



Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Jane García, CEO

alone provided care to 50,000 patients, amounting to more than 242,000 patient visits.

With the number of uninsured now at 6.6 million in California, CCHCs play a pivotal role in assuring access to health care for this vulnerable population. We accomplish this by providing care that is culturally and linguistically sensitive to our diverse patient population. A great number of our patients are served in their primary language. We hire and train staff from within the community to develop an approach that embraces diversity. Our goal is to reduce ethnic and racial health disparities within the communities we serve. We work in partnership with many community organizations and have established fundamental links within the community from which we continue to build. We also work closely with our patients and address the obstacles that keep them away from receiving care. We believe that quality medical care involves knowing the patient as a whole — looking at how a person's emotional and/or social circumstances affect their health.

Community Clinics and Health Centers (CCHCs) are the medical home to a significant number of the state's population. We are a statewide network of over 800 clinic sites that offer a comprehensive continuum of care to the state's uninsured. Last year, CCHCs provided care to over 3.6 million patients, totaling more than 11 million patient visits. La Clínica

also have the experience and expertise to provide cost-effective care to our most vulnerable communities. By maximizing all of our resources, taxpayers save substantial dollars in emergency room visits, medical treatment, and hospitalization. The National Association of Community Health Centers estimates that health centers generate savings of \$9.9 to \$17.6 billion annually. We do this by focusing on prevention and by offering a comprehensive, coordinated system of care that includes access to essential services. To this end, the Federal Office of Management and Budget has ranked community health centers one of the ten most effective federal programs.

La Clínica is very excited to be part of an integral component of the viable safety net in the health care system. This includes our commitment to bridge cultural and linguistic barriers and accessibility to primary care. The safety net survives because people are committed to helping underserved communities. We will continue our effort to deliver high quality care to those that need it most and do so in a cost-effective, culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. With ongoing support in the infrastructure of our centers, we are able to provide additional low-income Californians with access to effective primary and preventive health care services. Investing today in expanding access to quality, affordable care through CCHCs can save the State millions by mitigating the need for more costly emergency room care.

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A Night of Fun, Excitement and Entertainment!!

For the second year, La Clínica's Annual *All that Jazz (and Sushi!)* fundraising event sold out on Saturday, September 20th. Yoshi's Restaurant and Jazz Club was filled with over 300 guests who enjoyed a full evening of their favorite drinks and gourmet food prepared by chef "Sho" and his extraordinary staff. While indulging in the fare, guests also enjoyed a silent auction. The incredible night continued as our guests transitioned to Yoshi's world class Jazz Club to enjoy a live auction and a musical performance by *Amel Larrieux*, singer-songwriter, keyboardist and Top Jazz Album 2007.

Jane García, CEO, welcomed guests and discussed La Clínica's commitment to children which was followed by a short video presentation of our Children with Asthma Program (to see the video go to: www.laclinica.org). Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and guests, we netted over \$134,000 for La Clínica's Children with Asthma Program. We will be able to provide comprehensive asthma services to over 1,300 children that include:

- **Medical Excellence:** Up-to-date asthma guidelines and best practices, full testing, regular visits, tracking of child at home and school
- **Health Education:** Group and one on one education for child, parents and/or caregiver on how to effectively manage and control asthma
- **Case Management:** Individualized self-management education and training, referral services, home assessments, and advocacy

La Clínica thanks all the sponsors who made *All that Jazz* a successful event: Kaiser Permanente, Wells Fargo, Union Bank of California, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Brown and Brown Insurance of California, California HealthCare Foundation, Citi, Delta Dental, Genentech, Inc., Natixis Global Associates, Novartis, Oliver and Company, Quest Diagnostics, and Sutter Health. A special thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers, the event committee, and the individuals and businesses that were so generous in their donations to the silent and live auctions. It was a great success!!



Sake Ceremony
(Left) Blanca Cetin, Wells Fargo
Jane García, CEO of La Clínica
Shirley Steinback and Sandra Small, Kaiser Permanente



Guests Laura and Bob Katter viewing auction items



Wells Fargo Guests



2008 Jazz Artist: Amel Larrieux

La Clínica's PROJECT NEW START



To help at-risk youth in our community take the first step toward escaping gang life, La Clínica joined the efforts of Project New Start. Project New Start is a county-wide non-profit comprehensive program for at-risk, gang-related (or formerly gang-related/affiliated) youth who want to make positive changes in their lives. Coordinated by the Alameda County Public Health Department, Project New Start provides youth with tattoo removal, mentoring, and social support services. It requires youth interested in the program to make a commitment towards a vocational and/or educational plan with sponsors at a local youth agency, and perform at least 50 hours of community service. The volunteer work is to assist youth in connecting to their local communities in positive ways.

Project New Start staff work closely with participants and sponsors to monitor and support the goals that have been set for each youth. La Clínica doctors and nurses volunteer their time to perform the laser procedures for tattoo removal once a month. The program is designed to allow former gang members to have their tattoos removed in order to live a life without the stigma associated with gang tattoos. This service is free of charge to all youth in the program.

The following is an interview with a La Clínica patient who has been part of Project New Start since 2003.

When did you first get a tattoo? And what do the tattoos represent?

Gang related stuff. When I was younger I had a friend that started doing tattoos and he offered to do some on me for free. I got the others at tattoo parlors that didn't check for my age. I have a total of 14 tattoos; I have some on my chest, arms and back. Most of the tattoos I have represent death and gang territory.

Why did you get these tattoos?

I grew up in Los Angeles. I got them because when you're young you just want to fit in and feel like you're a part of something. I started to hang out with the wrong crowd and next thing you know I was doing really bad things. I was in juvenile hall many times. It was like earning something good. For a long time I thought that it was better to be in jail than dead. With all the problems I had, my family decided to move to the Bay Area. Since I didn't have a car to go back to LA, I started to lose touch with my friends and that's when I started to realize I didn't want to live like that.

What has made you want to change?

What has really made me stop was that I almost lost my life three times; two times in LA and once here. I started to realize that I didn't want to live my life like that. I don't want to be known as just another Hispanic, male, in the gang life, someone that didn't accomplish nothing and didn't make nothing out of himself. I started working and that's when I started seeing how hard my dad had to work, working overtime just for us to have the little things. Since then, I've been trying to change my life around. And having these tattoos removed is a part of that.

How did you hear about La Clínica's Project New Start?

When I was going to Fremont High School I went to La Clínica's school clinic, and asked the nurse there if there was anything I can do for tattoo removal. She referred me to La Clínica's Project New Start. I've been coming here since 2003 and I probably still have another few years to go to get them all off.

Is tattoo removal painful?

It hurts really bad. It hurts three times more than getting a tattoo. It feels like scalding hot needles jamming into your skin.

What are you doing now?

I am working in painting; customizing containers. I am waiting on my GED results so that I can go to Wild Tech for mechanical engineering. In the future I want to have my own business, be my own boss.



La Clínica de La Raza, Inc.
P.O. Box 22210
Oakland, CA 94623-2210
tel: 510-535-4000
fax: 510-535-4189
www.laclinica.org

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The San Antonio Neighborhood Health Center Expansion Project Update

With the help of generous donors we have surpassed our goal and have raised \$4.1 million dollars for the SANHC Expansion Project. The SANHC Expansion Project Phase I is now complete and all clinical operations have moved to the new building. Phase II has begun and should be completed in April 2009. Once finalized, it will be home to Kaiser Permanente Health Education Center, Pharmacy, Lab and Case Management.

In response to the growing need for affordable, high quality health care services in the San Antonio area, La Clínica de La Raza started this expansion project. The expansion project has more than doubled the size of SANHC from 6,528 to 15,838 square feet and the number of exam rooms has also doubled, bringing that number to 20. The SANHC Expansion Project is now a reality and La Clínica will provide health care to 5,000 more residents annually!



Our thanks go to over 1,300 contributors — foundations, corporations, and individuals who made a donation toward this much needed expansion.

LA CLINICA DE LA RAZA MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the quality of life of the diverse communities we serve by providing culturally appropriate, high quality, and accessible health care for all.

LA CLINICA UPDATE

Editor:

Yanet Luna

Communications Specialist