

Clínica Amistad

A Project of Amistad y Salud

NEWS

SPRING, 2020

Where Your Contribution Goes

Clínica Amistad served more than 1,300 people, resulting in over 2,800 appointments during our past fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Who are the people we see in our free, primary care clinic?

As in past years, only about 10% have household incomes of more than \$26,000 per year. The majority of patients, in fact, fall below the national poverty level, which was defined in 2018 as an income of less than \$16,240 for a household of two. Approximately 60% of the patients seen are female. The majority of people examined are middle-aged and of Hispanic descent. About half are employed, yet 99% of our patients do not have health insurance. Reasons given were that they couldn't afford premiums, they changed or lost jobs, or are no longer qualified.

The following is one patient's story: For a long time, I was blind in one eye with a debilitating eye injury in the other. I am 78 years-old and I have hypertension and diabetes. I required around the clock care for many months, relying heavily on my daughter. Finally, after my first appointment at Clínica Amistad, I was sent to an ophthalmologist. I was connected to many helpful resources and got cataract surgery. Because of Clínica Amistad, I can see again for the first time in years. I am so grateful to have my eyesight back and I cannot thank Clínica Amistad enough.

The clinic continues to exist not only because of your contributions but the work of volunteers. Overall, more than 175 people work at the clinic during its hours of operation on one or more of

two evenings per week and one Saturday morning per month. This includes 19 physicians, 13 nurse practitioners, and 15 registered nurses along with pharmacists and other specialists. But the backbone of the clinic operations are some 130 non-credentialed volunteers, many of whom are attending various healthcare schools at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College.

Finally, the types of appointments are nearly 75% for primary care. This generally results in treating people for hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol related issues. The balance of appoint-

ments are for diabetes education and nutrition coaching, mental health and behavior counseling, acupuncture, physical therapy, and vision screenings.

What does all of this mean in terms of value to the community?

Serving as a medical safety net for the uninsured, Clínica Amistad has provided medical exams, advice, and treatment to thousands, helping to ensure the health of our entire community. More importantly, we have saved countless lives and enhanced the well being of many, many more people who otherwise would not be able to receive adequate healthcare.

Another Benefit to the Community

Make no mistake about it, Clínica Amistad's primary mission is to provide free, primary healthcare to the poor and underserved of our community.

Yet, there is another benefit, not often noticed. That benefit concerns our young volunteers attending the University of Arizona and Pima Community College, after they leave the clinic. A few examples of where they are now:

Ray Lárez is a past volunteer, current board member and medical student at UA.

Clark Alves is doing primary care residency in Phoenix.

Nuria Sisterna is in her final year of medical school at Northern Arizona University.

Alfonso Ayala is in his third year of medical school at the University of Arizona.

Marco Duran became an anesthesiologist.

Juan Sordia is in family medicine residency at UA.

Jimena Sordia is an ophthalmologist.

Alex Presler is a PA in rehab medicine.

Michele Thomas is a PA in orthopedic medicine.

Karla Munoz is a PA.

Alejandra Rodriquez, a current board member, has a public health degree and works in healthcare. ■

8th Annual Gala Supports Clinic

Over 180 people gathered in the Scottish Rite Cathedral in downtown Tucson on November 9, 2019 for Amistad y Salud's eighth annual Gala Dinner and Silent Auction.

The gala raised \$30,000, accounting for just under one-tenth of the total income that the clinic attempts to secure every year. We are so grateful to all who attended and contributed to the gala and to those who make contributions throughout the year. Without your help, we would not exist.

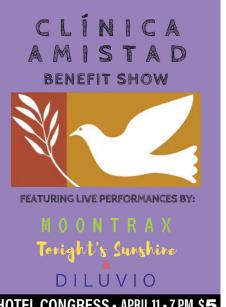


Please mark your calendars for November 14, 2020, for our 9th annual Gala Dinner. We look forward to seeing you there!



Father Ricardo (L) and Tucson Mayor Regina Romero (R) congratulate U.S. Representative Raúl Grijalva and his wife Ramona for receiving the 2019 Community Impact Award.





HOTEL CONGRESS • APRIL 11 • 7 PM \$5

JOIN US AT HOTEL CONGRESS, April 11, 7 PM for our first music benefit concert. There will be great music, prizes and more! All proceeds will support Clínica Amistad. For more information email Nicole at execclinicaamistad@ gmail.com.



Share your love for the clinic by forwarding this message to your friends, relatives, work colleagues and others. They, too, can help us help others.

Crowdfunding Campaign is in Full Swing!

It's easy to help us continue to provide healthcare to the underserved of Tucson. All you need to do is join us between now and April 18th, for our third annual Spring Crowdfunding Campaign.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000, a fraction of our total financial needs, but an essential part of our budget.

And don't forget that you can still claim your Arizona State Tax Credit for 2019. This is a great way to help us reach our campaign goal.

To contribute, simply go to www.clinicaamistad.org/donate. You may also make your contribution online or, if you wish, you may write a check payable to Clínica Amistad, and mail to:

> Clínica Amistad P.O. Box 27284 Tucson, AZ. 85726

Support Clínica Amistad for Free!

Did you know that Clínica Amistad is a Qualified Charitable Organization? Your gift of up to \$400 per individual or \$800 per married couple qualifies for the Arizona State Tax Credit. This program allows you to make a donation to Clínica Amistad and receive a dollar for dollar credit against your Arizona state taxes. The parent organization of the clinic, Amistad y Salud, is listed under Arizona's QCO Code as 20284.