



COLUMBIA ROAD HEALTH SERVICES

Providing quality and affordable health care to the poor and uninsured of Washington, DC since 1979

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Dear Friends,

The holiday season is upon us and we at Columbia Road Health Services (CRHS) find ourselves reflecting on the past year and those families who have faced enormous hardships.

CRHS has provided hope to many families in 2011, but one experience stands out. Carlos,* a 35-year-old male who has been our patient for several years, recently visited CRHS with his wife Maria and their three young daughters: five-year-old Sandra, four-year-old Carmen, and two-year-old Reina. We learned that Carlos had recently lost his job in construction, and his family had been living on the street for many weeks, staying in an emergency homeless shelter at night. The shelter required the residents to leave out onto the streets at 7:00 am every morning. The parents would wander the streets by day with their children in tow, looking for employment. Without a job, the family also had no health insurance. When two-year-old Reina became ill, Carlos immediately brought her to CRHS because he knew that she would be able to receive quality care regardless of the family's financial status. During this visit, Carlos informed a CRHS provider that he had lost his job, health insurance, and home. He explained that his family was in desperate need of a stable place to live.

After seeing Reina, the provider referred Carlos to our CRHS case manager to assist him and his family in finding suitable housing and health insurance coverage. As a result of the case manager's efforts, they will be moving into a family transition shelter suitable for the entire family until Carlos can secure employment. Additionally, our case manager helped locate a day care service so that Carlos and his wife can look for employment during the day without worrying about the well-being of their children. The family also receives ongoing food and children's clothing from area social services agencies. We will continue to support this family as they make every effort to eventually move into permanent housing and find employment.

Your support makes it possible for us to address the great needs of Carlos and his family. Thank you for remembering people like Carlos' family and the many other people we serve in this special season of joy and giving. We are grateful for your help making possible our care for this family and many others.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janelle Goetcheus
Founding Medical Director, CRHS



One of the many new dads at our clinic feeding his baby at a recent well-child checkup.

**In order to maintain patient confidentiality, the names have been changed.*



Columbia Road Health Services: A Unity Health Care Center