This special issue was prompted by an outbreak close to home. In January 2026, the San Francisco Department of Public Health issued a health advisory on a [TB outbreak at Archbishop Riordan High School](#), where three active TB cases and 50 latent infections were confirmed. The high school TB outbreak made vivid for us something that has stayed too abstract, too long: TB is not disease confined to the distant, not a relic of the past, but instead, a living reality with us here, today. In response, *Pathways*' Education Committee partnered with the [Stanford Undergraduate Global Health Club](#) to lead the [Stanford Public Health Youth Leadership Summit](#) in April 2026. For this event, we invited over 50 high school students from the Bay Area (including from San Francisco, where the outbreak occurred) to learn about public health through keynote talks, interactive workshops, and group discussions. Our mission was to inspire the younger generation to take action toward public health, including but not limited to infectious disease, in their own communities.

This issue is the written counterpart to our effort to increase public health awareness through advocacy, representing an invitation for the larger public health community to look at, think about, and act on TB. The TB advocates profiled in our issue come from a remarkable breadth of backgrounds: a math teacher in Tulsa, a teenage EMT from the Bay Area, a software engineer in Michigan, and a children's book author and mother of six, all united by a common reckoning that TB persists today not because we lack the scientific tools to end it, but because we have chosen to look away. These advocates chose differently; their stories show how ordinary people, moved by the magnitude of a long-overlooked crisis, can translate awareness into action at every level, from social media to fundraising bracelets to meeting with congressional representatives on Capitol Hill.

Many of the advocates featured in this issue found their way to TB through Nerdfighteria, an online community built by YouTube educators John and Hank Green. The Green brothers' platform helped grow [TBFighters](#), a grassroots movement that has mobilized thousands of volunteers worldwide to events like TB Hill Day in Washington, D.C., TB Day of Action in Sacramento, and more, through collaborations with global health organizations like [Partners In Health](#), [Médecins Sans Frontières](#), and [we are TB](#). The collective energy by TB advocates in these spaces is a testament to how disparate communities can come together to become engines of real-world change.

This issue also bears witness to the urgency of the present moment for the field of global health. The dismantling of USAID, cuts to CDC TB funding, and delays to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria have cast a long shadow over decades of public health progress.

The advocates profiled in this issue have responded not with despair, but with renewed resolve. As Celeste Moss puts it, “cynicism is a cop-out. Alyson Hall reminds us that TB advocacy is refusing to become negligent. Winter Pearson finds meaning in “concrete, productive work” in a world that can feel out of our control. And Camille Andros returns again and again to a phrase that cuts through the noise: TB is a “solvable problem.”

This special issue features the following profiles:

Camille Andros: Mother of Six and Children’s Book Author Turned Tuberculosis Advocate

Interviewed by Anya Vedantambe, Written by Anya Vedantambe

From Social Work to the Hill: Megan Blades on Tuberculosis Advocacy

Interviewed by Anya Vedantambe, Written by Taryn Boonpongmanee

“Our Power Is in Community”: How Asher Blumenthal Advocates for Tuberculosis

Interviewed by Catherine Wu, Written by Sophie Acharya

Choosing Not to Look Away: Alyson Hall and Tuberculosis Advocacy

Interviewed by Catherine Wu, Written by Sneha Jiju

Talia Honikman: Software Engineer by Trade, Tuberculosis Advocate by Choice

Interviewed by Catherine Wu, Written by Sneha Jiju

Celeste Moss: How Hope in Advocacy Can Create Change

Interviewed by Anya Vedantambe, Written by Anisha Pandey

Winter Pearson: How a YouTube Rabbit Hole Led to Advocacy on Capitol Hill

Interviewed by Catherine Wu, Written by Catherine Wu

Hunter Sandlin: Standing Up to Health Inequities in Tuberculosis Diagnoses

Interviewed by Anya Vedantambe, Written by Anisha Pandey

Nyx White, Teenage EMT, Brings Visibility to Tuberculosis

Interviewed by Catherine Wu, Written by Lisa Katz

We are grateful to the TB survivors and advocates, who shared their stories with us, and to our dedicated editorial team, whose commitment made this issue possible. As always, we extend our thanks for Professor Grant Miller for his continued mentorship since the journal’s inception, and Professor John Willinsky for supporting the journal’s online presence. We would also like to thank Max Yang and Taisho Shiono for their collaboration in the Stanford Public Health Youth Leadership Summit and in Pathways Education Committee’s continued initiatives.

TB is a disease with a cure, but what stands between a world without TB is not science; it is funding, attention, and commitment. For our readers, we hope the features in this issue mobilize all three.

Sincerely,

Pathways 2026 Editorial Team

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