



Mary's
Center

Mary's Center for Maternal and Child

First Nonprofit Organization officially visited by First Lady Michelle Obama

2/10/09



Who Are We?

Founded in 1988 by President and CEO Maria Gomez, Mary's Center developed as a community-based, nonprofit organization focused on maternal and child care for immigrant women from Latin America who were displaced by civil wars and other life casualties. As a National Council of la Raza affiliate and a full-service Federally Qualified Health Center, Mary's Center served more than 14,000 families in 2008, many of whom are recent immigrants from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

By working together, we help members of all communities be their own advocates and produce generations of leaders ready to contribute to their community's growth and well-being.

What Do We Do?

Mary's Center is dedicated to providing quality and culturally appropriate health, education, and social services that include:

- Medical, mental health and oral health services
- Family social services
- Adolescent programs
- Early intervention programs for children with disabilities
- Health promotion and disease prevention education
- Home Visitation
- Education and family literacy program

Mary's Center featured in the following books in 2009:

- ◆ Growing American Roots by Senator Bob Menendez
- ◆ A Deliberate Pause by Larry Robertson
- ◆ Visionaries in our Midst by Allison Silberberg

Mary's Center and its president and CEO Maria Gomez have been recipient of important recognitions such as:

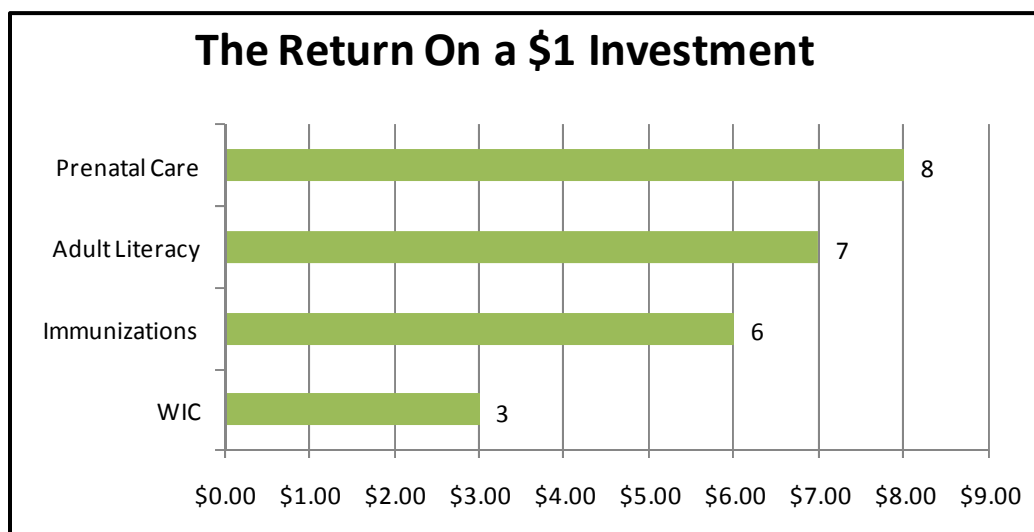
- ◆ Washington Business Journal **Minority Business Leader Award**
- ◆ **Caritas Enterprise Award** from Dialogue on Diversity
- ◆ **Salmon Award** from the DC Primary Care Association
- ◆ **Poder con Ganas (Latino Political Empowerment) Award** from the Hispanic Democratic Club
- ◆ **Washington Examiner's Amazing Change Award** from the Examiner newspaper
- ◆ **Achievement Recognition Award** from the District of Columbia Courts
- ◆ **You're Our Star Recognition Award** and **Lifetime Achievement Award** from March of Dimes
- ◆ **Champion of Safe Motherhood Award** from the White Ribbon Alliance National Workgroup on Safe Motherhood
- ◆ **Champions of Choice Award** from Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington
- ◆ **Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management**
- ◆ **Conversation Changers Award** from the DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- ◆ **Individual Impact Award** from the DC Department of Health

How Are We Unique?

- We are one of more than 1,200 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that offer comprehensive primary health care services to medically underserved communities throughout the country.
- As an FQHC, Mary's Center provides care regardless of patients' ability to pay and holds stringent quality and accountability standards.
- Our social change approach to addressing health and health disparities entails moving beyond offering high quality medical care to address the many factors that lead to poor health—including but not limited to early childhood experiences, educational opportunities, employment, and discrimination.
- Mary's Center provides extensive social and educational services that are critical to improving the health of individuals and the community, such as home visitation, early intervention for children with disabilities, multicultural family literacy programs, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- While FQHC status and funding have enhanced Mary's Center's ability to provide primary health care, we continue to grow and find innovative ways to address the multiple social and economic factors that impact the health of an increasingly diverse community.

What is the Return on Investment?

Mary's Center invests in programs and efforts that have proven economic benefits to both the participants and society. These economic returns, depicted in the chart below, are in addition to the direct improvements in health and well-being that result from the programs and services.



- ◆ Prenatal care avoids the increased costs that result from pre-term and low-weight births.
- ◆ Adult literacy programs result in increased earnings for participants and lower education costs for their children.
- ◆ Childhood immunizations help to avoid medical costs later in life.
- ◆ WIC reduces health care costs within the first 60 days of birth

FQHC information provided by the HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care (<http://bphc.hrsa.gov>)

www.maryscenter.org

United Way # 8263

CFC # 66350