



CLINICA
Msr. Oscar A.
ROMERO



NEWS LETTER

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Volume 3, Issue 3

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Facts about CMOAR:

Annually, CMOAR provides over 55,000 health related encounters to children, adolescents and adults regardless of ability to pay.

An average family of four receiving services at CMOAR earns less than \$16,000 per year, many much less.

The vast majority of patients are the working poor who have jobs in the restaurant, garment, and other service industries that make up the backbone of the Los Angeles economy, but have no insurance for themselves or their families.

Over 11,000 children, youth and adults receive health education per year on the issues of HIV, tobacco, and alcohol and drug use prevention.

Clinica Msr. Oscar A. Romero is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit community health center and contributions are tax-deductible.

Eduardo A. Gonzalez, MD
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Msr. Oscar A. Romero 28th Anniversary Commemoration

*I beseech you.
I beg you.
I order you in the name of God:
Stop the repression!*

Archbishop Romero of El Salvador just prior to his assassination on March 24, 1980, addressed these words to military combatants whose tactics upheld an unjust political and socioeconomic system that oppressed the poor majority. The people of El Salvador were denied basic human rights and although a United Nations sanctioned Peace Accord was brokered in 1992 after 16 years of civil war, the struggle for social justice continues there and here in Los Angeles.

Today, the voice of the people of El Salvador is joined together with those of people from other Latin American and Asian countries, African Americans and whites, the working poor and homeless, who are currently struggling to survive in the Greater Los Angeles area. Remaining at the forefront of giving voice and supplication to the needs of these men, women and children, is Clinica Msr. Oscar A. Romero.

CMOAR marked the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination by declaring a paid holiday for all employees on Friday, March 21, 2008. The following week, CMOAR staff joined together for a cultural celebration of the life of Archbishop Romero and his inspiration on the founding and continuation of the clinic. This inspiration is rooted in the active compassion and defense of the poor exemplified by Romero's life and in his theology and non-violence, which echoes the thought and practice of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

Drama and dance, music and speeches flowed with food, drink and good cheer at a clinic-wide reception on Friday afternoon, March 28, 2008. An ecumenical service with neighborhood pastors contributed to the festivities. Executive Director Eduardo A. Gonzalez, M.D., thanked employees for their commitment to the work of CMOAR in aid of the underserved – the people Archbishop Romero identified with and for whom he spoke out.

Capital Campaign: A Permanent Medical Home – A Dream in the Making

The Rose Hills Foundation Grant

In February 2008, Ms. Victoria B. Rogers, President of The Rose Hills Foundation, informed Executive Director Eduardo A. Gonzalez, M.D., of her Board of Directors' decision to provide \$150,000 toward

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our Capital Campaign: A Permanent Medical Home – A Dream in the Making. The monies will be awarded in December 2008 when construction will be well under way at our 123 South Alvarado Street site. CMOAR is grateful for the support of The Rose Hills Foundation.

CMOAR appreciates the generosity of corporations and foundations, individuals and organizations, contributing to our effort to better serve the uninsured and underserved of our community with high quality, low-cost or free, healthcare, health education and advocacy support. We still need additional contributions in order to meet our goal so please let everyone know of this worthwhile opportunity. Please contact James Hoyne of the Development Department at 323-987-1411 or jhoyne@clinicaromero.com for additional information.

Medication Adherence and Pharmacy Project – UniHealth Foundation Grant

Under the direction of Drs. Eduardo A. Gonzalez, Executive Director, and Grace Floutsis, Medical Director, CMOAR began in 2007 to address the expressed needs of patients in accessing convenient pharmacy services and learning about medication adherence. It was with much pleasure, therefore, that CMOAR received a two-year \$600,000 grant from UniHealth Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organization whose mission is to support and facilitate activities that significantly improve the health and well being of individuals and communities within its service area.

President Mary Odell let CMOAR know of the award in December 2007, and we look forward to working with UniHealth Foundation Senior Program Officer Nancy Mullenax on this grant in the coming months. CMOAR will document and chronicle the development of this project in order to share best practices with other community health centers interested in learning from our experience.

The monies will be used to address CMOAR's need to be an integrated one-stop primary healthcare facility. This vision entails providing access to full-scope, licensed pharmacy services in a linguistically and culturally proficient manner. The benefits of an on-site, full-service, licensed pharmacy are many. It removes barriers to receiving medications, and improves patient adherence to medication treatment plans by improving the quality and availability of patient education and counseling. It reduces healthcare disparities and improves chronic disease management. Moreover, it increases CMOAR's efficiency and sustainability in a competitive marketplace for insured patients. The project will allow CMOAR to increase its revenue to the point it is able to pay for the salary portion of the pharmacy expenses.

The CMOAR 123 South Alvarado Street clinic is now a one-stop healthcare facility with the convenience of medical, dental, mental health, education, community organizing, advocacy and now a pharmacy all under one roof. This development is indicative of the type of treatment CMOAR advocates for the uninsured and underserved – high quality and affordable.



L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN®

Sonrisas Sanas: Healthy Smiles – L.A. Care Grant

CMOAR is dedicated to making oral health care available to all people, particularly those who are underserved and uninsured. A program directed at children and parents with funding from L.A. Care Health Plan's Oral Health Initiative Community Investment Health Funds is *Sonrisas Sanas: Healthy Smiles*.

Through *Sonrisas Sanas: Healthy Smiles*, CMOAR dental coordinator and health educators conduct oral health education outreach in the clinic's waiting room and enroll parents and children in classes on oral health. During such educational sessions the importance of oral hygiene and preventive check-ups is emphasized. Practical demonstrations on teeth brushing and flossing engage both children and parents. Appointments for linguistically and culturally sensitive dental services are scheduled and reminders sent out.

With on-site dental facilities at both sites, CMOAR addresses all aspects of a person's health by referring patients to comprehensive healthcare services when they walk through the door. Oral health is essential to maintaining overall health. The human body does not differentiate between physical health and oral health despite payment mechanisms.

Oral health has a major impact on individual well-being. It influences smiling and self-esteem, educational attention and play aptitude, eating and sleeping habits. CMOAR's goal is to provide a dental home for children and adults where they can receive both oral health care and education.

CMOAR's Women and Children clinical division supports prenatal and postpartum dental care for pregnant women and newborns. Through CMOAR's *Su Salud en Sus Manos: Your Health in Your Hands* diabetes self-management program, the dental clinic has a distinct pool of diabetic patients being cared for due to increased incidence of gum diseases associated with this chronic disease. To schedule an appointment or for additional information, please contact CMOAR's Dental Coordinator Anna Torres at 213-989-7700, ext. 2741 or atorres@clinaromero.com.

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