

Healthcare for All?

WE LIVE IN a tight, dense urban environment. We hear passionate conversations concerning controversial issues such as poverty, immigration and healthcare. We Angelenos are rich and poor; multi-generational residents and undocumented new arrivals; healthy, and in need of care. QueensCare and QueensCare Family Clinics, part of a healthcare safety net of community clinics and hospitals, believe that caring for each and every individual, without exception, is the best chance we have for a healthier and vibrant LA.

In the central region of the city, close to half are fairly recent immigrants. While *most are employed* in one or more jobs, *43% of adults have no health insurance*. The median household income is just over \$31,000. Over 20% have an education that is equivalent to 8th grade or less. Roughly one-third speak no English. Over 80 languages have been identified by the Los Angeles Unified School District, with 15 spoken widely. Each language comes with its own culture, beliefs and healthcare traditions.

Providing healthcare to this widely diverse population is challenging. The concept of preventive

care is new to many. Common beliefs such as: *'you don't need to see a doctor unless you're sick'* or *'the only reason to visit a dentist is if your tooth hurts'* or *'wearing glasses will make you vision worse'* are accepted as true.

Yet, medical science is clear on the *positive effects of preventive primary, dental and vision care*. Regular check-ups, teeth cleaning and vision screening identify problems before they become severe. Health issues such as asthma, diabetes and hyper-tension are often undiagnosed until a visit to the doctor discovers them. *Communicable diseases must be diagnosed early* to take precautions before they affect others in our community.

QueensCare and QueensCare Family Clinics treat everyone, regardless of their ability to pay and regardless of their language and culture. The clinic doctors and medical staff speak some 15 languages, and many come from immigrant families themselves. This common cultural and linguistic understanding helps us reach out and provide hope for the working poor of LA.

It affects you, too!

We'd like to know how you feel about the healthcare crisis in our city. Access our website at www.QueensCare.org and tell us what you think.



As a faith-based organization, QueensCare strives to provide, directly and with others, accessible healthcare for the uninsured and low-income individuals and families living in Los Angeles County.

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