

## A letter from the director

Dear Community Partners,

After months of cold temperatures, snow flurries, and blustery winds, we are beginning to see the first hints of spring. Longer days, warm sunshine, and the noisy chirping of birds in the yard are all reminders that brighter days are indeed ahead. It is especially important to remember this at a time when it feels like everything we embrace, everything we stand for, and everything we believe in is under siege. The news out of our nation's capital has unjustly targeted our commitment to health equity, our steadfast focus on diversity and inclusion programming, the lifesaving benefits of Medicaid and vaccination that protect the youth we serve, the groundbreaking research initiatives that ultimately transform our communities' health, and now, direct threats to HIV prevention activities that have been a vital part of our commitment to Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

But now is not the time to waver, step down, or retreat. On the contrary, this is when we step up, amplify our voices, and pledge our support for the people we show up for every single day—our patients, our clients, our communities, and each other. As Medical Director of Care2Prevent for the last decade, I have been honored and privileged to be surrounded by a team that places people first, that goes above and beyond to ensure needs are met, and that seeks to empower and educate our community members. Care2Prevent will not back down, and I say this to our team, our patients and clients, and our communities: we see you, we hear you, and you belong here. **We remain here for you.**

Despite the challenges we face, Care2Prevent has celebrated many triumphs including record numbers of community members screened for HIV and STIs throughout Chicago's South Side in the beginning of 2025, the establishment of new partnerships with community-based organizations and Chicago-area high schools, continued community groups and our peer mentorship program, and sponsorship of events to connect our communities with vital resources such as employment, housing, and health promotion.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "We do not have to become heroes overnight. Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up, seeing it as not as dreadful as it appears, discovering that we have the strength to stare it down." Care2Prevent will continue to proudly serve its communities, seek strength and support through our passion for this work, and advocate for those who need it most. We look forward to doing this in concert with all of you, our trusted community partners, who enhance our mission, provide us new perspective, and remain with us in the continued fight for justice.

In Solidarity,  
Julia Rosebush, DO, FAAP  
Medical Director, Care2Prevent at the University of Chicago



Medical Director Julia Rosebush on Capitol Hill in March, advocating for continued support of Medicaid funding for our nation's children.

## A Smashing Success



Care2Prevent hosted IAMWOMAN, its first health and resource fair for International Women's Day, on March 7th at the Chase Bank Community Center in South Shore. This event

brought together over ten community organizations, including Lawrence Hall, Friend Health, Casa Esperanza and South Side Help Center, all of whom shared their resources and information for community members.

The Care2Prevent team provided free HIV and STI screenings to participants, and also hosted a fashion show featuring clothing items made with upcycled materials created by participants of the Getting to Zero community group.

## Pride

Pride will be here before we know it. With the threats to the progress we've made, it may seem like we don't have a lot to celebrate this year but it's now, more than ever, that we must march forward.

We've faced adversity before and can do it again.

We are committed, unwaveringly, to our community, and we will continue to show up. Care2Prevent will continue to fight for equality and against stigma. We are committed. We're strong. And we're still here for you.



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