

**CARE TO THE PEOPLE**

November 18, 2020

< Name >  
< Address >  
< City, State Zip >

Dear < Salutation >,

The COVID crisis has affected people in different ways. Many of us have become more isolated over the past year. It remains a difficult and emotional time.

*“Being an immigrant makes me feel like a nobody. I feel pressure, always scared about it and for that reason I’m hiding myself from life.”* That isolation forced Maria, a 55-year old immigrant, into the shadows of our healthcare system. She was terrified of getting care for fear of being reported and then deported. Maria did everything she could to keep her family healthy, including putting their health needs ahead of her own.



The pandemic highlighted the inequities of our healthcare system. New research demonstrates that historically marginalized populations are between 5-9 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than white people in a similar age group. In Massachusetts, Latinos are three times more likely to be infected. A climate of fear both prevents immigrants from seeking care and utilizing other social services. They are also more likely to be working in essential services, increasing their risk of exposure.

Maria was a perfect candidate for the See, Test and Treat program which was offered at CHA for its third consecutive year in October. Thanks to the Women’s Health Network, a CHA Community Health Improvement program, CHA’s Department of Pathology and CHA’s Department of Family Medicine, Maria was identified and later scheduled for a free cervical and breast screening. Despite the challenge of social distancing and the restrictions that accompany COVID-19, safety protocols were established so that over 25 women received same-day results, education and immediate follow-up care in a culturally appropriate setting. Participants, all of whom were uninsured or underinsured, also received free flu shots, health insurance enrollment, free produce and gift cards to local supermarkets.

*Continued on reverse*

*See, Test and Treat, along with so many other programs, work to fulfill our mission of improving the health of our communities.*



As Maria was leaving See, Test & Treat she exclaimed, *“Today I’ve received a love that started to cure some sickness inside of me. I saw in every face a smile full of sincerity! I saw many people making a difference in other people’s lives like mine. I saw the kind of respect that I thought wasn’t here anymore. Today, I understand a lot more. I appreciate all of you who cared for all of us today. God bless you all.”*

Maria and her family now understand that they can be regularly seen by doctors at CHA, along with many other participants of the program who are now CHA patients. Because of CHA’s community health outreach and education, they understand that receiving healthcare will lead to healthier lives.

CHA responded to the pandemic with increased efforts to address food and housing insecurity along with other social determinants of health. See, Test and Treat, along with so many other programs, work to fulfill our mission of improving the health of our communities. You can make a difference by partnering with CHA to support this commitment to social justice and help us address the social and health needs of the tens of thousands of vulnerable patients we serve.

**Together we can make sure that our communities have access to health care in a safe space and our children will not go hungry. Because everyone deserves great care.**

Warmly,

Handwritten signature of Mary Cassesso in black ink.

**Mary Cassesso**  
President, CHA Foundation and  
Chief Community Officer

Handwritten signature of Josh Posner in black ink.

**Josh Posner**  
Chair, CHA Board of Trustees

Handwritten signature of Assaad Sayah in black ink.

**Assaad Sayah, MD**  
Chief Executive Officer