



June 2025

Each day in La Romana, Dominican Republic, Clínica de Familia opens its doors with a clear and unwavering purpose: to provide quality care with empathy, respect, and dignity. Through the support of committed partners, that mission continues to grow—extending its reach, evolving with community needs, and making a lasting impact on people’s lives. Through a care model rooted in trust, education, and community connection, the clinic is working to make healthcare more accessible, comprehensive, and compassionate.

The Children’s Global Health Fund also continues to grow and evolve. Our board now includes nine dedicated directors representing a diverse range of professions and backgrounds. In recent months, we’ve welcomed some exciting leadership transitions: Dr. Linda F. Cushman now serves as our Board President, while Dr. Stephen W. Nicholas takes on the role of President Emeritus and Treasurer. Together, our board remains deeply committed to supporting Clínica de Familia La Romana and advancing the health and well-being of vulnerable populations in the Dominican Republic.

With gratitude,



Linda F. Cushman, PhD
President
Children’s Global Health Fund



Stephen Nicholas, MD
Treasurer & President Emeritus
Children’s Global Health Fund



Mina Halpern Lozada, MPH
Executive Director
Clínica de Familia La Romana

Program Updates: USAID Funding



We were very surprised—but pleased—to learn that Clínica de Familia’s USAID-funded project (through FHI 360) was selected to restart at the beginning of June. Out of the ten USAID grants previously funded in the Dominican Republic, ours is the only one approved for continuation. This decision was made because most of the activities in our grant are classified as “life-saving” and therefore fall under a waiver issued by the U.S. State Department. While this is encouraging news, the situation remains complex: funding is currently only guaranteed on a month-to-month basis, with tentative coverage from June through September.

The emergency funds we raised since late January were essential in sustaining Clínica de Familia’s operations from February through May. When the USAID project comes to an end again, we will rely on those reserves once more to maintain critical services. Thank you so much for your support during these uncertain times.

Program Updates: Study on Health Promotion with Key Populations

In collaboration with Northwestern University, Clínica de Familia La Romana conducted an implementation research study focused on improving community outreach to the most vulnerable populations. The goal was to encourage these groups—including female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender individuals—to access primary care services at the clinic.

Through the dedicated efforts of our health promotion team, 2,512 individuals were reached—approximately 30% of the estimated local population of these key groups. Among those reached, 28% visited the clinic for primary care services, including medical consultations, STI screening, Pap smears, and mental health counseling, where appropriate. To better understand the impact of the intervention, 300 clients participated in surveys on service acceptability and satisfaction. The results were overwhelmingly positive: 99% reported that Clínica de Familia met all their health needs; 98% expressed high satisfaction with the health promoters, especially their professionalism, confidentiality, and support; 96% rated their experience with clinic doctors positively, highlighting clear communication, thorough examinations, and attentive care.

Notably, nearly half of all surveyed clients returned for additional services—an encouraging sign of trust and continuity of care. We are still in the process of analyzing the full results of the study, including exploring why certain individuals chose not to receive services in the clinic. While there is room for continued improvement in outreach and retention, this study strongly affirms the quality and effectiveness of Clínica de Familia's services for key populations. We are thankful for the grant provided by the Robert J. Havey, MD, Institute for Global Health of the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University that made this research possible.



Ross School of Business Students Help Shape the Future of Clínica de Familia



Between 2022 and 2025, Clínica de Familia La Romana had the privilege of welcoming four teams of MBA students from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. These visits were made possible through the generous support of the William Davidson Institute and under the expert guidance of Paul Clyde, Clinical Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy at Ross.

Each student team focused on evaluating a potential new service for our upcoming facility, scheduled to open in 2027. Their projects covered diagnostic imaging, dentistry, ophthalmology, and pathology—services we are actively considering adding to our portfolio. The students conducted in-depth analyses of market demand, financial feasibility, and other strategic considerations. Their thoughtful, data-driven recommendations have had a tangible impact, playing a vital role in shaping our decisions about future service offerings. Beyond their impressive technical work, each team brought professionalism, creativity, and genuine commitment to improving healthcare access in our community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ross students for their outstanding contributions and to the William Davidson Institute for its unwavering support of these valuable collaborations.

Meet Eunice Sánchez, Research Assistant



My name is Eunice Sánchez, and I am a Research Assistant at Clínica de Familia. I have been working at the institution since 2021, supporting the implementation of research projects and data management. What I love most about working here is that, in addition to developing and strengthening my skills and knowledge in the professional field, I have the opportunity to apply them to benefit those who need it most. Knowing that my work positively impacts the lives of others motivates me every day, as I grow not only professionally but also personally. Being part of a team committed to the well-being of the community inspires me to continue learning and improving in order to make a real difference.

Moreover, working in an environment where collaboration and commitment are fundamental drives me to give my best in every task. Each day is an opportunity to learn from my colleagues, share experiences, and face new challenges that strengthen my professional and personal growth. Knowing that my work can help transform lives and bring hope to those who need it most makes this more than just a job—it is a true vocation that fills me with satisfaction and purpose.

Mission in Action



In 2011, a young woman named Natacha, just 21 years old, arrived at Clínica de Familia with her husband, who was gravely ill. She told us that a year earlier, he had undergone medical tests and had been advised to seek care at Clínica de Familia, but he refused. He couldn't bring himself to accept his diagnosis of HIV or share it with anyone. Despite the best efforts of our medical team, her husband passed away just a few days later. Amid her profound grief, Natacha decided to get tested—and received a diagnosis she never expected: she was HIV-positive. Faced with this new reality, Clínica de Familia became her safe haven. She received comprehensive medical care, education about her condition, and vital mental health support to help her process her loss and confront the stigma that came with it.

During routine evaluations, she was also diagnosed with Hepatitis B and was promptly referred to the Musa Regional Hospital in San Pedro for specialized treatment. But she was never alone. A community health promoter stood by her side through every step of the journey, and our social work team ensured she had access to medication, transportation, and the essentials needed for her and her young daughter's well-being.

Natacha recalls moments when she feared taking her antiretroviral medication on an empty stomach because her economic situation was so precarious. Still, she took her treatment with unshakable determination, choosing each day to fight for her future. Gradually, her health stabilized. She returned to her studies, secured a job, and began to rebuild her life. Moved by the support she received, Natacha chose to share her story to inspire others.

Today, life smiles at Natacha. She has had an undetectable viral load for four years, which is important not only for her own health but also means she cannot transmit HIV to others. She is a strong, educated woman, raising a beautiful daughter who is her greatest source of support. Her resilience led her to a new calling, helping others living with HIV by offering them guidance, compassion, and hope. Her journey is a powerful testament to courage, perseverance, and the life-changing impact of comprehensive, compassionate care.

Children's Global Health Fund



The Children's Global Health Fund has earned the 2025 Gold Seal of Transparency on Candid (formerly GuideStar). Ninety percent of donations to the Children's Global Health Fund directly support Clínica de Familia La Romana, covering approximately 32% of the clinic's overall budget, supplementing their direct grants, contracts, earned income, and in-kind resources.

Our relationship with Clínica de Familia La Romana

Children's Global Health Fund is a 501c3 charitable organization with the mission to save the lives of vulnerable children and families globally by raising funds for and providing support to organizations improving family health in developing countries. Our current priority is Clínica de Familia La Romana, an internationally recognized model for patient care, professional education and training, and clinical research.

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