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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) non-profit community health center and contributions are tax-deductible.

Entre las Sabanas: Beneath the Sheets

The California Community Foundation*, Audrey Backus Fund, Family Planning Initiative awarded Clinica Msr. Oscar A. Romero \$150,000 for a program entitled *Entre las Sabanas: Beneath the Sheets*. The program seeks to prevent teen pregnancy in the Pico-Union/Westlake district by pulling back the covers prohibiting dialogue about sexuality. Creating the space beyond the clinical and classroom setting for open, honest discussion about sex, relationships, and love, is vital to engaging neighborhood teenagers and parents in the process. CMOAR's project seeks to change attitudes, increase knowledge, and alter behavior with regards to sex. The goal is to promote increased condom and contraceptive use among sexually active adolescents, help teens delay initiation of sexual intercourse, and ultimately reduce teen pregnancy.

Entre las Sabanas: Beneath the Sheets aims to meet community members where they are at with regards to communicating about sex and gently guide them along a learning and confidence curve to improve communication skills and heightened awareness of the need to prevent teen pregnancy. By stressing comfortable one-on-one discussion and utilizing open-forum education and training sessions, *Entre las Sabanas: Beneath the Sheets* promotes trust and truth as necessary qualities to discussions about the mysterious topic of sex.

The project will involve a trained group of teen peer health educators who will reach out to others and address a topic about which many are ambiguous. A strong component of their message will be the availability of family planning and counseling services at CMOAR and its Teen Reproductive Health Web pages to be developed by the peer health educators. An essential part of the message will be to alert teens of CMOAR's Tuesday after school Teen Clinic. CMOAR staff looks forward to assisting neighborhood teens develop both a healthy appreciation of sexuality and pregnancy prevention awareness and is grateful to the California Community Foundation for supporting this endeavor.

Board Member Elizabeth Medrano

Clinica Msr. Oscar A. Romero Board member Elizabeth Medrano is focused on improving the lives of people in the community. While recognizing and supporting the clinical needs being met by CMOAR, she seeks to broaden the dialogue about health to include fresh food access, neighborhood safety, environmentally sustainable public transportation, and other socioeconomic-related conditions that impact the health and wellbeing of patients and the underserved of Los Angeles. She has a passion for advocacy and a knack for community organizing that has helped her and the organizations she is involved with bring about change for the good.

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L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN

*About the [California Community Foundation](#)
The California Community Foundation is L.A.'s foundation. Founded in 1915, its mission is to strengthen Los Angeles communities through effective philanthropy and civic engagement. It manages more than \$1 billion in assets and invests in L.A.'s future by giving about \$100 million in grants to outstanding nonprofits each year. The foundation is unique because it partners with

While commuting long distances on the bus in high school, Ms. Medrano was inspired by the civil rights activities of the Bus Riders Union whose members spoke to fellow riders about issues of concern. She quickly joined their efforts. Ms. Medrano continues this tradition of advocacy in her current job with the Center for Food & Justice, a division of the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College. Her team has recently completed a "food injustice mapping project" of the Pico-Union/Westlake neighborhood, which highlights the lack of available fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains necessary for a healthy diet. The findings and call to action can be found at the [Center for Food & Justice](#).

Three years ago, with funding from the Marguerite Casey Foundation and UCLA, CMOAR trained 15 members in the Pico-Union/Westlake neighborhood to assume roles on community-based organization Boards. Seven of those joined CMOAR's and Elizabeth Medrano is one of them. CMOAR continues to be grateful for Ms. Medrano's oversight and guidance as a Board member. In this role, she remains committed to keeping CMOAR in touch with community needs and staying connected with its grassroots foundation.

Improving Chronic Disease Care with Health Information Technology

In the past few years, Clinica Msr. Oscar A. Romero has made a concerted effort to upgrade its technological capacity. This is important since it allows CMOAR to provide a more efficient and higher quality of care to its patients. Over the next 18 months, CMOAR will be upgrading from its current disease registry to the i2i MediTracks chronic disease management system with the help of funding from L.A. Care Health Plan and the California HealthCare Foundation. CMOAR will also be participating in phase two of the Building Clinic Capacity through Quality in Southern California (BCCQ) learning collaborative, which will help with the implementation.

Upgrading to a chronic disease management system is a logical next step for CMOAR. It will allow the clinic to better manage chronic diseases such as diabetes, and ultimately will allow CMOAR to expand its disease management efforts to other conditions such as asthma, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia. It will also provide a lab results interface, pharmacy interface, capacity to generate reports, ad-hoc query capabilities, capacity to generate patient summaries and educational materials, and prompts and reminders.

As CMOAR moves forward, it will continue to look for new and innovative ways to upgrade its technological capacity. CMOAR has found these kinds of upgrades to always be helpful to its patients and doctors, and hopes to continue to use this avenue as a way to improve quality of care in the future.

donors to find innovative solutions. CCF is a leading investor in the development of permanent affordable housing; the biggest supporter of individual artists in the region; and a national leader in increasing services for returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. CCF's personal service and expertise help individuals, families and organizations fulfill their charitable goals and dreams. To learn more, visit CCF's Web site at www.calfund.org.

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