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Your Donor Impact

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Your gifts bring about positive change for children, and for the community around them.

During residency, Dr. Ivan Marquez saw two related problems disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations of children in urban Sacramento: early childhood literacy and the effect of discrimination on early childhood development.

To address this, Dr. Marquez applied a Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Resident grant to adapt the Reach Out and Read (ROR) program model and integrate an anti-bias curriculum for well-child visits at the Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC). Receiving the CATCH grant, thanks to your Friends of Children Fund gifts, was the start of meaningful change.

The Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC) serves as a medical home for thousands of historically underserved families and provides integrated medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health services. More than 20% of the patient population identifies as American Indian/Alaska Native, making SNAHC one of the largest urban health centers for Native American youth in Northern California.

The project adapted the Reach Out and Read model in a unique way to support its diverse population. Dr Marquez helped develop an anti-bias curriculum encouraging families to have conversations with children about the harmful effects of racism and discrimination on child health, using the Reach Out and Read program model. Books serve as the platform for age-appropriate discussions that emphasize the importance of naming and reflecting on ways that racism and discrimination may effect different populations of children.

Bookmarks were developed as a prompt for pediatric providers to initiate discussions about the effects of discrimination on child health. Approximately 9,000 bookmarks were printed for clinic practitioners. Additionally, nearly 2,400 books were purchased for the ROR library. Books written by authors and illustrators of color were emphasized, along with narratives that promoted positive portrayals of Native American youth and other youth of color.

By the end of the grant, Dr. Marquez had leveraged a clinical services grant from the Children's Miracle Network at UC Davis Children's Hospital and private donations of funding and books. Altogether, additional funding allowed for the extension of the program for an estimated additional five years. Finally, the sponsoring organization has allocated future funding for the continued promotion of their ROR program.

This is how your donations start something great and serve as the launching pad to grow sustainable impact for children. I look forward to sharing another story of the powerful impact accomplished by your gifts.

Warmly,

Benjamin D. Hoffman, MD, FAAP
President