

Clínica Msr. Oscar A. Romero

Sonrisas Sanas: Healthy Smiles

Clínica Msr. Oscar A. Romero (CMOAR) is dedicated to making oral healthcare 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, Eisner Foundation, and K&R Foundation 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.