

Clínica Msr. Oscar A. Romero

Entre las Sabanas: Beneath the Sheets

The California Community Foundation, Audrey Backus Fund, Family Planning Initiative awarded Clínica Msr. Oscar A. Romero (CMOAR) funding for a program entitled *Entre las Sabanas: Beneath the Sheets*. The program started in the summer of 2008 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 better 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 are grateful to the California Community Foundation for supporting this endeavor.