CATALYSTS IIII CHARIGE

THE 2023 YOUTH
ADVOCATES
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS

MAY 18, 2023



Global Health Advocacy Incubator





PROGRAM

WELCOME

Agamroop Kaur 2022 Barrie Fiske National Youth Advocate of the Year

Florencia Leiva Global Young Ambassador

OPENING REMARKS

Bill Novelli, Board Chair Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Matthew L. Myers, President Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

YOUTH ADVOCATES OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Gustavo Torrez
Director of Youth Advocacy,
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

U.S. TOBACCO CONTROL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHAMPION AWARD PRESENTATION

John Bowman, Executive
Vice President of U.S. Programs
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

JUDY WILKENFELD AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL EXCELLENCE

Patricia Sosa, Director of Latin Affairs Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

GLOBAL TOBACCO CONTROL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHAMPION AWARD PRESENTATION

Yolonda Richardson, Executive Vice President of Global Programs Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

CHAMPION AWARD ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

The Honorable Lada Bulakh Member of Parliament, Ukraine

The Honorable Mikhaylo Radutskyi Member of Parliament, Ukraine

GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCACY INCUBATOR OVERVIEW

Lucy Martinez Sullivan, Senior Vice President, Global Health Advocacy Incubator

BARRIE FISKE NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Matthew L. Myers

WELCOME

Welcome to **Catalysts for Change**, our 2023 Youth Advocates of the Year Awards! We're thrilled to have you join us for an evening of celebration, reflection and community as we honor outstanding young leaders and public health champions.

Above all, tonight we celebrate the young people who inspire us to create a healthier and more equitable future for all and whose incredible energy, passion and creativity are helping to make that future a reality. Our **Youth Advocates of the Year** make us proud and hopeful.

Tonight, we have two truly worthy Champion Award honorees.

First, we are delighted to honor **Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi** for her exceptional leadership and commitment to protecting the health and well-being of America's children. While Nancy Pelosi was Speaker of the House, Congress took some of the strongest actions to fight tobacco use in the nation's history.

We will also present a Champion Award to the courageous advocates and policymakers of Ukraine, who have made tremendous progress in fighting tobacco use despite extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Thanks to their efforts, backed by a strong civil society community, Ukraine in 2022 enacted and implemented a tobacco control law that will save lives and greatly improve public health. This remarkable progress, even as the country fights for its survival, is a testament to the commitment, perseverance and resolute spirit of our Ukrainian partners.

We will present our Judy Wilkenfeld Award for International Tobacco Control Excellence to **Erick Antonio Ochoa**, Executive Director and co-founder of Salud Justa Mx, Mexico. For over a decade, Erick has been an integral part of the grassroots movement that has made Mexico a global leader in fighting tobacco use, culminating in passage of a strong tobacco control law in 2022.

We also look forward to sharing the progress the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and our Global Health Advocacy Incubator continue to make, along with our many partners, in fighting tobacco use and tackling other critical public health challenges. We are immensely grateful to all our sponsors, partners and friends for supporting our work to protect kids, improve health and save lives.

MATTHEW L. MYERS

PRESIDENT

YOLONDA RICHARDSON

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS





In January 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a sweeping new tobacco control law to save lives and protect millions of Ukrainians from the deadly harms of tobacco use. The law prohibits smoking and e-cigarette use in public spaces. It also bans advertising, promotion and sponsorship of all tobacco products; increases the size of warning labels required on cigarettes, heated cigarettes and e-cigarettes; and bans flavored products.

This historic law was the result of years of skilled advocacy and campaigning from courageous civil society organizations and stalwart support from champions in government, despite opposition from the tobacco industry and the complications of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, there was little time for celebration. Barely a month after President Zelenskyy signed the law, Russia invaded Ukraine, requiring the Ukrainian government and public to defend their country.

All our Ukrainian partners have been impacted in some way by the invasion — many now serve in the military, and everyone has lost friends and family to the war. The war put implementation of the tobacco control law in jeopardy. However, in a moving testament to their dedication, many who fled the country quickly returned and resumed working to strongly implement and protect the law from industry threats.

Under the chaos of war, the tobacco companies aggressively fought to weaken and reverse the law. But public health champions worked quickly with allies in Parliament and the media to expose and successfully derail their efforts. These same tobacco companies also continue to do business in Russia, showing just how far Big Tobacco will go to protect its bottom line.

We are joined tonight by the Honorable Mikhaylo Radutskyi and the Honorable Lada Bulakh, members of Ukraine's Parliament, who will accept the Champion Award on behalf of the courageous advocates and policymakers of Ukraine who have made tremendous progress in fighting tobacco use despite extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Their determination and resilience inspire all of us, and we are proud to honor them with our Champion Award.

CHAMPION AWARD SPEAKER EMERITA NANCY PELOSI

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi served as the 52nd Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 to 2011, making history as the first woman elected to serve as Speaker of the House, and served again as Speaker from 2019 to 2023. She has represented San Francisco in Congress for more than 35 years. Under her leadership as Speaker, Congress passed numerous pieces of historic legislation, from the Affordable Care Act in 2010 to the American Rescue Plan during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaker Emerita Pelosi is a longtime and passionate champion in the fight to protect our children from tobacco addiction and reduce the enormous harm caused by tobacco use. Because of her leadership and commitment while serving as Speaker of the House, Congress took some of the strongest actions to reduce tobacco use in the nation's history.

In 2009, Congress enacted into law both the landmark Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which granted the FDA long-sought authority over tobacco products, and the largest federal tobacco tax increase in the nation's history.

In 2020, Speaker Pelosi led the House in voting to approve the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act — the first time a chamber of Congress had ever voted to prohibit all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes the tobacco industry has long targeted at Black communities and the flavored e-cigarettes that fueled a youth addiction epidemic. In 2022, Congress enacted a new law making clear the FDA's authority to regulate products made with synthetic nicotine, heading off tobacco company efforts to evade regulation and continue targeting kids with flavored products.

The laws enacted under Speaker Pelosi have had a significant impact in curtailing the harmful practices of the tobacco industry and in driving down youth and adult smoking rates to record lows. We are thrilled to honor Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi for her stalwart commitment to the health and well-being of America's children and her courageous leadership in the fight against tobacco.







Clockwise from top left: 2021 Honoree Heran Gerba Borta, Ethiopia. 2020 Honorees Daniela Guedes, Adriana Carvalho, Anna Monteiro, Brazil.

Since 2008, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids has presented the Judy Wilkenfeld Award for International Tobacco Control Excellence to an advocate from a low- or middle-income country who has worked to significantly reduce tobacco use through policy advocacy. It is our highest international advocate award, given in honor of the late Judy Wilkenfeld, an inspiring advocate whose expertise and devotion forever changed the world of tobacco control.

For over 20 years, Judy Wilkenfeld used her voice to fight the deadly toll of tobacco use in the U.S. and around the world, first as a public official and then as leader of Tobacco-Free Kids' global program. Judy played a critical role in the negotiation and adoption of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the creation of the Framework Convention Alliance.

Judy's unique ability to bring people together set her apart. Not only did she always treat her colleagues with the utmost respect, she was also committed to using her own voice to lift up the voices of others.

She was a true role model, both as an advocate and as an individual, and we commemorate her legacy every year with this award.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALUD JUSTA MX, MEXICO

Erick Antonio Ochoa is the Executive Director of Salud Justa Mx, a civil society organization he co-founded to promote public policies and social changes that protect the right to health and prevent non-communicable diseases, including policies to reduce tobacco use.

For more than a decade, Mr. Antonio Ochoa has been an integral part of the grassroots movement that has made Mexico a global leader in fighting tobacco use. He led the successful campaign that resulted in Mexico implementing a Latin America-leading tobacco tax increase in 2011. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to help Mexico adopt the policies called for in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

In 2022, Mr. Antonio Ochoa's leadership was critical in strengthening Mexico's General Law for Tobacco Control to ban all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship and prohibit tobacco use — including the use of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products — in all indoor public spaces and some outdoor public places. He was also instrumental in successfully advocating for a ban on the import, distribution and commercialization of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products. These measures passed due to strong advocacy from Mexico's tobacco control community, which was inspired by his leadership and encouragement, and because of his direct advocacy to members of the executive and legislative branches.

Mr. Antonio Ochoa's vision has also been crucial in building a strong coalition of organizations to counter the tobacco industry's aggressive interference.

The Mexico Saludhable coalition, coordinated by Salud Justa Mx, currently includes over 100 organizations. Salud Justa Mx has also worked with journalists to elevate the importance of reducing tobacco use and expose the tobacco industry's interference.

We are thrilled to honor Erick Antonio Ochoa for his exemplary leadership and commitment to collaboration. His work is helping to protect millions of Mexicans from deadly secondhand smoke and the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing.

THE BARRIE FISKE YOUTH LEADERSHIP FUND





2021 Honoree Milton Nguyen and 2022 Honoree Agamroop Kaur.

Barrie Fiske was a tireless tobacco control champion committed to using her strong voice to fight for change. Born with cystic fibrosis, Barrie faced a real threat to her health whenever exposed to secondhand smoke. Rejecting smoke-filled places that put her and everyone else at risk, Barrie spoke up and advocated for everyone's right to breathe clean, smoke-free air, joining the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids as a New York State Advocate and a member of our Board of Directors.

Barrie's passion, persistence, creativity and unapologetically hard-hitting style never failed to inspire.

While cystic fibrosis ultimately took her life in June of 2019, we honor Barrie's legacy by naming our highest youth award after her — the Barrie Fiske National Youth Advocate of the Year Award. We can think of no better way to honor Barrie and her deep commitment to our cause than to hold up her fierce example to the young advocates we recognize each year.

In 2021, with generous support from Barrie's family and friends, we launched the Barrie Fiske Youth Leadership Fund. The "Barrie Fund" is providing the foundational funding to take our youth advocacy program to a new level by engaging more youth as tobacco control leaders, putting our youth advocacy work on firm ground for the future, and continuing to expand the role of youth in bringing about the change we need.

The Barrie Fund is a permanent part of what we do and who we are, and the youth leaders who receive the Barrie Fiske National Youth Advocate of the Year Award will create a legacy to Barrie and the values she exemplified.

POUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD AND A VEARWOOD

INDEPENDENCE, MO

Darvius (DJ) Yearwood grew up surrounded by family members who smoked — as a child, he would hide their cigarettes from them. He always knew he didn't like tobacco. But his advocacy journey grew as he learned how the tobacco industry systematically targets vulnerable communities and creates deep-rooted health inequities.

DJ developed a passion for youth advocacy across several issues, and he built strong relationships with policymakers in his community. These relationships continue to deliver results. Recently, he worked with lawmakers to allocate \$2.9 million toward Missouri's tobacco prevention program, the largest investment in tobacco prevention in the state's history. DJ's advocacy was critical, and he delivered a speech at the bill's signing.

DJ's advocacy work also spans the country. He's participated in panels, held town halls and even met with FDA officials to support the agency's proposed ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. He was also an instrumental organizer in the successful referendum in California to end the sale of flavored tobacco products.

DJ is always looking for ways to engage and advocate for his peers. He's worked with his school district to implement and advise tobacco prevention clubs — and even founded his own nonprofit focusing on peer support and mobilization. Through this nonprofit, DJ is working to repeal a Missouri law that prevents localities from passing ordinances that protect kids from tobacco. DJ is also the Head Defense Attorney for the Jackson County Youth Court where he focuses on educating and supporting young people caught using tobacco products.

DJ embodies all the qualities of a new generation of leaders catalyzing change for a healthier and more equitable future. We are delighted to honor him with our 2023 Barrie Fiske National Youth Advocate of the Year Award.



YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD LAUGH LA

LAS CRUCES, NM

On her first day of high school, Lauren To was late. Not because of freshman jitters, but because a student was smoking on her school bus — her first real encounter with youth tobacco use. This experience was all too common as she continued to see many of her peers smoking and using e-cigarettes. She refused to accept this reality and has steadily grown to become a passionate and effective advocate for change.

Lauren started off her advocacy journey by leading discussions with her high school principal to implement a comprehensive tobacco-free school policy. Encouraged by that success, she helped build support for a district-wide policy, which the school board eventually adopted.

Lauren is actively engaged with New Mexico legislators to build support for policies to end flavored tobacco sales and raise the tobacco tax. She was also involved in the successful campaign to require tobacco retailer licenses and raise the tobacco age to 21.

We're thrilled to recognize Lauren's tremendous leadership.





BENICIA, CA

At an early age, Miah Chao saw the impact that nicotine addiction had on her older sister. And when she got to high school, she saw the same thing: friends and peers lured by candy-flavored e-cigarettes. Outraged at how the tobacco industry perpetuates addiction by targeting kids and vulnerable communities, she jumped into advocacy.

In her hometown of Benicia, California, Miah has advocated for a variety of policies to protect her peers and community from tobacco. She successfully campaigned for an ordinance that required tobacco retailer licenses and regulated how and where tobacco products could be sold; legislation to make multi-unit housing and public outdoor spaces smoke-free; and an alternative-to-suspension policy template for California school districts...

Miah is now a confident leader with the California Youth Council, helping to rally and organize fellow advocates in support of strong tobacco prevention policies. Most recently, Miah was heavily involved in advocating for the successful campaign to end flavored tobacco sales in California.

Miah believes in leading by example and always looks for opportunities to encourage young people to use their voices to drive the change they want to see. We are excited to honor her as a Youth Advocate of the Year.





ADAIR, OK

Lilith Breazeale witnessed the impact of tobacco use, both at home and at school. When the kids she used to play tag with started becoming addicted to e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, she knew she had to get involved.

Early on, Lilith learned about the impact of Oklahoma's preemption law, which prevented local communities from passing tobacco prevention policies. Undeterred, she collected data throughout her community to demonstrate strong support to remove preemption and take action to protect kids and residents from tobacco. In March 2023, she brought these findings to the state capitol, meeting with legislators and building support for empowering communities to pass strong tobacco prevention policies.

Lilith believes in leading by example, and she strives to make her peers feel welcome in joining her. Whether it's using social media to reach new audiences or connecting with students at events, she is always using her creativity and compassion to make a difference.

She is a natural leader and an exceptional young advocate who we are grateful to have in the fight for a tobacco-free generation.





HUNTINGTON, WV

J.R. Ash was just four years old when his father was diagnosed with throat cancer. His father beat the disease, but he continued to have lasting impairments. Seeing the impacts of smoking firsthand, J.R. knew he wanted to get involved in the fight for a tobacco-free future.

Growing up in West Virginia, J.R. faced the realities of advocating in a state with the highest rate of tobacco use in the U.S. Despite these obstacles, J.R. refuses to accept the status quo, combining creativity and tenacity to move the needle. Recognizing his authenticity and impact, the American Heart Association chose J.R. to voice radio PSAs about the impact that Big Tobacco has on teens.

J.R. has worked with many West Virginia lawmakers, pushing the state Legislature to increase funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs and pushing them to oppose a law that would allow cigar bars at resorts. He has also met with his school board to push for non-punitive tobacco use policies that focus on cessation and support.

J.R.'s dedication to powering through adversity to protect his community makes him a tremendous voice in the fight to end the death and disease caused by tobacco use.





NICOLE LIU SUHITA CHINTALACHARUVU BRENNA BASTIN HANNAH MARTIN

VOICE Indiana is a statewide youth organization focused on engaging, educating and empowering teens to live tobacco-free. Together, group members equip young people with the truth about Big Tobacco and give them a platform to drive change in their communities.

Brenna, Hannah, Nicole and Suhita are four exceptional members from this group – effective, collaborative leaders working together to make the program stronger and make Indiana healthier.

One example of this collective action is the VOICE Youth Day at the Indiana Statehouse. Through effective planning and communication, they gathered over 250 youth from across the state to speak with policymakers about increasing the tobacco tax and other tobacco prevention policies. The theme was "Link Up to Be Tobacco-Free." To demonstrate this unity, participants built connected paper links of red, white and blue. Red links represented hope for someone to break their tobacco addiction; white links were a pledge to live tobacco-free, and blue links collected stories of how VOICE members took action in their communities.

This event was a tremendous catalyst that will continue to inspire young people to join the movement and encourage elected leaders to act. Brenna, Hannah, Nicole and Suhita were instrumental in the event's success, and that's just the tip of the iceberg of everything they continue to do.

While this award honors the collective efforts of VOICE Indiana, we are delighted to highlight the efforts of these four young leaders boldly fighting to create the first tobacco-free generation.





OUR HISTORY

Building on the successes and lessons learned in the global fight against tobacco, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids launched the Global Health Advocacy Incubator in 2014 to address some of the toughest public health challenges around the globe.

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) supports civil society organizations and advocacy movements around the world united by one goal: to save lives and create healthier futures for some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Our work focuses on a wide range of public health issues including preventing deaths from drowning and road crashes, protecting heart health, improving nutrition, increasing immunization coverage for children, prioritizing hypertension and primary care, preventing drug overdoses and helping countries prevent the next epidemic and improve their public health data collection. We partner with local organizations, advocates and government to create and sustain change.

Over the past nine years, GHAI has helped civil society organizations achieve close to 80 health policy victories covering more than three billion people in 23 countries around the world, in diverse political systems. The policies are already having an impact — reducing sugary drink consumption in South Africa, reducing trans fats in foods in Brazil, and increasing funding for preventing epidemics in Nigeria.

OUR PROGRAMS

GHAI builds local partner capacity to lead and sustain policy advocacy. We provide our partners with direct, systematic, ongoing technical assistance and capacity-building support. We capture best practices that can be shared with partners, within and across issues and countries, to continuously improve our approach. Our programs are organized within the following areas of work:

Food and Nutrition: We support advocacy campaigns that promote sustainable food systems, ensuring everyone has the right to access healthy food. We build movements to reduce the demand for unhealthy, ultra-processed foods and beverages and to promote access to nutritious food. Our programs focus on advocacy for evidence-based food and nutrition policies that prevent illnesses such as cardiovascular disease and improve health.

Health Systems Strengthening: We build equitable and resilient health systems in low- and middle-income countries by advancing policies and programs that secure sustainable domestic investments. Our programs address Data for Health, Drowning Prevention, Hypertension and Primary Care, Immunization, Maternal and Reproductive Health and Preventing Epidemics.

Injury Prevention: We support advocacy campaigns that advance policy change to reduce deaths from drug overdoses and save lives on the road. Our programs address Overdose Prevention, Preventing Violence Against Women and Road Safety.

26 27

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

JOHN SCHACHTER





9A9A Speech Writer

Big Tobacco Foe

Husband and Dad

Long-Suffering Mets Fan

Funny Guy

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When creative advocacy meets data-driven communications, change happens.

That's the driving force behind Subject Matter+Kivvit, and why we're proud to partner with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids as they take on Big Tobacco to save lives. Congratulations to the 2023 Youth Advocates of the Year and thank you for your work making meaningful change happen.

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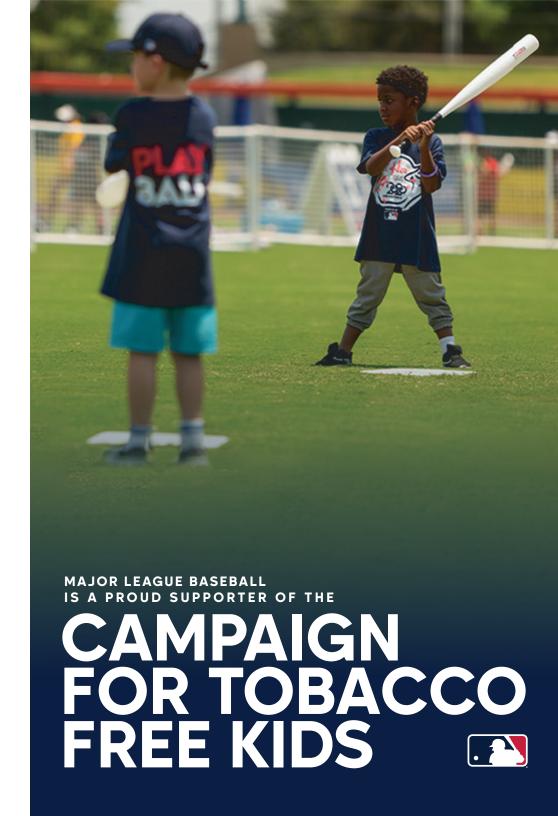
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Yes, we serve millions of people in thousands of locations across the country. But what really matters is the size of our heart. Because every day, in every way, we are passionate about bringing our heart to every moment of your health.

Proud to support the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.









The American Heart Association thanks the Youth Advocates of the Year for calling out tobacco industry targeting of youth and communities worldwide.



Together, we will end the sinister cycle of tobacco addiction and save lives. #TobaccoEndgame



We are proud to help celebrate this year's
Catalysts for Change and look forward to working
together to create the first tobacco-free generation.
Congratulations to Darvius (DJ) Yearwood. Erick Antonio
Ochoa, Lauren To, Miah Chao, Lilith Breazeale, Jr Ash
and Voice Indiana for their life-saving work.



Visit us at truthinitiative.org to learn more.



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

is proud to partner with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids to lessen the burden of cancer across the country through strong tobacco control policies.





The Board of Directors of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids congratulates our 2023 Youth Advocates of the Year. Their passion and leadership will help make

the next generation tobacco-free.



2023 Barrie Fiske National Youth Advocate of the Year

DJ Yearwood

Independence, Missouri

ce, Missouri

Group Youth Advocates of the Year

VOICE Indiana Indianapolis, Indiana

Youth Advocates of the Year

Lilith Breazeale *Adair, Oklahoma*

Lauren ToLas Cruces, New Mexico

J.R. AshHuntington, West Virginia

Miah Chao

Benicia, California

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to all the Youth Leaders acting as

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And to Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids for more than 25 years fighting to protect children and save lives.

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Bully Pulpit Interactive congratulates the 2023 Youth Advocates of the Year honorees.

We are proud to support you and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids in your efforts to end youth nicotine addiction. **KELLEY DRYE JOINS THE**

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IN HONORING THE 2023 YOUTH ADVOCATES OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS









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Manchester Park

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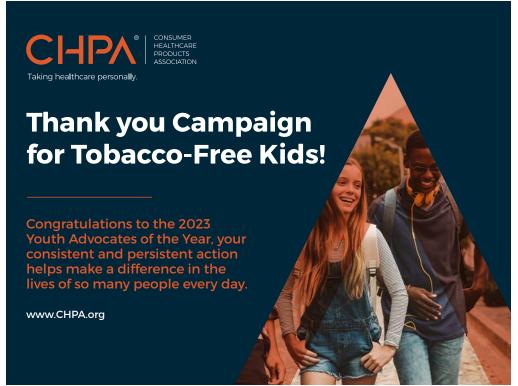
AFTER 20+ YEARS IN TOBACCO CONTROL,

the driving force behind our efforts is the passion and dedication of the young advocates being honored today.

We are endlessly inspired by your commitment to creating a healthier future, and we thank you for all that you do.

GOLIN





Congratulations YOUTH ADVOCATES OF THE YEAR THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIRELESS FEFORTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR KIDS AND COMMUNITIES



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We also want to congratulate the 2023 Youth Advocates of the Year on being a Catalyst for Change.

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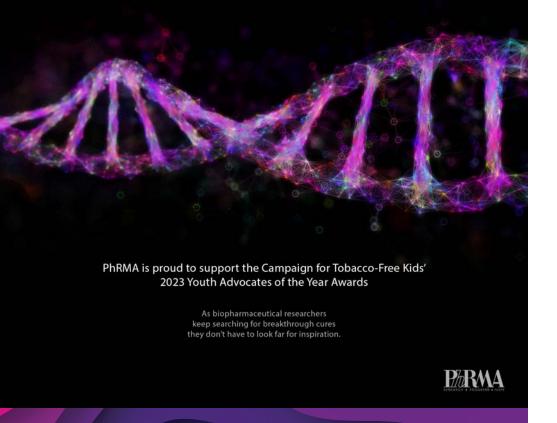
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to this year's youth advocates and our partners at CTFK.

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THE POWERFUL
VOICES CREATING
A TOBACCO-FREE
FUTURE.

Congratulations to the 2023 Youth Advocates of the Year.



THE 2023 YOUTH
ADVOCATES
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS



Global Health Advocacy Incubator

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