

2023-24 Annual Report

Center for Community and Global Health



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CCGH HIGHLIGHTS

**“The arc of the moral universe is long,
but it bends towards justice.”**

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

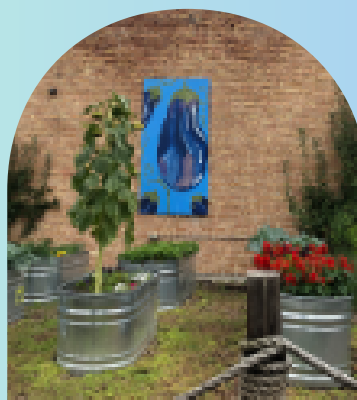
After a five-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, three CCGH Honor students participated in an international elective in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



CCGH empowers students to make an impact both locally and globally through diverse health initiatives. CCGH Honors students regularly volunteer with a wide range of community partners. These partnerships provide invaluable hands-on experiences, allowing students to apply their academic knowledge to real-world challenges. By engaging in projects that address public health concerns, students develop vital skills in leadership, communication, and problem-solving.



Global Health immersion in rural Philippines



Developing resources at Quinn Center and Veggie RX



Working alongside the LIVE 4 LALI “stigma crusher” van

Our CCGH honor students spent their summer exploring new places and experiences.

Director's Message

Looking back on this past year, I am in awe of what our dedicated group of faculty and physicians-in-training have been able to accomplish in collaboration with our community partners. The quest for health equity continues to challenge our everyday lives, and the fight goes on.

I am often heard citing this African proverb at our CCGH sessions: **“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.”** I'd like to believe that everyone has adopted this *mosquito mentality* as they care for some of our most underserved populations.

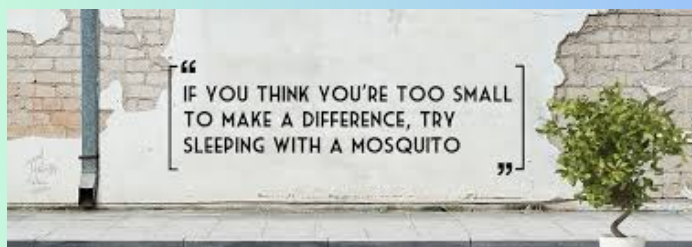


- When busloads of migrants were dropped off at local police stations without a clear plan of care, our street medicine teams helped triage and provide medical services.
- When a patient was initially denied social security disability insurance, he was referred to the medical legal partnership (MLP) team who appealed his case. This is just one of many patients that the MLP team advocates for on a regular basis.
- When our community partners reached out for extra support or volunteers at their events, our physicians-in-training were always willing to step up and lend a helping hand.

In today's society, health disparities transcend borders and social determinants of health are significant drivers of health outcomes. It is imperative that we educate and empower future health care providers to be stewards of change.

The CCGH remains at the forefront of global health education and community engagement as we strive to uphold our mission of advocacy, solidarity, and social justice.

Thank you to each and every one of you for supporting our efforts and continuing to make the world a better place - just like that mosquito, we may be small but mighty.



Theresa Nguyen, MD FACEP
Director, CCGH

Our Mission

- The Center for Community and Global Health (CCGH) at Loyola supports a service and experiential learning framework for future health care providers who aspire to improve the health of vulnerable populations locally, nationally, and globally.
- **The CCGH strives to prepare students in the Jesuit traditions of advocacy, solidarity, and striving for social justice.** Our faculty and staff work collaboratively with community partners and across departments to promote health equity, education, and service.

“The field experiences gave me opportunities to work with different backgrounds which profoundly expanded my educational experience.”
-CCGH Honors student



By The Numbers

3,347

Hours of Honors
Program Field
Experience

750

Seminar Series
Participants

196

Elective
Enrollments

Honors Program

“[Our CGH Honors Program participant] assisted our organization in many ways, such as doing an in-depth assessment of SDOH screening processes and offering recommendations for improvements...refining provider and patient survey questions, etc. She showed initiative compassion, flexibility and she was a great team member.”
 ~Maywood community partner

The Community and Global Health (CGH) Honors Program provides a four-year curricular foundation for service learning at the Stritch School of Medicine, supporting field experience and scholarly investigation for physicians-in-training who are passionate about working with and advocating for underserved patient populations both here and abroad.

In addition to the 87 continuing CGH Honors participants in the classes of 2025 and 2026, 18 new participants from the class of 2027 joined in early 2024.

Our CCGH Honors students, across all classes, logged over 3,200 hours of field experience with over 2,700 hours in the summer intensive period alone.

Site supervisors report that Honors participants provide helpful service to their organizations, and we continue to lend financial support to this service through general contributions and supply donations.



Bolivia International Elective



- International Elective - Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Vietnam



In May 2024, the CGH Honors Program celebrated 22 new graduates who presented their scholarly projects at our commencement ceremony. Scan the QR code or click [here](#) to explore their projects, which highlight a diverse range of interests and expertise.

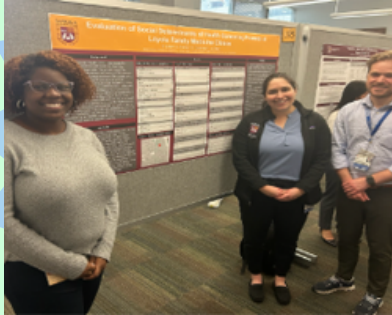


Titles of Scholarly Projects:

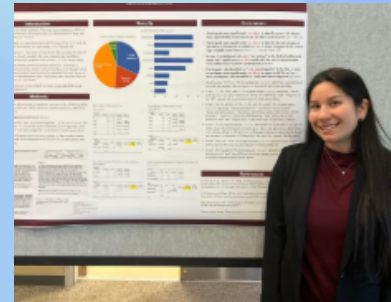
- Evaluation of Social Determinants of Health Screening Process at Loyola Family Medicine Clinics
- The Impact of Health Care Insurance on Outcomes Following Traumatic Brain Injury
- Educating Medical Students on Disability Health: Creating a New Disability Health Care Elective
- The Impact of Sexual and Domestic Violence on Maternal Healthcare Utilization Among Indian Women
- A Community-Capacity Building Effort Tackling Structural Racism through Food Security
- Medical Students' Perception of a Peer-led Medical Polish Program: a Qualitative Analysis
- Assessment of Attitudes Toward Homelessness Among American Medical Students: Initial Survey Analysis
- Utilization of Senior Programming to Address Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults
- The Effect of ACEs in the Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence & Intergenerational Trauma in Colombian Women
- PrEP Attitudes and Prescription Behavior of Healthcare Providers in the Chicagoland Area

Scholarly Project Presentations

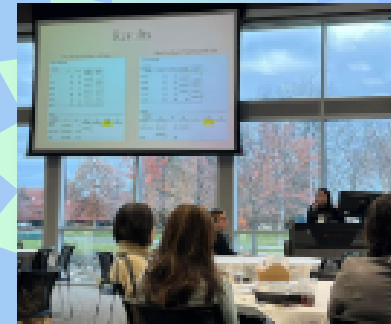
“The faculty and CCGH team were always willing to support with resources and connections. Always felt like I had mentorship and support behind my ideas.”
-CCGH Honors student



The scholarly project requirement of the Honors Program provides a comprehensive framework for engaging in meaningful research that addresses critical social determinants of health. **By focusing on underserved populations, students have the opportunity to make a tangible impact while gaining valuable insights and experience.**



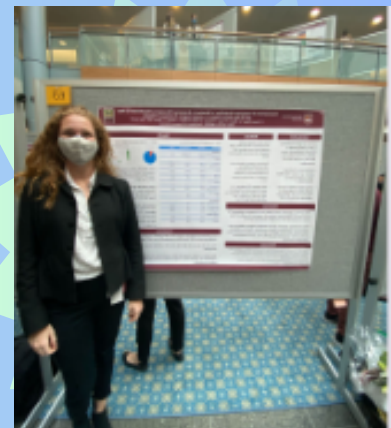
Throughout the project, collaboration with a faculty mentor is crucial. This partnership not only guides the development of the scholarly question but also ensures rigorous investigation and research methodologies are applied. As the project progresses, students will refine their skills in data analysis, critical thinking, and effective communication.



The goal of publishing and presenting findings at a national conference underscores the importance of sharing knowledge and contributing to the broader academic community. **This exposure can lead to networking opportunities, fostering connections with other researchers and professionals dedicated to similar causes.**



Finally, the poster presentation to faculty and peers provides a platform for students to showcase their work, receive feedback, and celebrate their achievements. This comprehensive scholarly project not only enriches students' academic experience but also prepares them for future endeavors in research, advocacy, and community engagement.



“I hope to continue working with underserved communities in my residency location as well as participating in Indian Health Services.”

-CCGH Honors student

Electives Overview

In line with our goal of exposing students to health equity work in the community, CCGH offers a number of electives in addition to Stritch’s core programming. This curriculum empowers students to tailor their educational experience to align with their unique needs and interests. It provides opportunities to:

- **Broaden knowledge and experience in clinical medicine and global health.**
- **Deepen expertise in areas of special interest, including global health initiatives.**
- **Explore potential specialties and test areas of future focus, locally and globally.**
- **Engage in research projects or pursue specialized training in clinical or global health settings.**
- **Take an active role in shaping the content of their medical and global health education.**



“CCGH provided mentorship, excellent education materials, and financial compensation for me to be able to learn about local and global health needs and community organizations and serve these communities appropriately.”

-CCGH Honors student

Our CCGH Honors students have the opportunity to choose from 19 diverse electives designed to deepen their understanding of global health and health equity. These electives range from language-focused courses like Medical Spanish and Medical Polish to immersive experiences such as International Health programs in Ghana, Peru, and Bolivia, and community health initiatives with the Oglala Lakota and Navajo Nations.

CCGH Electives:

CCGH-110 Medical Spanish Student Elective
CCGH-120 Medical Polish Student Elective
CCGH-125 Medical Polish Student-Instructor
CCGH-200 Health Justice Project
CCGH-250 Climate Change & Human Health
CCGH-275 Disability Healthcare
CCGH-300 Health Justice Policy Practicum
CCGH-301 International Service Immersion
CCGH-403 International Health: Bolivia
CCGH-405 International Health: Vietnam

CCGH-406 International Health: Peru
CCGH-407 International Health: Ghana
CCGH-409 Global Health Epidemiology
CCGH-410 Medical Spanish Teaching Elective
CCGH-450 The Night Ministry
CCGH-475 Street Medicine Consult Service
CCGH-490 Community Health: Oglala Lakota Nation
CCGH-498 Community Health: Navajo Nation
CCGH-499 Individually Designed International Health

Electives & Scholar Positions

“Between our field experience and CCGH electives, I had the opportunity to work with people from diverse backgrounds (predominately low-resourced minority patients from the Chicago-land area, Indigenous populations, and low-resourced populations in Latin America) in both clinical and non-clinical settings.”
-CCGH Honors student

- Disability Healthcare Elective



203 physicians-in-training participated in CCGH Electives in 2023-24, a 9.7% increase over the prior year.

This growth was propelled by the expansion of the Disability Healthcare Elective, which saw its enrollment more than double from last year. The Loyola Street Medicine Elective and the resumption of international clinical rotations for fourth-year physicians-in-training also contributed to this increase.

A total of 12 fourth-year physicians-in-training participated in international electives this past year. We extend our gratitude to the site supervisors in Barbados, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Taiwan, India, and the Philippines.

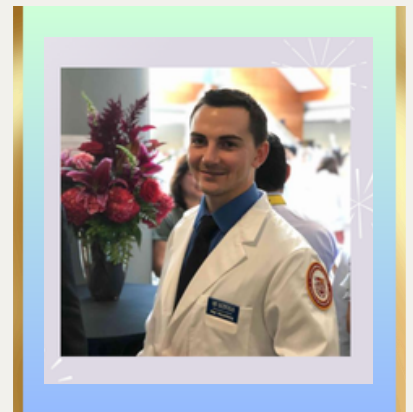
Honoring Leadership and Advancing Global Health Education

We are proud to announce the establishment of two new scholar positions that reflect our commitment to advancing global health and addressing critical health challenges.

Matthew Weyenberg Scholar

Matthew (Matt) Weyenberg, a member of the Class of 2023, tragically passed away in September 2022 after a battle with cancer. He was an exemplary student and a passionate advocate for global health and social justice, demonstrating a strong commitment to service even before joining Stritch.

The Matthew Weyenberg Scholar honors Matt’s legacy, whose passion for global health and social justice made a lasting impact both locally and globally. This position celebrates a student who shares Matt’s commitment to equitable healthcare and will continue his meaningful work organizing the Global Health Equity Dinners—bringing people together to collaborate and engage in dialogue on key global health issues.



Climate Change Scholar

The Climate Change and Human Health elective position at Stritch is crucial for integrating climate health into our curriculum. This scholar will help address the intersection of environmental and human health, reflecting our commitment to tackling health inequities. In partnership with the Group for Environmental Medicine and Sustainability (GEMS), we are launching a Climate Change Scholar program aimed at students passionate about climate change and its impact on health. This multi-year opportunity will provide experience in academic medicine, curriculum development, and research, emphasizing the importance of understanding climate change's effect on patient care and health disparities.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Stitch School of Medicine M4 students in good academic standing have the opportunity to earn 4-8 weeks of credit through International Electives facilitated by the CCGH, which includes both Intramural and External options.

- **Intramural Electives:**
 - These are offered at established healthcare sites partnered with CCGH and are supervised by local physicians during a 4-week rotation. Locations include **Bolivia, Vietnam, Peru, Ghana, and Barbados.**
- **Extramural Electives:**
 - These are individually designed electives through our partner organizations, including Himalayan Health Exchange, Health through Walls, and Child Family Health International.



International Visiting Student

In November 2023, we welcomed Patience, a visiting student from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). In addition to completing clinical rotations at Loyola, Patience also had fun exploring the Windy City with our generous student hosts from the Bading House & CCGH Honors Program.



Seminar Series

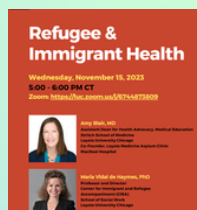
The Center for Community and Global Health's Seminar Series strives to expose the Stritch School of Medicine (SSOM) community as well as the larger community of Loyola's Health Sciences Campus to fundamental concepts in Global Health and to committed Global Health practitioners who strive to incorporate Global Health into their careers.

716 individuals participated in Seminar Series events in 2023-24, a 14% increase in participation from the prior year. Sessions covered essential topics for the Community and Global Health (CGH) Honors Program such as:

- Introduction to Global Health
- Ethical Challenges in Global Health
- Introduction to Global Health Research
- Global Water and Sanitation
- Child Health and Immunizations
- HIV / AIDS Program Delivery

Additional supported lectures:

- Refugee and Immigrant Health
- LGBTQ+ Older Adults
- Native American Health
- Human Trafficking
- Climate Change, the Environment and Human Health
- Ethical Challenges in Street Medicine
- Healthcare and the Carbon Footprint
- Substance Use Disorder and Harm Reduction
- World AIDS Day Panel Discussion
- Careers in Global Health Panel



“[HIV / AIDS Program Delivery] was one of my favorite sessions....both speakers were wonderful...they gave social context in addition to epidemiological information...this session gave me a better understanding of the challenges that come with working with immunocompromised patients who face social stigmatization.”
-Seminar Series Participant

Ethical Challenges in Street Medicine was an engaging session presented by Dr. Jason Reinking (SSOM '11). **Dr. Reinking explored the history of deinstitutionalization, its impact on homelessness, and its connections to the street medicine movement, emphasizing the ethical balance between client autonomy and provider beneficence.** His session also included case studies that highlighted the neglect-overprotect continuum in street medicine programs.

26 additional lectures and events covering topics relevant to community and global health that were organized by other individuals, departments, and organizations were also promoted through CCGH weekly announcements for supported lecture credit in the CGH Honors Program. **156 CGH Honors Program participants attended these lectures and events.**

Loyola Street Medicine

Founded in January 2020, **Loyola Street Medicine** aims to address the unique problems of individuals experiencing homelessness through a psychosocial model of care. Our expanding group of over 200 dedicated volunteers has been busy assembling hygiene kits, fundraising, participating in outreach across the city, and engaging in advocacy efforts.

The Loyola Street Medicine inpatient consult service was established in March 2023 and continues to serve as a liaison between the patient and primary care team while they are in the hospital. In its first year, the LSM team provided resources and assistance with safe discharge planning to over 100 patients experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Fourth-year physicians-in-training participating in the Street Medicine elective have the unique opportunity to work directly with these patients.

Our students and faculty also took the global stage at the International Street Medicine Symposium in London in September 2023. They presented two posters, “Attitudes of Homelessness Among American Medical Students” and “Frostbite Injuries in Chicago’s Unsheltered Population.” Additionally, Dr. Nguyen and Dr. Laura Pax (CGH Honors Student, Stritch Class of 2023) were part of a Street Medicine curriculum expert panel on educating student and resident learners.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 5th anniversary in January 2025!



 Medical Respite Write Inn Clinic • Blood pressure • Blood glucose • Basic wound care	MON 5:30-8PM
THURS 8PM-12AM	Street Medicine CTA Blue Line - Forest Park • Practice medical histories, physical exams • Chronic wound care 
LIVE 4 LALI	Harm Reduction "Stigma Crusher" Van • Health screenings • Free Naloxone/Narcan giveaways FRI 11AM-1PM

Weekly outreach schedule



**“My Street Medicine elective was the most enriching experience of my fourth year...
“It reinforced the idea that care, compassion, and advocacy are at the core of effective care. It encouraged me to respect patients' autonomy and accept the limitations of medicine. It allowed me to make a real difference, even through small gestures. And it opened my eyes to the power of harm reduction and the strength of individuals battling addiction.”**

~4th year physician-in-training~



Dr. Susan Hou Humanitarian Award

The Dr. Susan Hou Humanitarian Award was established in honor of the late Dr. Susan Hou, who dedicated her life to patient care for global communities that are vulnerable.

Dr. Hou exemplified compassion, altruism, and service through her founding and support of a free clinic in Bolivia, which was renamed the Centro Medico Susan Hou in her memory.

To be eligible for this award, which provides a \$2,500 scholarship, Stritch fourth-year physicians-in-training must be in good standing and have a demonstrated interest in global health, including local and/or international service with populations that are underserved. The award committee accepts self and peer nominations.



This year's winner, Louise Amat, has worked tirelessly to improve the health and well-being of people suffering from homelessness. Even before enrolling at Stritch, Louise worked with the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless program as a care coordinator and health educator. During her undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan, she volunteered as an interpreter in the student-run free clinic, as well as dedicated her time to helping in the University Hospital Trauma Burn ICU.

While a student at Stritch, she was a committed volunteer and served on as president of the Stritch Homeless Outreach Coalition. She helped coordinate volunteer opportunities, drives for clothing and supplies, and contributed to the development of the Loyola Street Medicine podcast series to educate other students and health professionals.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic limiting global health opportunities, Louise participated in a virtual Ignatian Service Immersion program, engaging with Dominican Republic students on healthcare policy and sustainability. She later completed a four-week elective in Los Palacios, Bolivia, caring for underserved patients at Centro Medico Susan Hou. After graduating from Stritch with Community and Global Health Honors, she is pursuing a Family Medicine residency at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center in Boston, with a focus on quality healthcare for underserved communities.

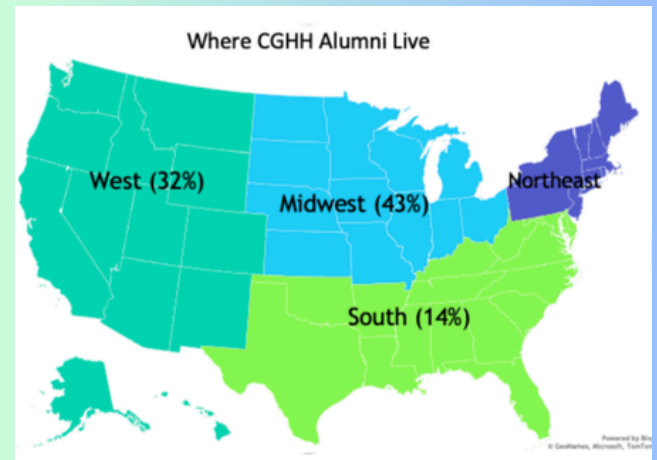
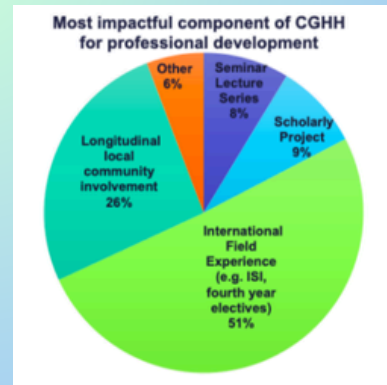
Alumni & Faculty

ALUMNI SURVEY AND ENGAGEMENT

Since the founding of the Center a decade ago, 199 physicians-in-training have graduated with Community and Global Health Honors. Among our expanding alumni base are founders of street medicine programs, directors of HIV programs in Africa and Southeast Asia, Indian Health Services physicians, and more.

Highlights from our recent survey of CCGH alumni include:

- 100% of alumni surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that their formation as a physician was enhanced by their participation in the honors program.
- 88.2% of alumni spend at least half of their time working or volunteering with medically underserved populations.



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Theresa Nguyen, MD, FACEP | CCGH Director | Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine

- Lewer O, McGinnis D, Singer C, Wong E, Nguyen T. “Frostbite Injuries in Chicago’s Unsheltered Population: Preliminary Survey Findings.” - presented at International Street Medicine Symposium in Sept 2023
- Plezia A, Feijoo M, Renna D, Nguyen T. “Examining Emergency Department Utilization and Resource Connection for Patients Experiencing Homelessness.” - presented at American College of Emergency Physicians Scientific Assembly in October 2023
- Walsh M, Feffer M, Nguyen T. “Short and Long Term Impacts of Community & Global Health Programming During Medical School.” - presented at Consortium of Universities for Global Health’s 15th Annual Conference in March 2024

Kevin Boblick, MD | CCGH Assistant Director | Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

- Amat L, Raafat E, Nguyen T, Boblick K. “Assessment of Attitudes Towards Homelessness Among American Medical Students: Initial Survey Analysis” - presented at International Street Medicine Symposium in Sept 2023

Justin Harbison, PhD | CCGH Research Director | Assistant Professor, Public Health Sciences

- “An update from the Chicago Sewers” - presented at the Illinois Mosquito and Vector Control Association Annual Conference in November 2023
- Lopez K, Harbison J, Irwin P, Erkapic A, Holub R, Blanco C, Paskewitz S, Clifton M, Bartholomay L. Extreme resistance to S-methoprene in field-collected *Culex pipiens* (Diptera: Culicidae) across the Chicago, IL region. *Sci Rep.* 2024 Aug 3;14(1):18001. doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-69066-3.
- “An update from the Chicago Sewers” - presented at the Annual Meeting of the Indiana Vector Control Association in March 2024
- “Hunting Down Sewer Mosquitoes Session: Cryptic Mosquitoes - Hide and Seek and Treat?” - presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Mosquito Control Association in March 2024



Our Community Partners

The CCGH is grateful to many departments and schools within the University and to organizations in the local community and beyond that support the experiential and applied learning experiences of Stritch School of Medicine (SSOM) physicians-in-training. Clinicians, faculty, and/or staff representing the below have mentored students' scholarly projects, hosted students' field experiences and/or clinical electives, and/or otherwise collaborated with the CCGH to provide additional learning opportunities for SSOM physicians-in-training:



Arab American Family Services
Beyond Hunger
Center on Halsted
Chicago Community Jail Support
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Chicago Street Medicine
Child Family Health International
Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership
Consortium of Universities for Global Health
Daniels Hamant Foundation
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Health Frontiers in Tijuana
Health Justice Project / Maywood Medical
Legal Partnership
Health Sciences Campus Ministry
Health through Walls
Himalayan Health Exchange
Housing Froward
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and
Technology
Loyola Surplus Project

Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing
Maywood Fine Arts
Mission Neighborhood Health Center
Navajo Area Indian Health Services
Parkinson School of Health Sciences and
Public Health
Premonstratensian Fathers
Project C.U.R.E.
Quinn Center of St. Eulalia
Real Foods Collective
Reclaim13
School of Law
School of Social Work
Shower Up Chicago
Soar Over Hate
SSOM Office of Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion
Street Medicine Institute
The Night Ministry
Viator House
Western Carolina Medical Society

“My experiences working with The Night Ministry, on my scholarly project, and Centro Medico Susan Hou in Bolivia helped me develop my professional skills and confidence in patient care. I have grown tremendously through these experiences and they have helped me reinforce my goals in terms of style of program and patient population for residency.”
-CCGH Honors student

