

# Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments



Annual Report

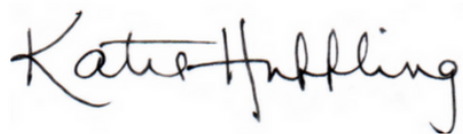


# From ANHE's Executive Director

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This year was an incredibly special year for all of us at the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE). In 2023, ANHE celebrated 15 years as an organization! This past year, I've been fortunate to hear from both ANHE members who have been with us since the beginning and new members. Many of you highlighted the incredible work of the organization over the past 15 years. ANHE started as a small group of very dedicated volunteers and now we've grown to more than 9000 members from over 50 countries.

It has been a privilege to work with so many amazing and dedicated nurses in my time with ANHE. ANHE members are the backbone of the organization and have been critical to our tremendous success over the years. We are proud of our committed volunteer board, the many valuable partnerships we've established, the opportunities we provide to nurses and nursing students, and our powerful health advocacy efforts. I can't wait to see what the next 15 years will hold!



Katie Huffling, DNP, RN, CNM, FAAN  
Executive Director





# Year in Review: 2023

Taking the Lead: Shoutout to the 18 nurse fellows who are halfway through the 3rd cohort of the ANHE Environmental Health Nurse Fellowship program. Learn more about the participants on page 7.

Advocacy Wins: Hundreds of nurses provided comments and testimony to federal agencies in support of strengthening clean air safeguards and reducing climate pollution. Learn more on page 5.

Partnership and Community Connections: We teamed up with a number of organizations and initiatives to make a real impact!

- We joined forces with the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment to highlight the role of planetary health at the 2023 Congress of the International Council of Nurses.
- Members of the Nursing Collaborative on Climate Change and Health are implementing organizational-wide initiatives on climate and health.
- We collaborated with the Cancer Free Economy Network to support community-led initiatives to prevent cancer and other diseases by reducing environmental exposures.





# 15 Years of ANHE

Celebrating environmental health nursing accomplishments

**In 2023**, we celebrated 15 years of ANHE with a virtual Gala. The evening was a celebration of ANHE's work and was filled with laughs, memories, games, and prizes. Through our Gala and peer-to-peer fundraising efforts, we raised over \$20,000 to support ANHE's work in the coming years. A big thank you to our sponsors, partners, attendees, members, and the ANHE network!

It's amazing to see our progress over the past 15 years. We've now grown to be an organization of over 9,000 members.

We've expanded and strengthened our partnerships with nursing organizations.

Through our nursing partnership work this year, we hosted a Leadership & Advocacy Training for representatives of national nursing organizations and awarded subgrants to 7 nursing organizations to support climate and health initiatives. We continue to host quarterly calls with state nurses associations on environmental health.

ANHE continues to serve as a vital resource on environmental health. In 2023, we supported over 60 Schools of Nursing (SON) as part of the Nurses Climate Challenge SON Commitment and released a new toolkit, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Guidance for Clinicians.

## ANHE's Origin Story

In December 2008, fifty nursing leaders joined a 4-day, invitational meeting to develop a strategic plan for environmental health nursing. From this meeting, a national organization was born – the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments.

An organizational structure was constructed and 4 main Forums were created to begin the important work of this new Alliance: Education, Practice, Research, and Policy/Advocacy. These Forums are based on the 1995 Institute of Medicine's (now the National Academy of Medicine) report Nursing, Health, and the Environment which outlines how environmental health can be incorporated into nursing.



# Our Growing Team

ANHE welcomed new team members in 2023:  
Trishia Salindong and Milagros “Millie” Elia.



**Katie Huffling**  
Executive Director



**Cara Cook**  
Director of Programs



**Hannah Noel-Bouchard**  
Nurse Operations  
Coordinator



**Jeremiah Headen**  
Fellowship  
Program Coordinator



**Sara Bucic**  
Policy Consultant



**Trishia Salindong**  
Communications  
Specialist &  
Graphic Designer



**Milagros Elia**  
Program Manager,  
Climate & Clean  
Energy Advocacy



**Melanie Schimpf**  
California Nurse  
Organizer

Welcome also to our new Board Members:  
Drs. Teddie Potter, Daniel Smith, Nelson Tuazon, and Adelita Cantu



**Teddie Potter**



**Adelita Cantu**



**Nelson Tuazon**



**Daniel Smith**



# Nursing Advocacy Wins

ANHE nurses were at the forefront of environmental health and advocacy this year. Nurses showed up in numbers to advocate in support of strong climate action and regulations to reduce air, water, and toxic pollution. ANHE nurses met with key offices, participated in rallies and press conferences, and partnered with the broader environmental movement to push for change on behalf of health.

At the start of the year, 42 nursing groups from across the nation united to endorse the [Joint Commitment Statement on Climate Change and Health](#). This statement was shared with the 118th Congress and the Biden Administration. In the statement, nursing organizations outlined a call to action for the Biden Administration and federal agencies and urged for stronger protections in support of public health by declaring climate change as a public health emergency, mandating active decarbonization across health systems and practice settings, promoting climate health education and training for nurses, and more.

ANHE participated in the Solutions for Pollution campaign, calling on the Biden Administration to uphold its commitment to cut pollution in half by 2030. We developed a [climate change storytelling series](#), showcasing nurses around the country highlighting their experiences with climate and health in their communities and advocating for bold and ambitious climate action. ANHE hosted a number of Facebook live events, webinars, and two in-person events to highlight the benefits of transiting to zero-emission vehicles.



# 2023 By the Numbers

ANHE continues to grow in capacity, influence, and impact.

**9000+**

supporters and members

**60+**

attendees joined us in Pittsburgh, PA for the fourth Nursing Summit on Environmental Health

**30+**

visits with members of Congress

**60+**

schools of nursing (SON) currently signed on to the Nurses Climate Challenge SON Commitment







# Environmental Health Nurse Fellowship

2023 was a busy year for the ANHE Environmental Health Nurse Fellowship program. In May 2023, we wrapped the second cohort with 20 nurses completing the program. The Fellows in the second cohort worked on a range of climate-related environmental issues and projects, including participating in advocacy campaigns, coordinating community sessions, starting community gardens, collaborating with school districts, and more.

In September 2023, we launched the third cohort of the Environmental Health Nurse Fellowship with 18 fellows and 6 mentors. We hosted the program participants at a kick-off convening in Minnesota. The program will run through September 2024.

The Fellowship is centered around four foundational principles: 1) Community Engagement via Partnership Building, 2) Health Equity + Anti-Racism, 3) Growing the Leadership of Nurses, and 4) Closing the Distance between Community and Care. Nurse fellows partner with community-based organizations across the country to uplift community-level solutions to climate change and environmental harms. Learn more about the program, the nurses that are participating, and the highlights of the specific projects and partnerships conducted during the program: <https://fellowship.envirn.org/>.



# ANHE at COP28


ANHE sent a delegation of five representatives to the United Nations' Climate Change Conference (COP28) hosted in Dubai, UAE. This year was a monumental year for health. Our representatives participated in the first-ever Health Day at the global event. ANHE collaborated with the US Climate Action Network and the Global Climate and Health Alliance in our advocacy towards including health-centered principles and solutions in COP decision making.

In collaboration with the Children's Environmental Health Network, International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, Indian Youth for Society, and Global Climate and Health Alliance, ANHE hosted an official side event: "A Healthy Response to Climate Change: Community/Health Partnerships for Climate and Health Equity", with Dr. Doriam Camacho Rodriguez of ANHE Latinoamèrica beautifully representing the nursing perspective. ANHE Director of Programs, Cara Cook and Executive Director, Katie Huffling, both spoke on panels at the Monash University pavilion, providing a nurse perspective on climate and health solutions.

ANHE posted updates to our [Instagram page](#) providing highlights on daily activities.



This was ANHE's third year attending COP. Our aim is to increase the presence and influence of nurses in international climate negotiating spaces.



# Up Next: 2024

## Support ANHE in 2024!

ANHE is excited to launch a storytelling series in 2024 to build public support for climate health action and emphasize climate wins throughout the country.

Stay tuned for how you can get involved!

Support ANHE's work by donating [here](#).

In lieu of a Nursing Summit on Environmental Health, ANHE will host two regional convenings to bring nurses and those working in the environmental movement together to increase collaboration and action.





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