HOYA Clinic expands its work of bringing health care to communities in need.

For Washington’s underserved communities, getting needed health care can be daunting. Many people do not have a primary care physician, so basic health needs like preventive care, immunizations, and management of chronic conditions go unmet. That leads to poorer health, more medical emergencies, and lives cut short by disease.

For more than 15 years, the medical student-driven HOYA (Health Outreach for Youth and Adults) Clinic, a partnership between Georgetown University School of Medicine and MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, has worked to meet community residents where they are and bring much needed health care and health education into the communities.

“We ask our community partners what type of care is needed and work to provide community members with longitudinal, patient-centered care and connect them to primary care to improve outcomes and advance health equity,” explains Michelle Roett, MD, co-medical director of the clinic with Eileen Moore, MD.

Letter from the president.

The Jesuit tradition of cura personalis—care of the whole person—upon which our hospital was founded, is reflected in the important work we do to serve our community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our HOYA Clinic has provided much-needed health care access for our community and helped improve health literacy among those it has served. The HOYA Clinic’s efforts are detailed in this report to the community, and we are very proud to share with you this example of our long-standing tradition of serving the families of the District of Columbia and the greater community.

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, our hospital, and for recognizing our commitment to the community we so proudly serve.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Sachtleben
Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer,
Washington Region, MedStar Health
President,
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital

“Our goal is to provide needed services to the community with a healthcare lens.” –Michelle Roett, MD, professor and chair in the Department of Family Medicine.
This past year, the HOYA Clinic added several new services. At the Catholic Charities, Harriet Tubman Women’s Shelter, they launched the HOYA Foot Care Clinic. The students and podiatrists from the hospital perform foot exams and give patients donated new shoes, socks, and foot hygiene products, such as anti-fungal cream and nail clippers. Foot care and protective shoes are pressing needs for many people without permanent housing. During the HOYA Foot Care Clinic’s inaugural event, 37 foot exams were completed and five patients without access to healthcare services were linked into primary care for ongoing treatment. Based on this success, the students plan to offer these foot clinics twice a year.

The students also established a partnership with Catholic Charities’ Spanish Catholic Center, expanding walk-in services on Monday nights to increase access to care. The clinic serves uninsured Spanish-speaking community members, offering screenings of social and mental health needs, health education, blood pressure screenings, and connections to primary care providers for preventive care.

“To build deeper relationships with the communities we serve, we’ve shifted our approach to a core of 15 to 20 student volunteers per year,” adds Dr. Roett. “This helps the students get to really know the people they serve so they can better meet their needs and sows seeds of volunteerism that will encourage them to continue this work throughout their careers.”