

January 2008 marks the launch of Alivio's two-year, 20th Anniversary Campaign. Please join with us in building Alivio's future. Our goal is to raise \$200,000 from new donors, lapsed donors, and current donors who increase their annual giving. All funds raised will either support Alivio's ongoing services and programs, new initiatives slated to commence over the next 2 years, or Alivio's endowment fund. Campaign activities will culminate at Alivio's benefit, to be held two years from now, in 2010!



When you make a donation to Alivio Medical Center, you are doing more than just giving to our medical clinic. You are providing opportunities and promoting solutions for thousands of unborn babies, children, women, men and seniors across Alivio's nine targeted communities. You are giving to the woman in Pilsen who is struggling with domestic violence, the grandfather in South Lawndale who is newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and the young girl in Back of the Yards who suffers from obesity and asthma. You are giving to support the provision of all services with sensitivity and compassion. You are giving to assure that Alivio is able to render quality health care that is free of all cultural, linguistic and financial barriers.

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*Celebrating the Past,
Building the Future...
Alivio Turns 20!*



ALIVIO MEDICAL CENTER
An Active Presence for a Strong Community



Alivio's Beginnings

In the mid-1980's, Carmen Velásquez, Alivio's founder and current Executive Director, was involved in issues surrounding barriers to health care. Troubled by the fact that the medical needs of so many Mexicans living in Pilsen, Little Village, and Back of the Yards were being severely neglected, she garnered the support of fellow Latino community members and spearheaded a drive called Project Alivio.

Ms. Velásquez and Dr. Ann Garcelon, a colleague of Ms. Velásquez and former Alivio board member, approached Mercy Hospital's CEO, Sister Sheila Lyne. When Sister Sheila supported the creation of a community health center to address the issues of access to health care, the work of Alivio Medical Center was initiated.

In 1988, Ms. Velásquez was hired as Alivio's first Executive Director. Soon after, while walking through Pilsen in search of clinic space, she saw a muffler shop parking lot bursting with trucks. When Ms. Velásquez went in and asked the owner if the lot was for sale, he said, "Offer me something." So she did, and offered the owner something Project Alivio did not yet even have. Consequently, a campaign to raise \$2.1 million for the lot, the construction, and the furniture was launched. This site became the home of Alivio's very first clinic.

Alivio Opens its Doors

As a result of a passionate vision, strong partnerships and the crucial need for bilingual bicultural medical providers for the uninsured and undocumented, Alivio Medical

Every human being has the right to access education and has the right to access health care, no matter what their color, and no matter if they're rich or poor.

Carmen Velásquez
Executive Director

Center opened its doors in 1989, as a bilingual bicultural nonprofit community health center, located in the heart of the Pilsen community. At that time 40% of residents had no insurance, 20% had no coverage beyond hospitalization, and 2% of those insured had individual coverage only. In its first year, Alivio served 5,000 patients

on an operating budget of \$1.4 million. The center's staff included two full-time doctors, one full-time nurse practitioner, four full-time midwives, a full-time nutritionist, a part-time obstetrician and a part-time internist.

Alivio Today

Alivio has grown to become a respected and willing advocate and leader championing community issues in health care, welfare and immigration reform, housing

We need people to take a stand and step up to the plate to make sure that those who are in need get health care.

Carmen Velásquez
Executive Director

and transportation concerns, managed care practices, and workforce development. The organization's name has become synonymous with integrity, dignity, and justice.

Alivio Medical Center is firmly entrenched

as a "safety net" provider for the many low-income and marginalized residents of its nine targeted communities. As was true in our beginning, on an annual basis and with a budget exceeding \$12 million, Alivio continues to meet the primary health care needs of over 20,000 Spanish speaking, predominantly Mexican immigrants who fall through the cracks of our health care system. Alivio provides high-quality, culturally sensitive, comprehensive medical care for those whose income, lack of health coverage or other social and economic vulnerabilities limit their ability to access mainstream medical care.

1988

Carmen Velásquez founds Alivio Medical Center

Carmen Velásquez is hired as Alivio's first Executive Director



1989

Alivio opens its 1st clinic on Western Avenue in Pilsen

2000

Alivio opens its 2nd clinic at 21st & Morgan in Pilsen



2007

Alivio opens its 1st dental clinic.

Alivio opens a school-based clinic at the Little Village Lawndale High School Campus.

2008-2009

Alivio slated to open a school-based clinic at the John Spry Community Schools

Alivio committed to opening a 4th health clinic in Cicero.