



# 2025

## CLINICOM ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

PERELMAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

COMMUNITY VOICES. STUDENT ACTION.



STUDENT-LED CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES



**Perelman**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

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# INTRODUCTION

Service is a cornerstone of our mission at the Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM). In a city as vibrant and diverse as Philadelphia, meeting patients where they are isn't just important — it's essential to truly understanding and supporting the communities we serve.

Our students live out this mission every day. Motivated by both PSOM's culture and their own drive to serve, they partner with under-resourced communities, listening first, learning continually, and providing high-quality care rooted in trust and respect.



## Goals & Methods

The goal of this report is to understand student experiences across medical and non-medical organizations in Philadelphia. We surveyed students and organization leaders, interviewed community partners and local leadership, and summarized the strengths, challenges, and contributions of PSOM's 19 student-run organizations using existing insights and current activities.

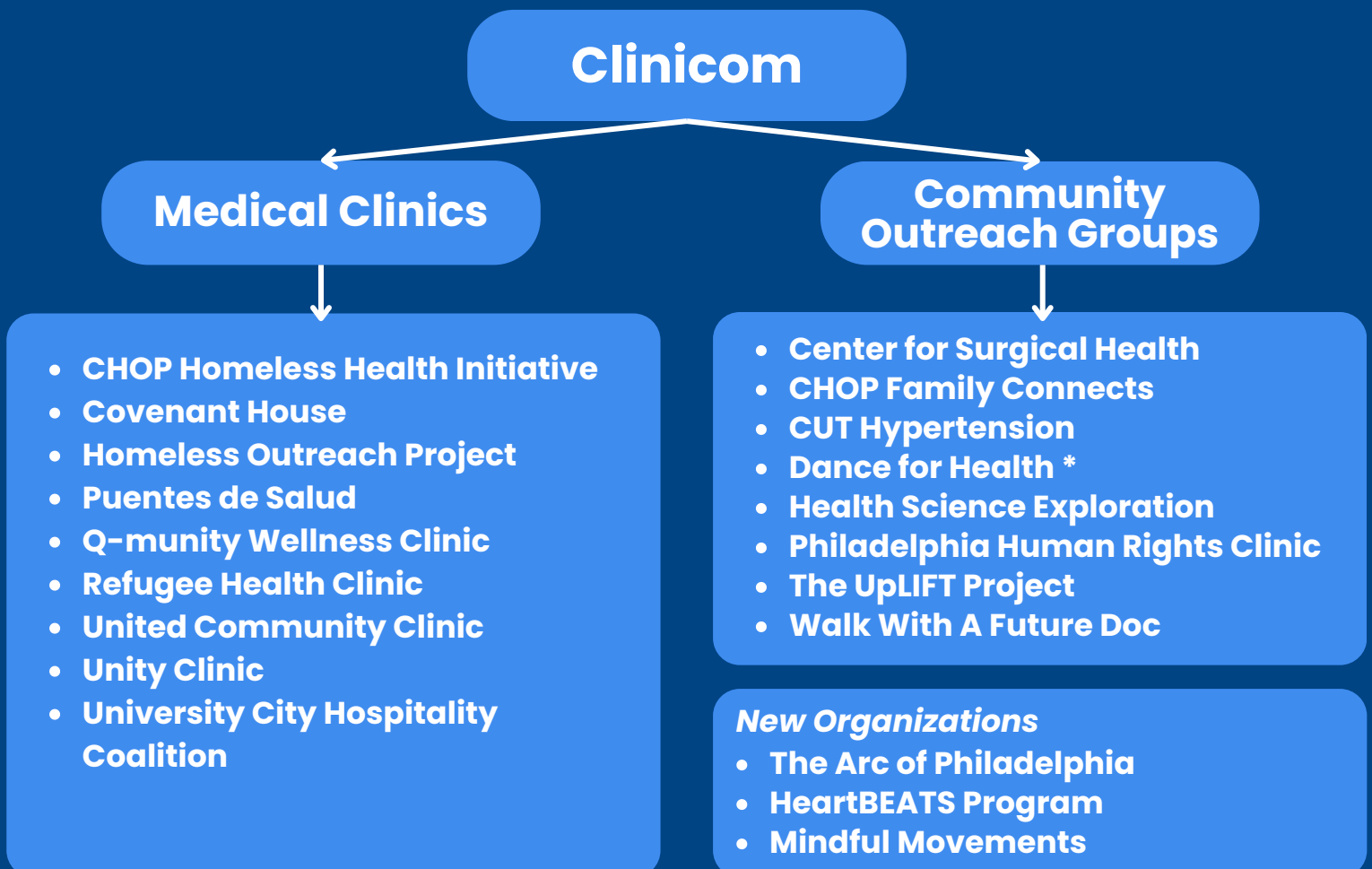


## Our Report

Overall, this report offers a glimpse into the hearts and minds of PSOM's student-driven service network. It also showcases the diversity of clinical and non-clinical opportunities for medical students to engage with their neighbors, demonstrating PSOM's commitment to serving the Philadelphia community.

# WHAT IS CLINICOM?

Clinicom serves as the umbrella organization for **19 student-run community organizations** at the Perelman School of Medicine. Nine are medical clinics, providing patient visits, histories, physical exams, prescriptions, and social services under the supervision of residents and attendings. The remaining ten are community outreach organizations, offering education, resource navigation, screenings, and community engagement activities—including several newly launched organizations this year. Clinicom supports these groups by providing guidance, coordination, and opportunities for connection and collaboration across the network.



*\*Dance for Health is no longer active and has transitioned into HeartBEATS.*

# CLINICOM TRAINING PROGRAM

The **Clinicom Training Program** provides centralized onboarding and skills training for first-year medical students (MS1s) entering Clinicom's student-run clinics and community outreach organizations. The program is designed to ensure that all new volunteers begin their clinical and community work with a shared foundation of core skills, confidence, and professionalism.

## Fall 2025 Training Overview

- **~70 MS1s trained** through the program
- **4 training dates** held across September
- **6 total training sessions**, coordinated and led by **~15 senior medical student volunteers**

## Training Session Components



- **Vital Signs Training:** Students received hands-on instruction in accurate blood pressure, heart rate, and basic vital sign measurement, with an emphasis on patient communication and proper technique in community settings.



- **History Taking Training:** MS1s practiced structured, patient-centered history taking, focusing on clarity, empathy, and adapting questions to diverse clinical and non-clinical environments.



- **Physical Examination Training:** Students were introduced to core physical exam maneuvers, reinforcing examination flow, professionalism, and appropriate clinical reasoning for student-run clinic settings.



- **Vaccine Administration Training:** Students received practical training in vaccine preparation and administration, supporting participation in Clinicom-affiliated vaccination clinics and reinforcing safe, standardized practices.

By combining multiple session offerings, peer-led instruction, and hands-on practice, the Clinicom Training Program promotes student preparedness, patient safety, and consistency across Clinicom's diverse network of clinical and community-based organizations.

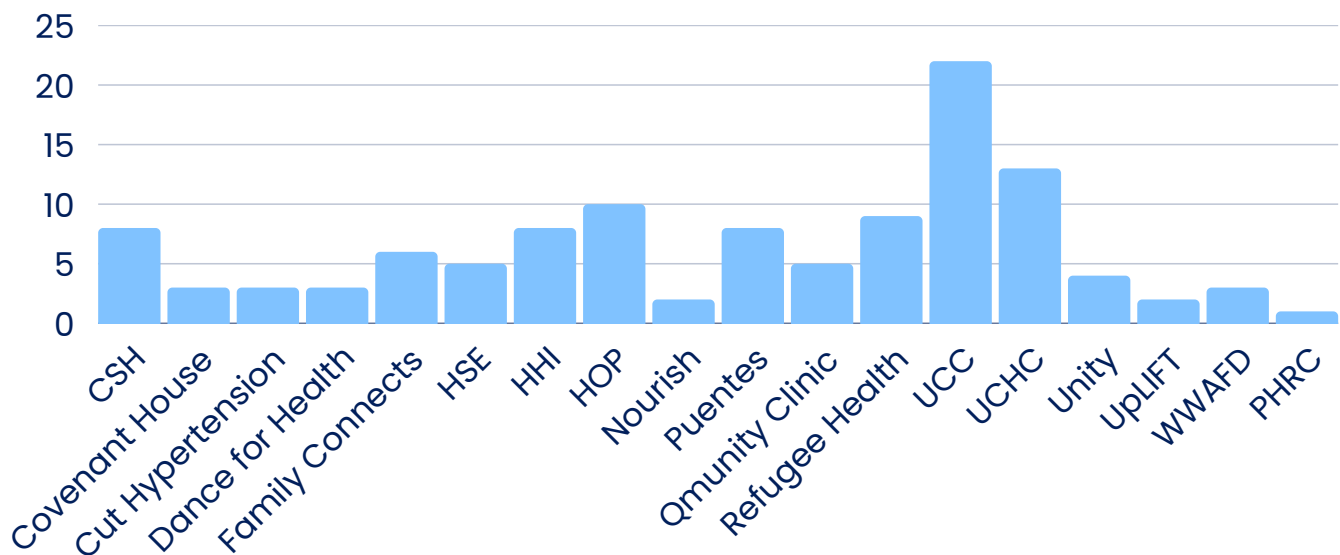


# QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

# QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

Among 79 students surveyed, 68 had experiences with volunteering through Clinicom

## Distribution of Clinicom Organizations Surveyed



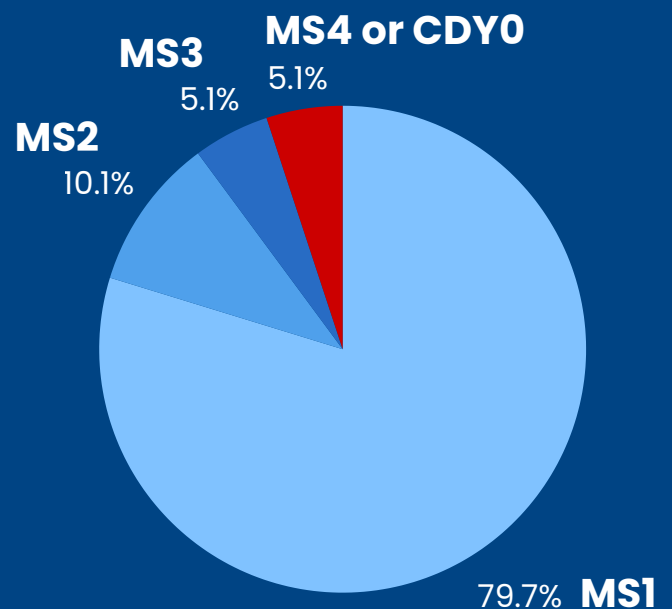
**>50%**

of students surveyed participated in a leadership role

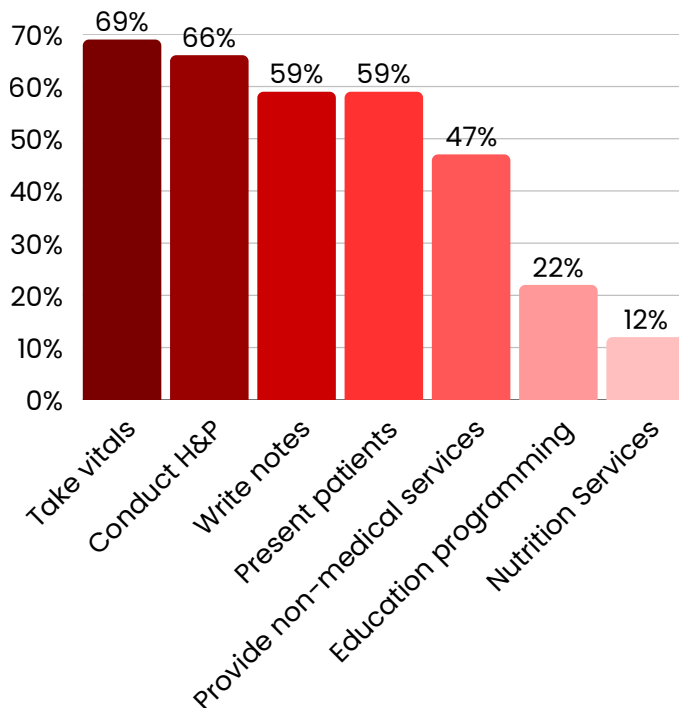
**96%**

of students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that their clinic does overall good for the community

## Level of Students Surveyed

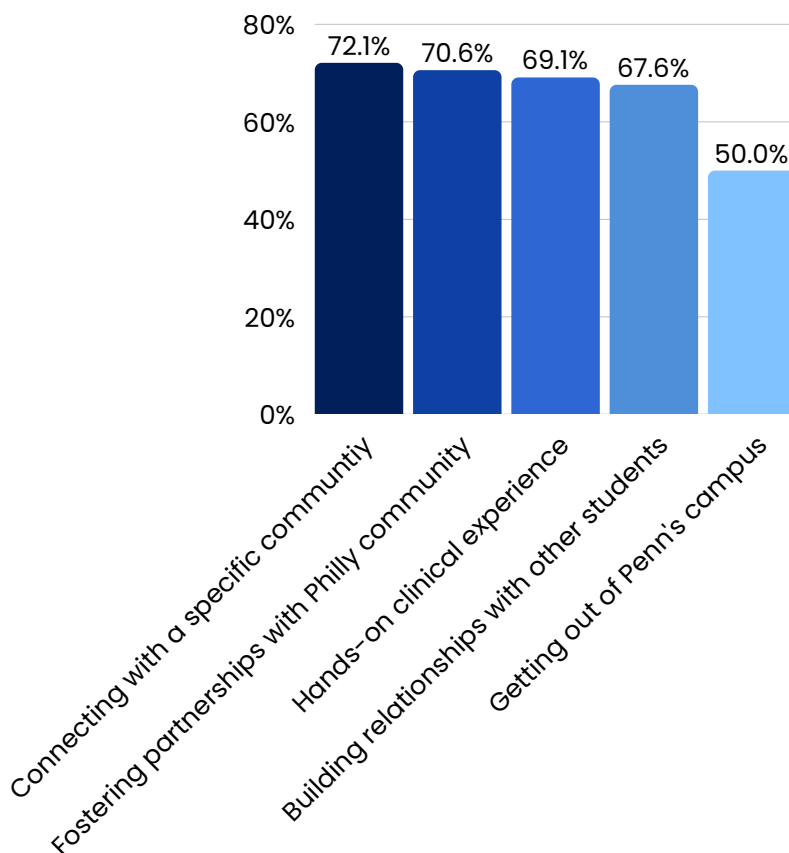


## What Did Students Do?



Students engaged in clinical activities such as taking vitals, conducting histories and physical exams, presenting patients, and writing notes, as well as non-clinical activities such as connecting patients with social services and providing education. Social services focused on resource navigation, insurance support, and interpretation. Together, these roles allowed students to support holistic, patient-centered care while learning to address health needs beyond the clinical setting.

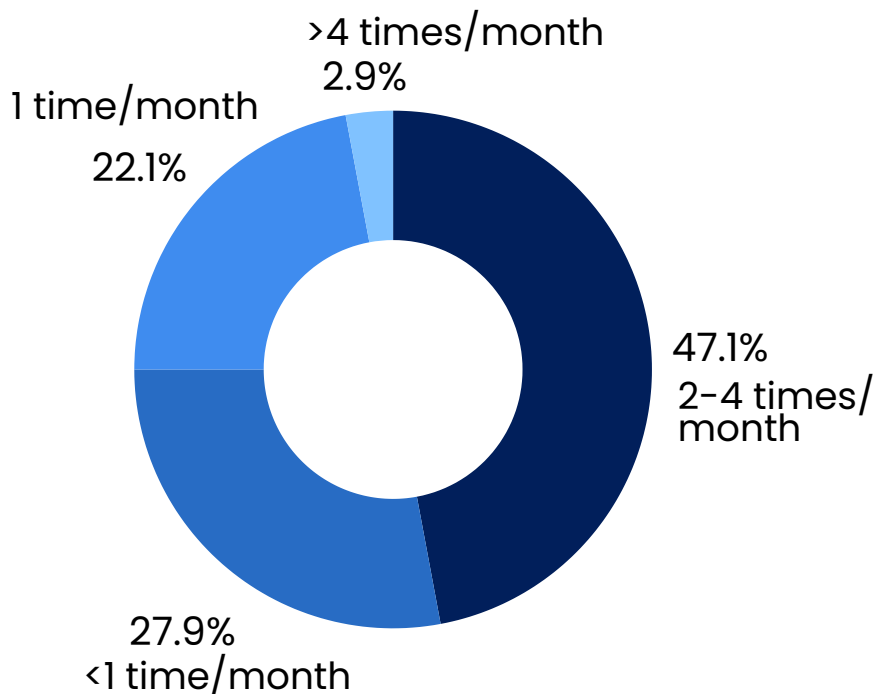
## What Did Students Appreciate?



Students highlighted the importance of connecting with specific communities—including refugees, children, Spanish-speaking individuals, and people experiencing homelessness—while building meaningful partnerships across Philadelphia. Volunteers also valued the opportunity to gain hands-on clinical and non-clinical skills, forming relationships with fellow students, and engaging with the community beyond Penn's campus. Overall, students prioritized relationship-centered, community-embedded experiences over location alone.



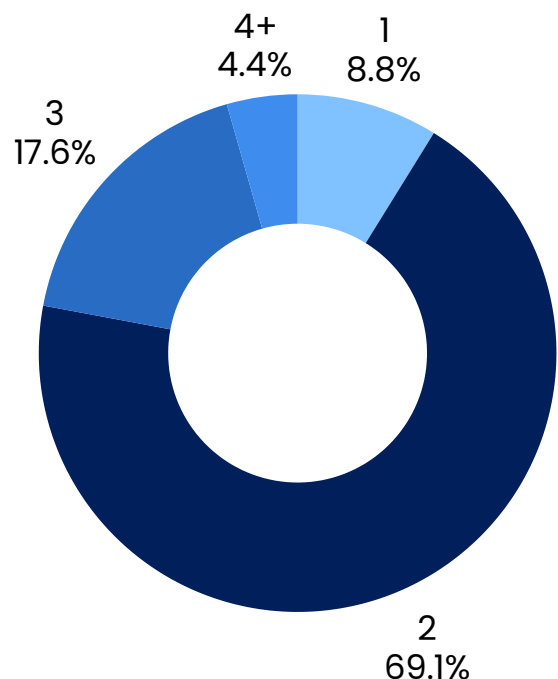
## Frequency of Volunteering



Students most frequently volunteered two to four times per month, with a small proportion volunteering weekly and about 28% proportion volunteering less than monthly. Overall, this reflects sustained, regular engagement among most volunteers, with flexibility to accommodate varying schedules.

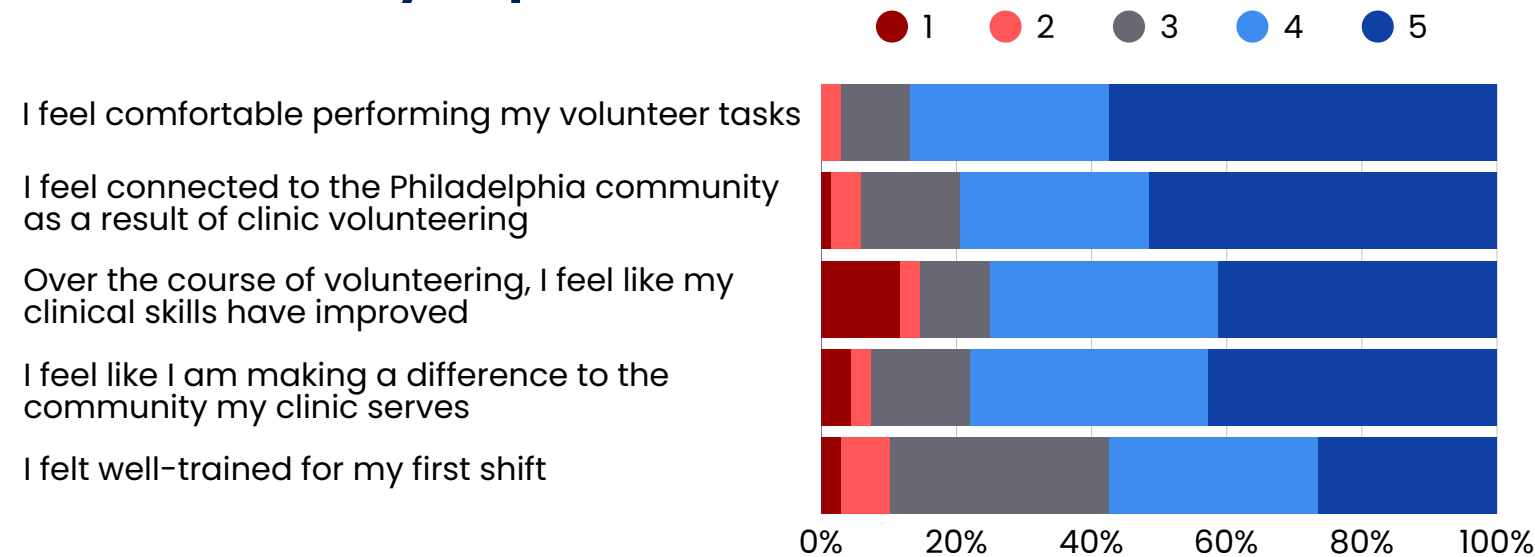
## Duration of Volunteering Experience

### Semesters Volunteered



At the time of the survey, most respondents were entering their second year of medical school and had therefore volunteered for two semesters. Some students had participated only during the spring semester, while more senior students had been involved for more than two semesters, reflecting continuity with their clinics and sustained commitment across training years.

# Student Perceptions of Preparedness, Skill Development, and Community Impact



Overall, students reported high levels of confidence and perceived impact from clinic volunteering, with strong agreement that their clinical skills improved and that they felt connected to the Philadelphia community. While most felt comfortable performing volunteer tasks and making a difference, comparatively lower agreement around initial training highlights an opportunity to strengthen onboarding and early support.

## Students rated the value of their clinic experience highly, with an average score of 7.7 out of 10

Students reflected on their most meaningful clinic experiences and the impact of volunteering on their understanding of patient care and community health:

“It showed me the impact that considering a patient’s social systems and environments in their healthcare can have for their immediate and overall outcomes.”

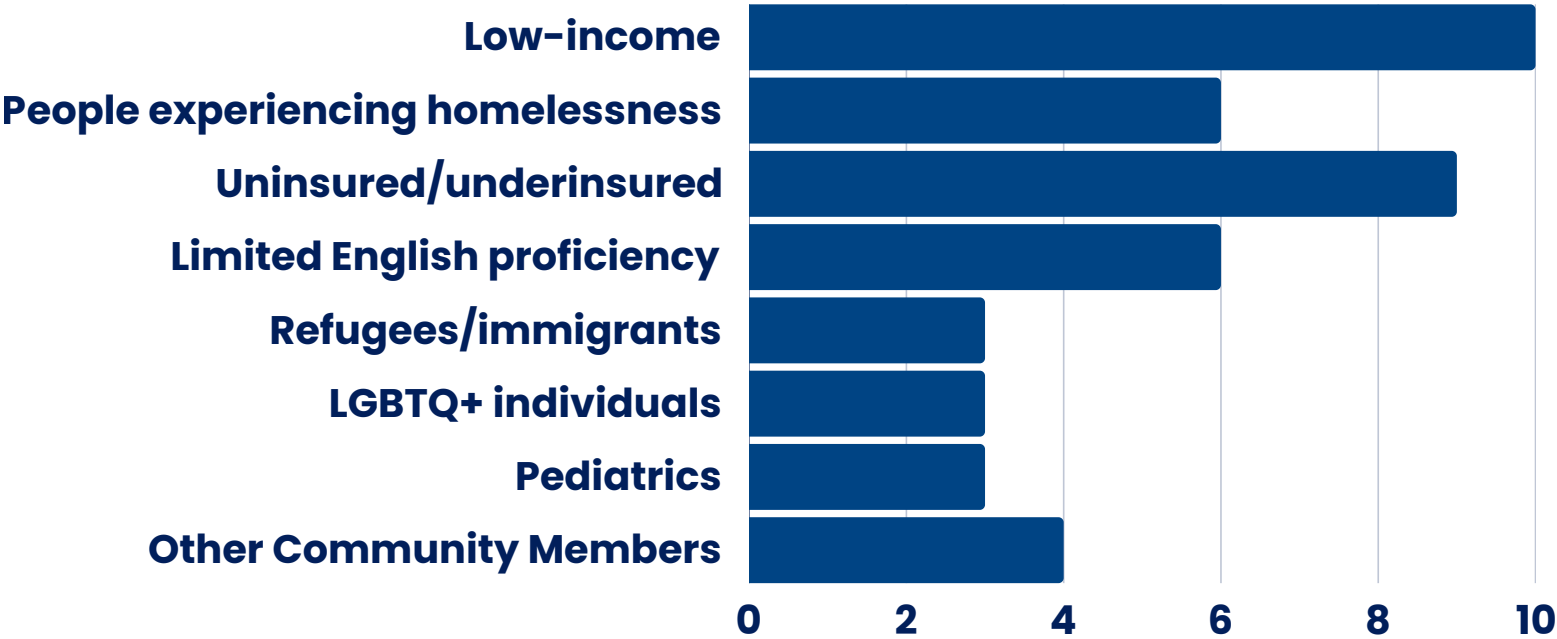
“Seeing someone like me as a patient”

“I feel like it is important to see how other professions and organizations can have profound impacts on people’s lives, possibly more so than medical institutions because social determinants of health have such a deep impact on someone’s health.”

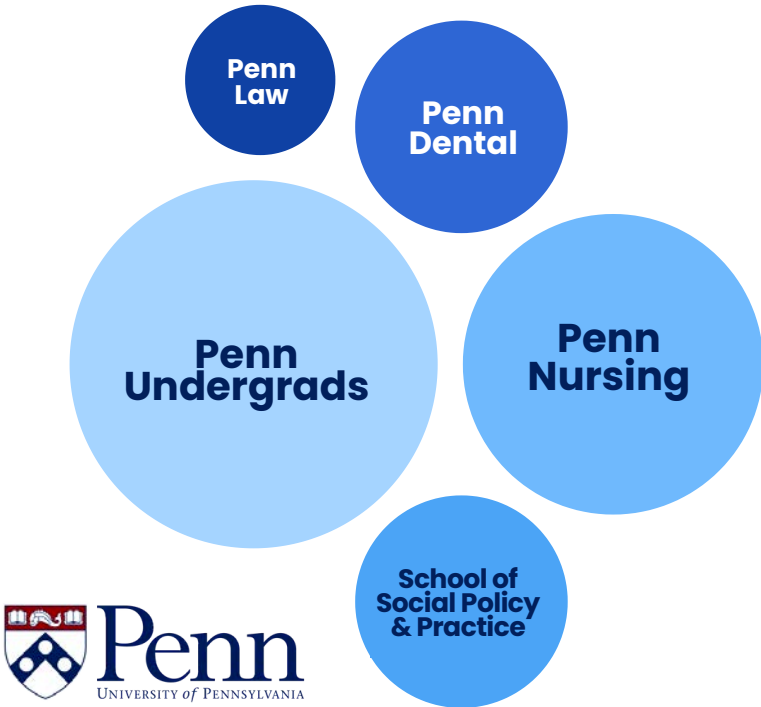
# Student Leadership Perspectives & Insights

Clinic & org leaders were surveyed separately, and **15 Clinicom organizations** are represented in the results presented below.

## Populations Served by Our Orgs



## UPenn Collaborations



**40%**  
of clinics surveyed provide **telehealth** or **virtual services**

**67%**  
of the 12 clinically-focused orgs **utilize Epic or another EMR** for record-keeping

**47%**  
of clinics surveyed **utilize interpreter services**

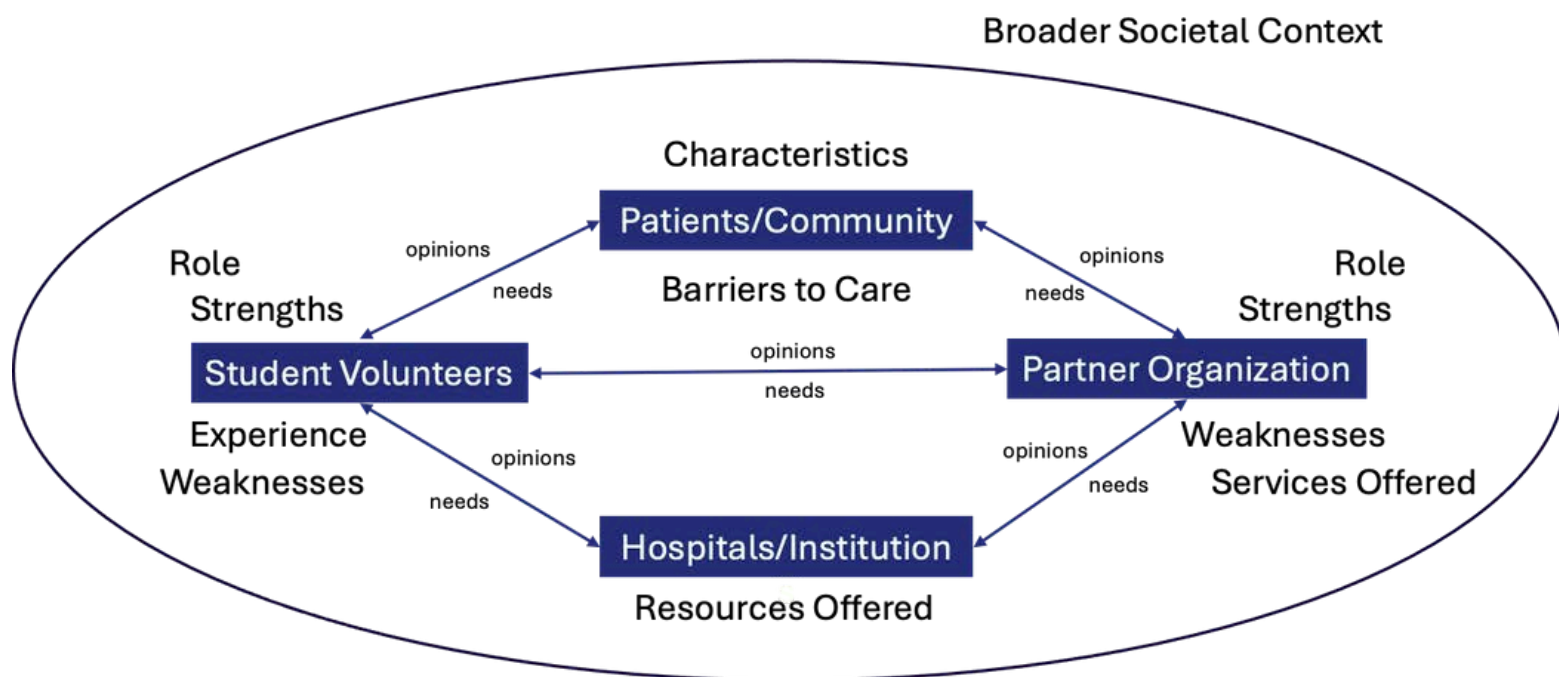


# QUALITATIVE RESULTS

# CONCEPT MAP

## Partnership in Practice: Community Reflections on Student Engagement

We interviewed twelve of our community Partners to understand how they viewed their relationship with medical student volunteers and the University of Pennsylvania. We explored the complex interplay between student volunteers, hospitals and other institutions, our community partner organization, and the community itself. Each of these stakeholders play a role, with their own characteristics, contributions, strengths, and needs. Each also holds a unique perspective on their relationship with the other. Through our interviews, we found salient themes within this network of relationships.



# THEMES

1

**The populations served by community partners face a range of barriers to care, including access, cost, and mistrust in the medical system.**

You know now, **there's a lot of distrust in the African community within the medical field**, because, historically, I mean, if you look at what that experience has been with African Americans, it is every right in the world to be distrustful....Well again, I mean like I said, from African Americans have every right to be very cautious of the medical, medical, professional medical field in general, because of the history. If you look at Henrietta Lacks in in Baltimore. You look at the roles that Penn played in the penal system here in in Philadelphia. It's travesties, these are travesties.

Um, our patients.... **Don't have any payment for medications.**

**Transportation - is the biggest barrier for people being able to access ... at [location/clinic] night**, we see them & want to connect back to care. But if we don't have help around transportation piece... it used to be that certain medicaid providers ie... keystone firsthand funding to provide door-to-door transport. They lost that funding. Don't know if it's ever coming back.

2

**Community partners tailor outreach methods to the population they serve, but many feel that they could use greater publicity in their community.**

We've done a lot of different things...We've done **community outreach events** at, like,... community events, ...We've gone to, like, **different restaurants** in the city to talk to the kitchen staff, about stuff. We've **partnered with some organizations**, immigrant-serving organizations, to do, like, Know Your Rights with regard to healthcare kind of campaigns...And we've even done, like, ... God, **we did, radio**, we did, like, a Spanish radio presentation, we did...**we went to, like, Mass and church things**, like and talk to people, **school things**, so we've done a lot of that kind of stuff.

That is a constant project for us. **We love meeting new people and making sure that, you know, folks within the health system, area clinics, patients are aware of, you know, the organization** and what we offer. I don't know that we would ever, sort of, stop doing that work. I think there's just... there's so many people to connect with on various levels.

**We're not advertising a lot publicly right now, just because of the deportation kind of thing.** We don't... we want to keep a low profile. So, we're not.... Like, really being aggressive in our advertising right now.

## 3

### Organizational strengths, including accessibility, continuity, culture, and trust within the community, enable care despite resource constraints

Um... Yeah, so I think that's... **that's, like, the key to any other success that we have, I think really comes down to just, like deep relationships and understanding** of the shelter system, and just getting to learn from families, that's... I... I can't take credit for what I'm teaching people, because it's coming from families, right? So it's just, like, I'm sort of this conduit of... This is... this is what they're saying, and I'm gonna tell you, because you don't have the opportunity to sit with them, right? But this is really important for you to hear, and I think... I think that goes a long way.

Yeah, I mean, **I think our strengths are caring providers. And our other strength is that we hire in-person interpreters from the community..** um, for a small stipend. So, our interpreters are Indonesian-speaking, many of them are, um...you know, pre-med students, nursing students. People interested in the medical field. Um, so there.... They're great. **They're highly motivated, they're amazingly wonderful, and... Very pleasant to work with, so...**

**We also are very available, so... if someone needs something, they don't have to wait 6 months to get in.** Once they're a patient. If you're a new patient, you might wait, like, 2 months. But our waiting list is not as extensive as the City Health District Center's. And patients don't get lost. So, we have pretty good follow-up in place.

## 4

### Community partners experience gaps, including insufficient providers, services, and funding, and see Penn as a potential source of support.

**Well, in the past year we have gaps because of funding. There's funding cuts, and people are not as receptive to refugees and immigrants, which is very distressing.** We do see some families who are undocumented and that is really sad when people are reaching out so I can write a letter so they don't get deported with their medically fragile child who will not be able to get services in their home country. So there's gaps in funding for that. I think we could always use more support.

Um, **having other labs paid for would be great, also. Uh, having a fund for radiology and imaging.** Um, at one point, we were.... Since I've started, actually, Penn was going to provide an ultrasound to use in the office. That they wanted a trained ultrasonographer. And they wanted to be assured that the students were not going to use it without supervision. And we have a trained ultrasonographer, but she's not a Penn faculty person, so that was limiting factor there, so.... The ultrasound kind of could never happen because of that little glitch. Having... having, yeah, the ability to do ultrasound. In some manner, in-house would also be great. Yeah.



You know, **Penn has a lot, a lot of resources. I wish we had... access to some of those. Uh, I wish we could actually obtain another physician or two.** We've, um.... Our medical director needs to leave for health reasons, and so.... Our other ones... sole physician has kind of reluctantly become the medical director. But he would like other company. Um, so we've tried to regroup physicians from the community. Um, I've had the medical students, you know, say, talk about us to other places... The medical director that's leaving, who's actually from the VA. Keeps saying, I'm sure Penn Medicine Family Practice has somebody, blah blah blah, but I just don't have those connections, so...

So.... **I mean, if we had more providers.... We've talked about having a separate site, you know, is this the best site for everybody?** Kind of on the western part of South Philadelphia, could there be something in the eastern part, could we have another evening of clinic? You know, elsewhere. So we've talked about those things, **but I don't think we have the capacity.** So, could Penn help? Yeah, with, you know.... A couple providers, and... More medical students could then have mentorships.

## **5 Medical students serve as capacity extenders and innovators, earning trust and appreciation from patients and partners.**

The students really keep us fresh. Like, there's... students see problems, you know, and they say, like, hey, this thing, I noticed this or that thing happening, or the patient's talking about this or that problem that they need help with, like, what can we do about that? **The students, just by... by nature of kind of coming with a fresh eye, bring a perspective that causes us... clinic leaders to... oftentimes re-evaluate what we're doing,** or think about. We can do things better or differently.

Um, **we've had students that have known of resources outside of us that. You know, we've been able to utilize. Um. Having them write grants is great.** We.... We got, um, blood pressure cuffs, we got an electronic vital sign monitor...um, through the grant. And, uh.... Yeah, those... those are all ways that they've.... Helped improve care.

And then, um, **we also have third and fourth years who can come back, they can function like a resident, so they can provide patient care, which is really helpful,** because then for us... So it allows us the ability to see more kids.

**The patients at our clinic really like I think... seeing the students there.** We have a program where students give, medical students give talks in the waiting room on different, like, healthcare topics to just kind of do some basic education, and a lot of times, like, the students are nervous because their Spanish isn't perfect, or whatever. The patients talk about how much they like that, because I think they... **it makes them feel like, wow, here's these... these young professionals like, they care, and they care about us, and they want to, they want to be involved in our community, and, like, I think it really means a lot to people.**

**"I mean... The students are, kind of the...the heart and soul, in some ways."**



## 6 Student engagement is mutually beneficial, but in some ways structurally fragile.

Um, we've been doing it since its inception, it's 9 or 10 years now. And I think, um... People have, uh, enjoyed it, benefited from it, and I hope that the students would say it gave them a chance to know something a bit about, uh, this community and persons that they may not ordinarily meet. Which, in my mind, I think will always make a better doctor. Uh, the better your skills are at interacting with people, **so I think the benefit to the students, uh, for many of the students aren't from neighborhoods or, uh, communities that look like ours, and so it gives them some broadening, and for those that are from such communities, it gives them a chance to feel at home again.**

I think notoriously once medical students get finished with their 1st year. **Sometimes students will sign up and be like, oh, I have plenty of time, I can do [program]. I loved it so much, but maybe they fall off because they're too busy with clinical, and we totally understand.** But I think something students can maybe work on in general is being a little bit more honest about expectations and their participation, and like kind of communicating with us that, like: I think I'll be busy.

**It has been a little bit confusing through the years as, like, student groups are popping up at Penn...Um, and, like, trying to figure out, like, who is who, who's doing what, who... who are you serving, or not,** like... Um, but I think that's just because it's, it's, like... there are just these... they're not part of, like, Clinicom, they're not part of this larger system, they're just kind of pop... Yeah, I think that's the only, like, but I... at this point, I think unless there are more groups. I think I know who they are and what they're doing. Um, we've been able to connect with them.

## 7 Institutional partnerships provide essential resources but can also create structural challenges to long-term sustainability.

And.... **We do have some partners, um, Jefferson has agreed to run basic labs for our patients. Uh, we refer patients to the surgical center at Penn if they qualify.** Um, Jefferson, we have a mammogram van that comes, and we... send people to the Healthy Women Program at Jefferson. So those are all helpful programs...Um, **we do utilize a practice called Independent Physicians Incorporated, which provides low-cost imaging for our patients when they need it. Uh, VFAAR program. And we do refer patients to the Wills Clinic for eye care.** Um, and we have a few community, like, independent partners for dental care.

**I think overall, the organization has grown incredibly over the last decade or so. It was started in 2005, but we've had a big part... like, a lot of... a really important partnership with Penn, and Penn has really... that partnership has really facilitated growth.**

Yeah, no, I, **I would like to see Penn. Because what they're doing is tremendous. What the students are doing are tremendous. I would like to see Penn take more financial vested interest.** I have knocked on the door several times, and we're gonna do it. But I would like to see it from the perspective of Penn being appreciative. They'll come around and they'll take pictures and utilize it for their advertisement purposes, and I would like to see them invest a little more financial.


Yes, **I think [partner] has some kind of partnership with Penn in the past, but unfortunately, we have seen this kind of declining since the pandemic. And now uh I'm not sure that we have reached that level again of where we were before the pandemic and when I'm saying this, it's mostly because we have noticed a big change when it comes to calling the University of Pennsylvania and to schedule appointments** either for some lab work or either for X-ray or things like that or other specialty care, right? Yeah, in the past, it used to be something easier for us to do as health navigators from [partner], to do based on the referral that the client will receive from the...whoever referred them, from their provider, right....But now, unfortunately, we are not seeing that process [being] as easy as it was back then.... I believe that the University of Pennsylvania might be a good kind of healthcare facility for our insured clients, at some point. Now the uninsured client...if you compare the percentage of insured community members, compared to the percentage of those who are not insured, you know, this percentage is quite really low.

8

**Broader social and political context plays a significant role in the current operation of partner organizations and their concerns and needs for the future.**

**I'd say just in the future, especially within the next couple of years, just like lack of funding because of just our like political and economic state right now in the US. And specifically in major cities, we see so many people having their Medicaid be taken away, having certain grants be taken away, so people don't have access to health care, they don't have access to education,** that could just overall increase the need of the families, but reduce our resource capability, which I think could be a big challenge. Yeah, I think that could be a really big challenge.

Honestly, I think it's... **I would say I'm not so much worried about [program] as I am about our families.** And I think that, um... what really has me concerned, and it will... it will affect us in the sense of, like, **we want to be able to be flexible and respond to, you know, how homelessness is tied, um, to politics to funding for homeless services, so... like, I... I just, um... Yeah, I'm worried about not just the families, right now, who are in shelter, but, like, the families that are on the brink,** And these are things that might really push them over the edge. Um... So yeah, I don't know, I think that they're... we need some, like, creative thinking around this and... and... and folks who are, like, paying attention and trying to plan for how we can support families moving forward.



# MEDICAL CLINICS

# CHOP HOMELESS HEALTH INITIATIVE



## Our Mission

Homeless Health Initiative (HHI) delivers trauma-informed pediatric care (medical, dental, social work) directly within emergency housing shelters across Philadelphia, meeting families where they are and minimizing barriers to access. The shelters we travel to include Jane Addams, HopePHL: Rowan House, and RHD Woodstock.

# 20

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# ~180 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year at **3  
shelters**

## Student Responsibilities

- Work alongside CHOP residents and attendings to support pediatric visits, health education, and referrals
- MSIs focus on developmental observation and family engagement
- Upper-class students conduct histories and physicals and present patients

## Key Achievements

- Delivered shelter-based pediatric care at **20 clinic nights**, serving **100+ children**
- Expanded SPARK with a **Penn CAREs Grant** and established the Rest & Resilience initiative with a **Making a Difference Grant**

**SPARK (Safe Play and Recreation for Kids):** Structured play programming to support child development and emotional well-being; Engaged **20+ children and families**

**Rest & Resilience:** Sleep health education and distribution of safe-sleep and bedtime materials for families

- Distributed **80 sleep-support bags**
- Expanded to **Red Shield Family Residence** and planned partnership with **Covenant House & Family Connects**

## Partnerships

One House At A Time, Emergency Housing Shelters, Penn Nursing, Penn Dental, School of Social Policy & Practice



# COVENANT HOUSE (PA)

## Our Mission

Covenant House engages youth experiencing homelessness (ages 18–21) through a continuum of trauma-informed medical care, supportive services, and community engagement, grounded in dignity, respect, and unconditional support. In partnership with CHOP, the clinic provides free healthcare to residents while training students in youth-centered, equitable care.

# 6

Medical Student  
Coordinators

# 400 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

## Student Responsibilities

- Conduct vital signs, histories, and physicals
- Present patients to residents & attendings
- Assist with non-medical and social needs, including resource navigation
- Organize activity nights that foster connection and wellness among residents
- Participate in teaching, leadership, and clinic improvement efforts

## Key Achievements

- Maintained regular clinic operations, averaging **~6–8 clinic days per month**
- Provided care for **~30 patients each month**
- Hosted **12+ activity nights** to promote social connection and youth wellbeing
- Delivered comprehensive services including primary care, labs, pharmacy support, health education, and health-promoting activities
- Students received exceptional longitudinal teaching from master clinicians experienced in adolescent medicine

## Partnerships

- Covenant House (international non-profit)
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



**Covenant  
House**  
Pennsylvania

*25 Years of Building  
Bridges to Hope*





# HOMELESS OUTREACH PROJECT

## Our Mission

The Homeless Outreach Project practices street medicine by bringing care directly to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Philadelphia. By meeting individuals in their lived environments, the program builds trust, reduces barriers to care, and supports continuity through medical and social connections.

# 30

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# 375+ hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

## Student Responsibilities

- Conduct street outreach, providing essential supplies and basic medical, wound care, and harm-reduction support
- Assess needs and connect individuals to medical and social services
- Build trusting, trauma-informed relationships through respectful engagement

## Key Achievements

- Organized a **Street Medicine Symposium** to advance education and advocacy
- Sustained year-long street outreach, supported by a **Projects for Progress grant** and ongoing supply distribution
- **Built longitudinal relationships with unhoused neighbors**, engaging in medical care when appropriate

## Partnerships

**FrESH** – recovered food distribution

**Bridge Beyond** – community-based support and referrals

**Prevention Point** – harm reduction resources and outreach support

**Wawa** – food and beverage donations



## Our Mission

Puentes de Salud advances health equity for Latino/Latinx immigrant communities in Philadelphia by providing culturally and linguistically responsive healthcare, social services, and education to reduce barriers and improve wellbeing.

# 50

Penn Student  
Volunteers

# 1000+ hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year



## Student Responsibilities

- Medical student volunteers support clinic operations and patient care, with many providing Spanish-language interpretation
- Junior students assist with clinic flow and vitals, including intake, rooming, and documentation
- Senior students may serve in a sub-I role, performing supervised histories & physicals
- Through the **Charla program**, students deliver Spanish-language health education on preventive care, diabetes & patient rights

## Key Achievements

- Despite administrative & policy challenges affecting immigrant communities, delivered **8,000+ patient visits** in 2025
- Provided integrated primary care, mental health, dental, and social services throughout the year
- Expanded Spanish-language care and health education through Charla program

## Partnerships

CLS (Community Legal Services), City of Philadelphia Department of Health, Juntos, Penn Family Medicine, Jefferson Family Medicine, Penn Internal Medicine, Center for Surgical Health

# Q-MUNITY WELLNESS CLINIC



## Our Mission

Q-munity Wellness Clinic (QWC) is an LGBTQ+ psychiatric clinic at Hall-Mercer that improves access to affirming mental health care, gender-affirming services, and social needs resources for LGBTQ+ individuals in Philadelphia through a collaborative, student-led model.

# 10

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# 300+ hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

**Hall-Mercer Community  
Mental Health Center**

245 S 8th St,  
Philadelphia, PA 19106



## Student Responsibilities

- Support LGBTQ+-affirming psychiatric care alongside Penn psychiatry residents and faculty
- Assist with patient intake, clinic flow, documentation, and care coordination
- Engage patients in trauma-informed, affirming care and resource navigation

## Key Achievements

- Provided affirming psychiatric care averaging **~4 patient visits per month**
- Delivered comprehensive evaluations, short-term medication management, psychotherapy, and letters for gender-affirming care
- Supported referrals to long-term psychiatric care and community resources
- Received the **Spring 2024 Big Deal Award** in recognition of impact and innovation

## Partnerships

- Hall-Mercer
- Mazzoni Center
- Philadelphia FIGHT
- Penn Psychiatry Residents & Faculty





# REFUGEE HEALTH CLINIC



PHILADELPHIA  
REFUGEE HEALTH  
COLLABORATIVE

## Our Mission

The Refugee Health Clinic supports newly arrived refugees and immigrants in Philadelphia by improving access to initial health screenings, preventive care, and care coordination, while educating medical students about the unique health needs and barriers faced by refugee populations.

# 60

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# ~150 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year



Dr. Mary Fabio, MD, (far left) working with 2 residents in the Refugee Health Clinic (CHOP).

## Student Responsibilities

- Assist with patient visits, including vitals, health education, and social support
- Shadow attending physicians & residents
- Conduct post-visit outreach to help patients obtain medications and understand treatment plans
- Support referrals to primary care, housing resources, and social services
- Work with medical interpreters to provide linguistically appropriate care

## Key Achievements

- Sustained clinic operations at CHOP Karabots amid significant legislative and administrative challenges affecting refugee health services
- Supported clinics that, over the past year, helped **1,000+ newcomers access initial health screenings** and establish care
- Sustained student interest in refugee-focused clinical care, education, and advocacy

## Partnerships

- HIAS
- Bethany Christian Services
- Nationalities Service Center
- CHOP Karabots Pediatric Care Center

*Adult refugee clinic services at the Penn Center for Primary Care have been suspended since Spring 2025 amid broader policy challenges.*

# UNITED COMMUNITY CLINIC

## Our Mission

United Community Clinic provides comprehensive, student-run primary care to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients, with a particular focus on immigrant, refugee, and African and Caribbean communities in Philadelphia.

# 51

Penn Student  
Volunteers

# 730+ hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

# 20

Patient visits per  
month on average



**UCC Parkside:**  
4159 W Girard Ave,  
Philadelphia, PA

**UCC Cedar:**  
501 S 54th St,  
Philadelphia, PA

## Student Responsibilities

- Obtain vital signs and perform histories and physical examinations
- Present patients to resident and attending physicians and write clinical notes
- Participate in clinical teaching, including chalk talks and bedside learning
- Assist with clinic leadership, workflow optimization, and quality improvement

## Key Achievements

- Held **32 weekly Monday evening clinics, hosted 4+ health fairs, and transitioned to new site at HUP Cedar**
- Provided comprehensive primary care, including labs, vaccinations, and chronic disease management
- Expanded services to include TB/HIV screening, ultrasound, BP management, A1C monitoring, and a new **ophthalmology clinic** with **Sight Savers**
- Awarded the Making a Difference Grant to pilot a **Hepatitis B screening and vaccination program**



## Partnerships

African Family Health Organization, New River Presbyterian Church, Hepatitis B Foundation, Penn Nursing, Penn Undergrad Students, Sight Savers



United Community  
Clinic

# UNITY CLINIC

## Our Mission

Unity Clinic provides free, student-run primary care to uninsured and underinsured individuals in Philadelphia, with a particular focus on immigrant communities, including a predominantly Indonesian patient population. The clinic delivers essential medical services while fostering longitudinal, community-centered care.

# 10

Penn Student  
Volunteers

# ~300 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year at

## Weekly Tuesday Clinics

## Student Responsibilities

- Assist with patient visits, including vitals, histories, and physical examinations
- Present patients to supervising providers and write clinical notes
- Support non-medical and social needs, including resource navigation
- Collaborate with nurse practitioners and nursing students in patient care
- Utilize medical interpreters to support patients with limited English proficiency

## Key Achievements

- Delivered weekly evening clinics (Tuesday nights), serving **~60–80 patients per month**
- Provided core primary care services, including physicals, labs, prescriptions, and follow-up care
- Working to expand access to home blood pressure cuffs, nutrition education sessions, and point-of-care ultrasound through grant-supported funding.

## Partnerships

### Drexel Nursing



DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
College of  
**Nursing and  
Health Professions**

# UNIVERSITY CITY HOSPITALITY COALITION



## Our Mission

UCHC partners with community meal programs in West Philadelphia to provide accessible, interdisciplinary healthcare and social services to individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, while training students in community-based, longitudinal care.

# 51

Penn Student  
Volunteers

# 500+ hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year



## Student Responsibilities

- Conduct intake, including blood pressure and blood glucose screening
- Obtain histories & perform physical exams
- Present patients to attending physicians
- Refer patients to medical, legal, dental, and social services
- Collaborate with and mentor undergraduate volunteers

## Key Achievements

- Operated weekly clinics, serving **~20 patients per month**
- Provided longitudinal screening and follow-up care for chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes
- Received a **Penn CAREs Grant**, supporting clinic operations, medical supplies, and infrastructure for community-based care
- Offered specialty services through recurring partnerships (**ophthalmology quarterly; PM&R monthly**)
- Distributed Narcan, COVID at-home tests, vitamins, and hygiene supplies to support harm reduction and preventive health

## Partnerships

- UCHC
- Service Link

**Learn More About  
UCHC Here!**





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH ORGANIZATIONS



# CENTER FOR SURGICAL HEALTH

## Our Mission

To improve the surgical health of vulnerable individuals and under-resourced communities, including patients who are experiencing homelessness, refugees/immigrants, and those with limited English proficiency.

# 68

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# 6000+ hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

## NE2AR© Framework

We **NAVIGATE** patients from the time of surgical diagnosis until connection to primary care.

We **EDUCATE** patients about their surgical disease & **EMPOWER** shared clinical decision-making.

We help patients **ACCESS** surgeons and financial coverage for care.

We **REFER** patients to additional support services.

## Student Responsibilities

Serving as a Personal Patient Navigators (PPN) provides clinical exposure while supporting patients through the perioperative continuum by coordinating NE2AR© surgical services, including insurance support, appointment scheduling, transportation, and interpretation.

## Milestone Reached

Nov 2025:

1500<sup>th</sup> Patient Referral



# CHOP FAMILY CONNECTS



## Our Mission

CHOP Family Connects addresses social needs identified during CHOP Emergency Department visits, helping families access essential resources such as child care items, utility assistance, and affordable food to support health beyond the hospital setting.

# 20

Medical Student  
Volunteers per semester

# 600+ hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

## Student Responsibilities

- Engage families during and after ED visits through in-person and phone outreach
- Provide supportive check-ins that acknowledge the stress of emergency care
- Connect families to social services via **CommunityResourceConnects.com**
- Follow up to confirm access to needed resources
- Maintain community partnerships to support direct ED referrals

## Key Achievements

- **>24,000 families reached** in the past 5 yrs
- **>5,500 resources requested** in last 5 yrs
- Longevity has helped decrease resource needs for families with repeated emergency department utilization

## Gun Safety Program

Supports nonjudgmental firearm safety education for families. Distributed **3,300+ free gun locks** to CHOP families to promote child safety

## Medical Financial Partnership

Connected **300 families** in the ED with information on **free tax preparation** and financial services



# CUT HYPERTENSION



## Our Mission

CUT Hypertension addresses cardiovascular disparities by embedding blood pressure screening, health education, and referrals within **Philly Cuts**, a trusted West Philadelphia community barbershop.

# 25

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# ~180 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year at

## Weekly Saturday Screenings

## Student Responsibilities

- Conduct blood pressure and vital sign screenings
- Provide hypertension education focused on lifestyle, nutrition, and risk factors
- Engage patrons in informal, culturally responsive health conversations
- Encourage follow-up with primary care and healthy behavior changes

## Key Achievements

- **Sustained weekly Saturday screenings** throughout the year at Philly Cuts
- Attended/organized **4+ health fairs**
- Hosted a lunchtime health talk with Philly Cuts barbers, centering barbers as trusted messengers in hypertension education
- Shared practical tools with patrons, including DASH-diet-inspired recipes

## Partnerships

- Philly Cuts Barbershop (West Philadelphia)

# 60+

Patrons screened for  
hypertension over the year





# HEALTH SCIENCE EXPLORATION

## Our Mission

Health Science Exploration works to spark interest in science and health among 5th- and 6th-grade students at **Benjamin B. Comegys Elementary School** in West Philadelphia through hands-on education and mentorship.

# 17

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# ~130 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

## Student Responsibilities

- Plan and teach a weekly after-school science program for elementary school students
- Deliver short lessons paired with hands-on activities to reinforce learning
- Teach in small teams of 2-4 volunteers per session

## Key Achievements

- Increased session frequency to **~4 times per month**
- Strengthened partnership with the **Netter Center**
- Organized an **end-of-year field trip to JMEC** to introduce **>15 students** to the medical field
  - Taught ultrasound, pathology review, and physical exam skills

## Partnerships

- Netter Center
- Benjamin B. Comegys Elementary School



# 5-10

6-Grade students  
attend each lesson



# PHILADELPHIA HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

## Our Mission

PHRC provides no-cost psychiatric and physical evaluations for survivors of persecution seeking asylum in the United States, using medical-legal affidavits to document evidence of torture, trafficking, and human rights abuses and support asylum claims.

# 10

Student Scribes

# 25

Student leaders from **5**  
**medical schools**

Learn more  
about PHRC  
here!



## Student Responsibilities

- Complete training on asylum law, trauma-informed care, and forensic documentation
- Serve as scribes during forensic evaluations, documenting medical and psychological findings
- Draft medical-legal affidavits under physician supervision
- Learn the role of clinicians in human rights advocacy and asylum proceedings

## Key Achievements (as of late 2024)

- Supported asylum evaluations for individuals from around the world seeking protection in the U.S.
- Trained medical students in forensic documentation and trauma-informed interviewing
- Continued primarily virtual evaluations, expanding access to care and student involvement
- Findings from PHRC's operational analysis were presented at the **2024 Physicians for Human Rights Conference** by Maya Jog, Arman Haveric, and Zahraa Mohammed.

## Partnerships

Drexel University College of Medicine, Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Immigration attorneys and legal aid organizations

# THE UPLIFT PROJECT

## Our Mission

UpLIFT works to create a more equitable medical workforce by providing free, comprehensive mentorship and application guidance to prospective medical students from low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented backgrounds, reducing financial and informational barriers to medical school.

# 6

Medical Student  
Leaders

# ~150 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

Guide!



## Student Responsibilities

- Design & lead education programming on the medical school application process
- Provide mentorship and individualized advising to pre-medical students
- Serve on Q&A panels and facilitate small-group discussions
- Host and support in-person events and virtual office hours

## Key Achievements

- Hosted **2 in-person education events**, including a **Navigating Pre-Med Conference** for regional high school and college students
- Provided weekly virtual summer office hours offering ongoing mentorship and application support
- **Engaged 100+ prospective applicants** through conferences, mentorship, and advising
- Mobilized **6 student leaders and ~20 additional mentors** to support aspiring medical students through an immersive summer program

## Partnerships

- Penn First Plus
- Penn Undergraduate Pre-Med Office
- Pre-med offices at local universities



# WALK WITH A FUTURE DOC

## Our Mission

Walk With a Future Doc promotes community health, connection, and physical activity through biweekly, student-led neighborhood walks, pairing movement with accessible health education and dialogue between medical students and community members.

# 14

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# 24 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past year

**Bi-weekly Saturday  
Walks at Mount Zion  
Baptist Church**

## Student Responsibilities

- Lead community walks and facilitate inclusive, all-ages participation
- Deliver brief health education discussions on topics relevant to community interests
- Engage in informal health Q&A and relationship-building with participants
- Assist with non-medical and social support as needed

## Key Achievements

- Sustained biweekly Saturday walks
- Delivered **20+ health education** talks on topics including heart disease, chronic kidney disease, mental health, allergies, and breast cancer awareness
- Collaborated with the **Penn Medicine Doylestown Walk with a Doc** program to share best practices and strengthen community health networking
- Welcomed **Dr. Hana Choy** to participate in a community walk, enhancing engagement and physician-community connection
- Engaged low-income community members through accessible, relationship-centered wellness programming

## Partnerships

- Mount Zion Baptist Church of Philadelphia





# **NEW ORGANIZATIONS**

## Our Mission

The Arc of Philadelphia Health Advocacy Program promotes equitable, respectful healthcare for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) while providing medical students with structured opportunities to build communication, clinical, and advocacy skills in a community-based setting.

# 5-10

Medicine Student  
Volunteers

# ~50 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past semester



## Student Responsibilities

- Participate in health screenings alongside adult volunteers with IDD
- Practice history-taking and basic physical exam skills in a supportive environment
- Develop patient-centered communication and rapport-building skills
- Engage in disability and healthcare advocacy education through onsite presentations

## Key Achievements

- **Launched as a new Clinicom organization in Fall 2025**
- Co-developed an Intro to Clinical Medicine learning module for second-year students focused on interviewing and communicating with patients with IDD
- Hosted health screening sessions for adults with IDD, engaging students across all class years
- Advanced inclusive, patient-centered communication skills in medical education and community settings

## Partnerships

- The Arc of Philadelphia
- AADMD (American Association of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry) – Penn student leadership



# HEARTBEATS PROGRAM

## Our Mission

HeartBEATS (Better Eating, Activity, and Thoughtful Stretching) is a student-led dance and wellness initiative that promotes early cardiovascular health, body awareness, and joyful movement among elementary school children in Southwest Philadelphia, using dance and mindful stretching to make physical activity fun and accessible.

# 5

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# ~30 hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past semester

## Student Responsibilities

- Lead dance and stretching sessions for K–4th grade students
- Facilitate age-appropriate discussions about heart health and movement
- Create a supportive, energetic environment that encourages participation
- Complete brief training and support session logistics

## Key Achievements

- **Launched as a new community outreach program in Fall 2025**
- Delivered **6 weekly sessions** (Oct 15–Nov 19) at Patterson Elementary School
- Engaged ~5 medical student volunteers and co-leads
- Contributed ~30 student volunteer hours through direct youth engagement
- Reached K–4th grade students through structured, school-based programming

## Partnerships

- Southwest Community Development Corporation
- Patterson Elementary School



# MINDFUL MOVEMENTS

## Our Mission

Mindful Movements promotes physical activity, coping skills, and social connection among unhoused youth in Philadelphia through student-led movement sessions that support holistic wellbeing.

# 10

Medical Student  
Volunteers

# 40+ hours

Volunteered by students  
over the past semester

**HopePHL**  
People with Hope thrive.



## Student Responsibilities

- Lead mindful movement and exercise sessions in a youth-centered, trauma-informed setting
- Build consistent, supportive relationships through regular engagement
- Promote healthy habits and coping strategies through movement
- Complete required training and clearances to work with youth

## Key Achievements

- **Launched as a new student organization in partnership with HopePHL**
- Hosted **12+ weekly Monday sessions** during the Fall semester (September–December)
- Established a consistent, low-barrier wellness program for unhoused youth
- Engaged student volunteers in high-impact, relationship-centered community service

## Partnerships

- HopePHL





# OTHER NEWS & UPDATES

## Dance for Health: Program Transition to HeartBEATS

Dance for Health was a student-run wellness program at Sayre Recreation Center that engaged senior residents in West Philadelphia through weekly, movement-based classes focused on physical activity, health awareness, and healthy aging. By combining dance with informal education around lifestyle habits, the program promoted joyful movement and community connection outside of traditional clinical settings. **Dance for Health has since concluded, and its mission has been re-envisioned and relaunched as HeartBEATS, a new student organization focused on dance and cardiovascular health education for younger populations.**



## Sarcoma Strong: Expanding Clinicom's Network of Organizations

Sarcoma Strong is a new organization, led at Penn by Ryan Turlip, being added to Clinicom that aims to support individuals and families affected by sarcoma through patient partnership, education, and advocacy. **While the organization has not yet launched active programming during the reporting period, Sarcoma Strong reflects Clinicom's continued growth and commitment to expanding student engagement** in longitudinal, non-clinical support roles aligned with patient-centered care and community needs.



## Bridging the Gaps (BTG) Program: Summer 2025

During the BTG program, Penn medical students partnered with community-based organizations across Philadelphia to address health, social, and structural needs outside of traditional clinical settings. Students worked with **Prevention Point Philadelphia, Puentes de Salud, the Social Needs Response Team at Penn Medicine, Southwest Community Development Corporation, and Covenant House Pennsylvania**, engaging in activities such as harm-reduction services, primary care support, health education, resource navigation, and trauma-informed youth care. Through these placements, students gained hands-on experience working with populations including individuals experiencing homelessness, immigrants, children, and people with substance use disorders, while developing skills in advocacy, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community-centered medicine.

**Read More Here!**



**Participating Students:** Van Anh Tran, Puneeth Guruprasad, Natasa Rohacs, Matilda Brilleman, Nifemi Adetunji, Noah DiBiasio-Hudson, Morgan Purcell, Karen Wang, Kass Zhang, Jasmine Wang.

# CONCLUSION: CLINICOM 2025

## Where Students Learn and Communities Lead, Through It All

In 2025, Clinicom continued to serve as a vital bridge between the Perelman School of Medicine and the Philadelphia community, supporting a diverse network of student-run medical and community outreach organizations. Across clinics, training programs, and partnerships, students contributed meaningful clinical care, education, advocacy, and social support while learning directly from the communities they serve. These experiences strengthened students' clinical skills, deepened their understanding of structural drivers of health, and reinforced the importance of humility, collaboration, and trust in community-based work. As Clinicom expands through new organizations and evolving partnerships, its core mission remains unchanged: to foster sustained, relationship-centered engagement that benefits both community partners and the next generation of physicians committed to equity and service.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# STUDENT LEADERS

## **Center for Surgical Health**

Haleigh Pine

## **CHOP Family Connects**

Ally Marenco

## **CHOP Homeless Health Initiative**

Molly Eron

Paul Soden

James Reed

## **Covenant House**

Rebecca Brody

Yunliang Zhao

Zahraa Hotait

Puneeth Guruprasad

Yinlu Zhu

Jasmine Wang

## **Cut Hypertension**

Nifemi Adetunji

Jasmine Phillips

Jonathan Gaither

## **Health Science Exploration**

Arnab Dey

Pamela Beniwal

Sumasri Kotha

## **HeartBEATS Program**

Kass Zhang

Rachel Rigsby

## **Homeless Outreach Project (HOP)**

Kass Zhang

Natasa Rohacs

Nate Cieplik

Jasmine Wang

Morgan Purcell

Yinlu Zhu

Jordana Avigad

## **Mindful Movements**

Amanda Moser

Courtney Kaplan

## **Philadelphia Human Rights Clinic (PHRC)**

Sadia Laisa

## **Puentes de Salud**

Katelyn Candido

Lizzie Graham

## **Q-munity Wellness Clinic**

Alvin Yu

Noah DiBiasio-Hudson

Gabriela Grady

Emily Pan

Jin Rui Cai

Alexandria Lange

## **Refugee Health Clinic**

Andres Alvarez

Ben Stone

Kim Le

Eric Wang

## **United Community Clinic (UCC)**

Aiden Adams

Adede Appah-Sampong

Shruthi Nyshadham

Habib Akouri

Bayan Galal

Ziad Hassan

Gustavo Capone

## **Unity Health Clinic**

Sadia Laisa

Alex Rupsee

Jingyi Zhang

Karen Wang

# STUDENT LEADERS (CONT.)

## **University City Hospitality Coalition (UCHC)**

Sophia Zhang  
Haleigh Pine  
Jordan Dourlain  
Nicholas Rouillard  
Jennifer Guo  
Jake Shapira

## **The Uplift Project**

Alexandria Lange

## **Walk With a Future Doc**

Gabriela Grady  
Emily Pan  
Pamela Beniwal

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## **Clinicom Co-Leaders**

Habib Akouri  
Rebecca Brody  
Molly Eron

## **Clinicom Training Program Leadership**

Alexandria Lange  
Natasa Rohacs  
Shruthi Nyshadham

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