

# Pritzker Free Clinics

Hey Entering Class of 2019! Orientation is quickly approaching and we're all so excited to meet you and help you acclimate to life here at Pritzker and in Chicago. We can't wait to welcome you all!

We'd like to take this opportunity to give you some information about the free clinics that we serve here at Pritzker. Service is strongly emphasized at our school and it will be an important part of your future as physicians. The clinics offer you the opportunity to serve patients early in your medical school career while also allowing you the chance to hone your clinical skills. Working in the free clinics is an amazing experience. Just ask anyone who has done it (which is most of us)! We really hope you choose to volunteer at one (or all) of the clinics.

Pritzker is affiliated with five different clinics throughout Chicago:

## Maria Shelter

The Maria Shelter Clinic is a weekly free clinic for the women and children living at Maria Shelter, a fifty-bed homeless shelter in Englewood. The mission of the free clinic is to provide superior health care in a compassionate manner to the residents of the shelter, ever mindful of each patient's dignity and individuality. The Maria Shelter Clinic recognizes that it cannot provide a comprehensive solution to Maria Shelter residents' health care needs and thus also endeavors to help connect residents to primary, secondary, and tertiary health care providers.

The Maria Shelter Clinic practices from approximately 5 PM to 9 PM every Wednesday, year-round, and is exclusively staffed and administered by the Pritzker School of Medicine. Every week, the Clinic works with two medical student volunteers under the direct supervision of an attending physician. The Maria Shelter Clinic prides itself on providing medical care in an intimate and personal setting. Furthermore, the Clinic's residential nature often allows for longitudinal patient relationships.

In addition to the weekly clinic, our board provides regular patient education workshops and events throughout the year. This year, events included cooking classes and a health fair hosted by the shelter. If you're interested in learning more, you can contact Mweya Waetjen (Mweya.Waetjen@uchospitals.edu) or Yazan Eliyan (Yazan.Eliyan@uchospitals.edu).

## Community Health Clinic (CHC)

Community Health Clinic is the nation's largest volunteer-based free clinic. The clinic serves the important role of providing quality and comprehensive health care to uninsured patients who do not qualify for coverage through the ACA. Pritzker MS1s volunteer on Monday evenings from 5pm-9pm at the West Town location with University of Chicago attending physicians and residents. Students have the option of 2 roles: clinic volunteer or trained phlebotomy volunteer in CHC's full-service laboratory. The clinic serves a largely Spanish and Polish speaking patient population, and students with language skills can train as interpreters in addition to, or in conjunction with, their medical student role.

Incoming MS1s will also have the opportunity to apply to serve on CHC's board, which is responsible for the coordination and planning of clinic, as well as other patient care and administrative areas such as quality management, education, fundraising, volunteer organization and electronic medical record training. For more info about CHC feel free to contact the co-coordinators, Tony Da Lomba (Tony.DaLomba@uchospitals.edu) or Kimberly Allen (Kimberly.Allen@uchospitals.edu).



## Washington Park Clinic (WPC)

Washington Park Clinic is Pritzker's free clinic for kids! Run by a 12-student board (all MS1s!) and staffed by medical students, residents, and attending physicians, the clinic sees patients every Tuesday evening.

Located one mile west of campus, WPC partners with Chicago Youth Programs to provide free, accessible health care services to children here on the South Side of Chicago. We especially focus on providing immunizations, school and sports physicals, and health education. We also help connect patients and their families to long-term primary care nearby.

Skills you will learn at WPC include the pediatric history and physical, diagnostics and treatment for common childhood illnesses, administration of vaccines, and patient counseling including adolescent health counseling. It's a wonderful opportunity to gain exposure to pediatrics and primary care and to interact with attending and resident physicians from Comer Children's Hospital! You can contact Akosua Oppong (Akosua.Oppong@uchospitals.edu) or Risa Brudney (Risa.Brudney@uchospitals.edu) for more information.



## New Life Volunteering Society (NLVS)

NLVS is a student-run free clinic in Chicago's Devon neighborhood. It is open Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM year-round. In addition to clinic services, NLVS has basic laboratory and pharmacy services on-site. The patient population is predominantly South Asian immigrants. Participating MS1's are paired with another student (usually upperclassmen), and see an average of 3-4 patients per day.

Volunteering at NLVS will give you the opportunity to meet and work with students from all 6 Chicagoland Medical Schools, as well as opportunities for leadership, clinical volunteering, and domestic/international service trips. Plus, local Indian food is served for lunch each day after clinic! Want to know more? Feel free to contact Aaditi Naik (Aaditi.Naik@uchospitals.edu) or Namrata Garg (Namrata.Garg@uchospitals.edu).

## Bridgeport Free Clinic

The mission of the Bridgeport Free Clinic is to provide medical care for the uninsured community of Bridgeport and its surrounding neighborhoods. Within the community, 22% of the population is uninsured and a large proportion of those people (28%) are of Asian descent. The clinic focuses on screening and urgent care for conditions that are common among Asian patients, including hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, Hepatitis B, liver disease, and smoking. In addition, the clinic aims to connect patients with accessible healthcare, and will refer to Federally Qualified Health Centers for comprehensive primary care services. Interpretive services in Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese are available for all clinic patients through medical interpreters.

Class of 2023, we are excited for you to volunteer at the clinic once you arrive! We will also have open positions on our leadership board for those of you interested in shaping the way the clinic develops and building deeper relationships with community leaders in Bridgeport and the greater Chicago area. Contact Jennifer Deng (Jennifer.Deng@uchospitals.edu) or Anthony Hung (Anthony.Hung@uchospitals.edu) for more information.

