

## OUR SERVICE SITES

La Clinica health centers:  
Birch Grove Health Center  
Central Point Health Center  
East Medford Dental Clinic  
Family and Women's Health Center  
Mobile Health Center  
Phoenix Health Center  
Wellness Center  
West Medford Health Center

## School-based centers:

Central Point, Jackson, Jewett,  
Oak Grove, Mae Richardson,  
Phoenix, and Washington  
elementary schools; Hanby and  
Scenic middle schools; Crater  
High School

## REACH US

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Website:  
[www.laclinicahealth.org](http://www.laclinicahealth.org)

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/laclinicahealth](https://facebook.com/laclinicahealth)



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Our annual fundraiser, above, brings in \$120,000 for children's programs: Page 3

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## This holiday season Give a lasting gift to the community

Gifts have enabled La Clinica to grow to meet our community's need for affordable healthcare services. Today, we are the medical and dental home for more than 30,000 mostly low-income patients. By supporting our vision to provide affordable health care to all, regardless of income or insurance status, you're not only caring for our community but your investment helps reduce overall healthcare costs by preventing unnecessary ER visits and identifying disease early.

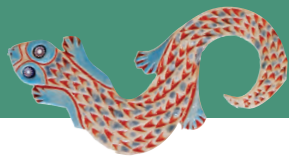
We need your help now more than ever. There are many ways to give. Use the enclosed envelope, donate securely at <http://laclinicahealth.org/>, or call our development office, 541-512-3151, for other options. Please let us know if you'd like your donation to support our children's campaign.

La Clinica is a 501c3, private non-profit organization, and your gift is tax deductible.



Inside  
An early brush  
with Happy  
Smiles leads  
to a career in  
caring for others

## Oregon's most vulnerable Unsettled politics threaten care



Swirling state and national politics are creating unpredictability for La Clinica and other community health centers and threatening care for the state's most vulnerable residents.

In Oregon, voters in January will decide Ballot Measure 101, which would maintain Oregon Health Plan coverage for all residents who have it now. The measure's failure could mean most adults would be cut from the state plan, and La Clinica could lose about a third of its annual budget.

Nationally, Congress has delayed reauthorization of health center funding at levels established under the Affordable Care Act. Strong bipartisan support exists for health centers, which provide effective care more inexpensively than others, but lawmakers so far have yet to agree on how to restore the funding. Without it, La Clinica leaders expect to lose 6 to 10 percent of the organization's budget by late spring.

"Our concerns this year about being able to maintain care for our patients are much more urgent than usual," said CEO Brenda Johnson. "We ask our supporters and community partners to help us maintain services, both by contributing financially and educating themselves about legislative action that impacts our work."

La Clinica's board of directors has taken the significant step of endorsing Oregon Ballot Measure 101. Learn more on Page 3.



# Who knew what a visit from the Tooth Fairy would bring?

La Clinica's Happy Smiles outreach to schools improves the dental health of thousands of Jackson County children every year. In at least one case, it has done even more.

Jonathan Aripe was a first-grader at Jackson Elementary in Medford when he was introduced to the team and its message of oral health. La Clinica's presentation to the kids included dental care goodies, an illustration about soda and decayed teeth that has stayed with him to adulthood, and a glittering Tooth Fairy. Jonathan was hooked.

"I was never scared of the dentist," he said. "I knew the dentist was the teeth's best friend, and I loved the dentist because of that."

But there's more here than a tale of dental devotion. This fall, Jonathan joined the staff of La Clinica, assigned as a dental assistant to the very team he loved as a child.

"I think Happy Smiles was why I wanted to be a dental assistant," he said. "Being able to be there and influence someone else so they're not scared is kind of like sharing my own experience with other kids. I can plant that little seed."



Jonathan Aripe works on a young patient at Jewett Elementary School in Central Point.

 <p>Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic health conditions among children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p>	<p>Happy Smiles reaches about 8,000 children annually in 24 area schools and 4,000 more adults and kids taking part in community programs.</p>	<p>Kids get dental screenings and education, plus fluoride treatments and sealants, protective tooth coverings that prevent cavities.</p>	<p>This program is supported by the Reed and Carolee Walker Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation and other initiatives.</p>
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Learn more about our children's fundraising campaign at [www.laclinicahealth.org/childrenfund](http://www.laclinicahealth.org/childrenfund)



Chareva Reyes: early 1990s, left, and 2017

## Through 25 years of change One smile remains the same

Employees come and go in any organization, and sometimes one stays long enough that her co-workers say, "She's been here forever!" That's just about true when they say it about Chareva Reyes and La Clinica.

Chareva celebrated her 25th anniversary with La Clinica this fall, serving on staff longer than any other employee—ever.

"It's always been about the mission and about doing the work that I love," Chareva said. "I've been able to do that in every single one of my positions."

The daughter of a migrant camp foreman, she grew up close to camp residents and their families. One of her family members struggled to get care elsewhere, but when a La Clinica provider started seeing him, she realized the organization's effect in the community. Chareva started in 1992 as a receptionist and today is responsible for maximizing revenue from services.

"She has a unique combination of skill in finance and compassion for our patients," said Tara Kirk, who has worked with Chareva since 2002. "Regardless of her role, she has always been a voice of reason, an advocate for those who may not be heard, and a friend for anyone in need."

Chareva misses the days when she worked directly with patients but also appreciates that the organization has kept its family feel even through massive growth. "If I think about leaving, I think I wouldn't be surrounded by people who love and support me and vice versa," she said. "I would really miss that."

Healthcare employees stay an average of 3.9 years with an employer. La Clinica fares a bit better at 4.4 years.\*

\*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Our annual fundraiser: Almost \$120,000 goes to kids' programs



For more event photos, visit us on Facebook.

La Clinica's annual party, held at the Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites on Oct. 1, raised nearly \$120,000 to fund children's services. This money will support new health centers at Hanby Middle School in Gold Hill and Kids Unlimited Academy in Medford. We're also expanding our Happy Smiles cavity prevention program to eight additional schools. In total we have raised about \$150,000 of the \$250,000 goal in our children's campaign, which continues through May of next year.

La Clinica has cared for 6,878 child patients so far in 2017—the majority of whom are very vulnerable and depend heavily on our services. Twenty percent are uninsured, 37 percent are Latino, and 16 percent are homeless or at risk of losing their housing. Your support will ensure that our child patients have all they need to stay healthy and productive.

Many, many thanks to all who made La Clinica's ninth annual Raise Your Heart for Health such a success. La Clinica is especially grateful to event sponsors, whose support covered all event expenses—and then some! We applaud your dedication to our community and your support of our mission. Thank you!

### Event sponsor

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Southern Oregon Cardiology



## Measure 101: Board acts to ensure care

La Clinica's board of directors has taken the significant step of endorsing Oregon Measure 101 on the Jan. 23 ballot.

"We believe all people deserve quality health care—and this dream is close to reality today in Oregon, where most residents have access to care thanks to the expansion of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act," a board statement about the decision said. "Failure of this ballot measure would reverse Oregon's gains under the ACA. Oregon cannot afford to return to the days when its most vulnerable residents relied on expensive emergency room visits for care or simply went without. Please join us and dozens of other organizations in supporting this critical ballot measure."

If approved, the measure will continue a tax on hospitals and other healthcare providers to fund the Oregon Health Plan. OHP, the state's version of Medicaid, covers one in four Oregonians, including about 65,000 Jackson County residents. Failure would leave the state short of money to pay for OHP. Lawmakers could revisit funding questions when the Legislature meets in special session in February.

A thorough review of the initiative is at <https://ballotpedia.org>. Search "Oregon Measure 101."

