 

**Contact:**

**Megan Kay**

**megan@cerrell.com**

**818-850-8694**

**Stephanie Lemus**

**slemus@clinicaromero.com**

**(213) 989-7700, ext. 2704**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 12, 2021**

**National Health Foundation, ClínicaRomero, Supervisor Solis and Councilmember Cedillo Team Up for Free Back-to-School Children’s Health Day in Pico-Union**

*Top health equity nonprofits and LA elected officials partner to provide COVID-19 vaccines, food and school supplies for under-resourced community*

**LOS ANGELES**– National Health Foundation (NHF), a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health of under-resourced communities, Clínica Msr. Oscar A. Romero, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit and Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Los Angeles Councilmember Gil Cedillo are hosting a free Children’s Health Day and Back-to-School Giveaway on Friday, August 13, from 10am to 2pm.

The event, which is being held at NHF’s Pico-Union recuperative care facility at 1032 W. 18th Street in Los Angeles, will provide free access to COVID-19 vaccines, as well as school supplies, food distribution, oral hygiene kits and diapers and other baby supplies.

The event is taking place just as children return to in-person learning in Los Angeles schools and COVID-19 cases continue to increase due to the Delta variant. Over the past month, COVID cases in L.A. County have [increased by about 550%](https://ktla.com/news/local-news/covid-transmission-remains-high-in-l-a-county-but-surge-appears-to-be-leveling-off/), and just [50% of youths ages 12 to 17](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-07-31/what-the-delta-variant-development-means-for-unvaccinated-kids) in L.A. County have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Pico-Union is particularly vulnerable to COVID transmission, as it is the [fourth most dense neighborhood](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2021-07-27/la-requires-city-workers-to-get-vaccinated-or-regular-tests) in Los Angeles.

In recognizing that every neighborhood is inherently unique, NHF engages with and works hand-in-hand with communities to ensure their direct services center residents’ lived experiences and needs. NHF offers a wide array of programs and services for people of all ages, including regular food and supply distributions.

“NHF is proud to once again bring together community health partners to ensure vaccine access in Los Angeles communities of color,” explained National Health Foundation President & CEO, Kelly Bruno. “Together, we hope to connect families with vital health resources and support as they cope with the ongoing health crisis and prepare for in-person classes."

"I am happy to partner with National Health Foundation and Clínica Romero on the Children's Health Day event in Pico-Union. The health of our children is key to a healthy community. They are our future and are cherished," stated Councilmember Gil Cedillo. "Please join us to receive backpacks, school supplies, groceries, diapers, and other baby supplies, along with a COVID-19 vaccination!"

Clínica Romero will be administering the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, and children ages 12 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

*"*Clínica Romero strongly encourages those who can vaccinate themselves and their families do so as they gear up for in-person learning this fall,” stated Carlos Vaquerano, CEO of Clínica Romero*.* “Not only is the COVID-19 vaccine highly effective in protecting oneself and others against the Delta variant, but it also ensures schools are not interrupted by COVID-19 once again."

For families with unvaccinated parents or children ages 12 and above, free rides are available to the event thanks to NHF’s partnership with [UberHealth](https://www.uberhealth.com/) and [Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)](https://www.lisc.org/). Rides can be coordinated by calling NHF’s Pico Union office at 213-514-6393.

***About National Health Foundation***

*Founded in 1973, National Health Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation that works within communities to eliminate barriers to health, address the root causes of poor health and advocate and empower under-resourced communities to find solutions that lead to lasting change. Embracing the guiding philosophy that health begins where we live, learn, work and play, the organization’s advocacy and work focuses on four key areas: housing, food access, built environment and education. In 2020, NHF secured $250,000 in food benefits for local families, assisted 356 individuals in submitting applications for government food benefits and provided 250 nutrition education and physical activity classes.*

*For more information about the National Health Foundation, please visit* [*www.nationalhealthfoundation.org*](http://www.nationalhealthfoundation.org) *or connect with us on* [*LinkedIn*](https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-health-foundation/)*,* [*Facebook*](https://www.facebook.com/nationalhealthfoundation/) *or* [*Twitter*](https://twitter.com/nhfcommunity?lang=en) *(@NHFcommunity).*

***About Clínica Msr. Oscar A. Romero***

*Clínica Romero was founded in 1983 by Salvadoran refugees and their allies. Our mission is to provide quality, affordable and culturally sensitive health care and other services to the uninsured, insured, and underserved communities of greater Los Angeles regardless of their ability to pay by upholding the legacy and tradition of Monseñor Oscar Romero, and educating and empowering Salvadoran and other community members through community organizing, health education, social justice, and exchange programs in El Salvador.*

# # #