

# Nearly a Reality: Concord's New La Clínica Monument

updates



In 40 years and 26 clinics, La Clínica de La Raza has never witnessed a clinic population explode like that of La Clínica Monument, our Pleasant Hill clinic. Since 2008 the Monument community has seen a dramatic surge in population and a high percentage of families living below the poverty level. There has been a 50 percent increase in Medi-Cal patients, La Clínica's core constituents. As a result, La Clínica Monument now functions beyond maximum capacity and has been forced to turn patients away.

Many of those turned away will not seek care elsewhere due to financial constraints and/or cultural barriers. Instead, they will allow treatable conditions to deteriorate, often suffering for months, until they are compelled to go to an emergency room for costly care. Such E.R. visits drive up the cost of health care for patients and for the entire community.

To combat this issue, we are constructing a larger replacement clinic just a mile away in Concord. The new facility will allow us to go from treating 4,000 patients in 2008 to nearly 15,000 by 2016. An expanded staff will provide high quality health care at a low cost, while alleviating expensive emergency room visits.

We are close to meeting our \$10.6 million in building costs, but now we need the community's support—your support—to secure the final critical funds for equipment and furnishings. Please use your remittance envelope to make a donation to the Monument Community Campaign. When you lend your financial support in any amount, you take ownership of something great: a healthier and more robust community. Your contribution will become part of the sensible solution to the healthcare crisis that confronts us all.

*Please contact Amy DeBower at 510-535-2911 for more information or to make a donation.*

## Help Us Reach Our Goal!



# Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Jane García, CEO

As La Clínica completes its 40th year of service, we recognize we have a lot to be thankful for. La Clínica has seen tremendous growth and continues to rise to the challenge of serving those in our community with limited options for care. In the past ten years alone, La Clínica has seen an almost 300 percent increase in medical patients, from over 18,000 in 2001 to 50,000 in 2010. Along with this growth has been the ability of La Clínica to

move into new service areas, adapting to community needs. Since 2001, La Clínica has expanded to include more clinics in Contra Costa County, as well as extending into Solano County to provide care to the underserved. La Clínica has also worked to expand various clinic sites, to ensure our ability to provide adequate services and attention to the growing number of people in need.

In April, La Clínica was honored by the Social Welfare Alumni Association (affiliated with UC Berkeley), with the award for Field Agency of the Year. Through a longtime partnership with the School of Social Welfare at Berkeley, La Clínica has been a field site for interns who work with our Casa del Sol clinics. There, they gain a unique insight into community mental health services. For La Clínica, these interns provide support that affords La Clínica the opportunity to offer services that would otherwise be compromised. Between 2004 and 2010, La Clínica has seen unprecedented growth in mental health services in Oakland. In 2004, the clinic served 1,024 patients with specific mental health needs. In 2010, the number jumped to 3,949.

Overall, I am delighted by the work we've accomplished and I'm excited about what the future holds. This year, once again, we will be hosting our annual gala event at Yoshi's. Please join us as we celebrate 40 years of amazing work, and kick-off the future of community care. Remember that none of this would be possible without your explicit support of our work. La Clínica works to serve the community, but it's only possible through our network of partners.

## La Clínica de La Raza Timeline:

### 1970s:

La Clínica de La Raza founded by UC Berkeley students who believe health care is a right. Provide medical, dental, optical, and eventually health education and mental health services. Permanent property is purchased.

### 1980s:

La Clínica merges with San Antonio Neighborhood Health Center, and later establishes teen clinic, Clínica Alta Vista.

### 1990s:

La Clínica opens first in-house pharmacy followed by the first school-based health centers. Medical and dental services expand to Pittsburg in Contra Costa County, and Family Optical opens in the Fruitvale area.

### 2000s:

Solano County receives medical, dental and pre-natal services. Dental services open at Children's Hospital Oakland. Contra Costa receives more medical and dental services through La Clínica Monument and the Dental Care Mobile. Fruitvale Village opens along with three more school-based clinics in Alameda County. San Antonio site is expanded.

### 2010s:

La Clínica moves forward to renovate La Clínica Monument, in an effort to serve more patients. La Clínica also receives funding for a satellite clinic in Oakley, better serving far east Contra Costa County. New school-based sites expanding in Alameda County.

## 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.

# Alameda County Embraces Health Coverage for All Children

At a recent press conference, Supervisor Wilma Chan enthusiastically embraced the *Connecting Kids to Coverage Challenge* issued last year by Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius. This challenge encourages efforts to get all eligible children enrolled in public health programs within the next five years. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is pledging to be the first county in the nation to support the efforts to ensure that all eligible children not already insured, currently around 13,000 in Alameda County, get enrolled. Alameda County will also work to ensure that no child lacks vision coverage — coverage that is currently at risk of funding cuts due to deliberations around the California budget.



Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan and Anthony Wright, Executive Director of Health Access

health care costs as residents, especially children, receive much needed primary care and avoid costly emergency room visits. According to Anthony, “This challenge is the first time in the history of the nation that I can say EVERY child is eligible for coverage. That is amazing.”

The press conference was concluded with key points from our very own Dr. John Pescetti. Dr. Pescetti reinforced the position that access to coverage is what keeps children healthy and keeps costs down. He also discussed the challenges that families are facing today, like parents who have to choose between purchasing much needed medication, or buying groceries for their families.

Other key partners in attendance at the event included Commissioner Alex Briscoe, Deputy Director of Alameda Health Care Services Agency, and Anthony Wright, Executive Director of Health Access. Mr. Wright underlined the reality that this resolution will go a long way in kicking off the efforts to implement federal health reform. As the Affordable Care Act continues to go into effect, Alameda County and California will be in line to see lower

Finally, La Clínica patient Maria Sandoval shared her support for the public program Healthy Families and how much it has helped her family and her 16 year old daughter Christina. As a mother and Alameda County resident, it is reassuring for her to know that her daughter’s health will be cared for, regardless of her ability to pay. Earlier in the year when her daughter had an emergency, she didn’t think twice about seeking medical help, as she knew that Healthy Families would provide for them.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Upcoming  
events  
supporting  
the expansion  
of La Clínica  
Monument**

### **Midway Celebration Event!**

Meet community leaders, partners and staff and see the first six months of construction.  
Hors d’oeuvres provided.

**Thursday June 16th, 2011  
4-6pm  
La Clínica Monument  
(new site)  
2000 Sierra Road  
Concord, CA 94518**

### **The Wiz By Hero Productions Lafayette Town Hall Theater**

**Saturday July 9th, 16th,  
23rd starting at 7:30pm  
Sunday July 10th, 17th,  
24th starting at 2:30pm**

All proceeds will be donated to La Clínica for the Monument Project

### **All that Jazz (and Sushi!)**

La Clínica celebrates 40 fantastic years!

**Saturday, September  
24th at Yoshi’s Jazz Club  
and Restaurant,  
Jack London Square**

For more information regarding any of these events please contact Andrew Bowles, Administrative Assistant at 510-535-2912, or [abowles@laclinica.org](mailto:abowles@laclinica.org)



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## The Social Welfare Alumni Association at UC Berkeley honors La Clínica at its upcoming Annual Awards Dinner

This year, the SWAA has added two important award categories, Field Instructor of the Year and Field Agency of the Year, highlighting one of the most important components of the Social Welfare program at Berkeley. Given the longstanding history between La Clínica and UC Berkeley, “There was really no better agency that could have been chosen to receive this first field agency award,” says Francesca Dinglasan, on behalf of SWAA.

For over 30 years, La Clínica has been coordinating with the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare to place student interns in the field. These collaborations have often come from the school’s Mental Health focus, as well as students concentrated on children and families. As the only provider of culturally sensitive mental health care in the East Oakland area, La Clínica recognizes its vital role. Since 1978, comprehensive mental health services have been available to anyone regardless of their background, or ability to pay. Given the recent economic turmoil, La Clínica’s services have been more important than ever.

“UC Berkeley has an outstanding social work program and student interns have been important to many La Clínica programs including our mental health program, school-based health centers, and medical social work programs.”

— Leslie Preston, Director of Behavioral Health