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For some
volunteers, it is
literally about
giving back.

If you think your life has gotten more challenging since COVID-19, meet Andrea, a single mom and nursing student who works fulltime as a medical assistant at Inova Hospital – and somehow still finds time to volunteer at Arlington Free Clinic.

When asked why she continues to fit volunteering in between homeschool and her own homework – the answer?

“When I was little, you saved my mom.”



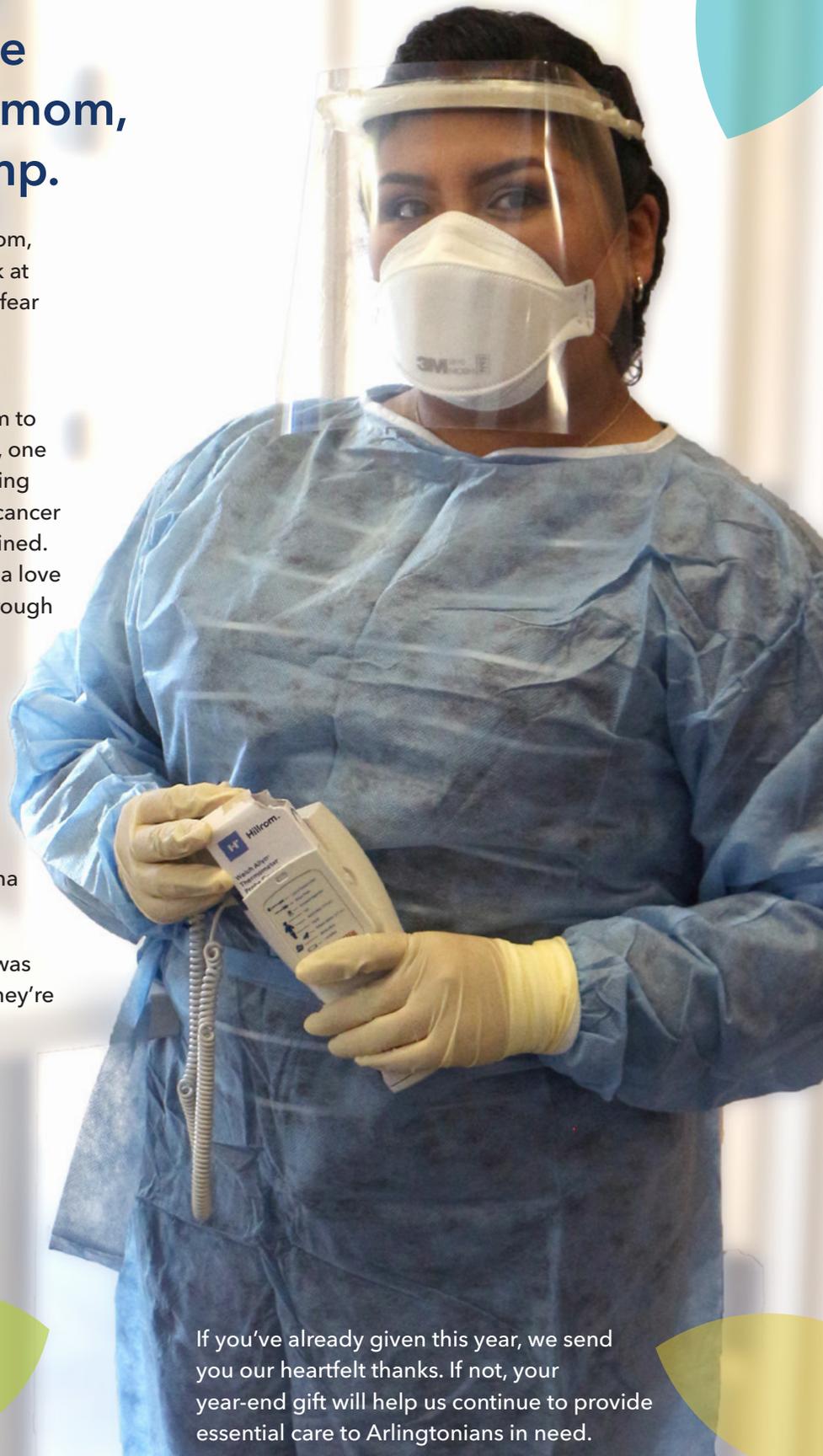
Andrea was only five years old when her mom, Marianela, felt a lump.

Andrea was only five years old when her mom, Marianela, felt a lump. Marianela looks back at that time and recalls language barriers and fear of the high cost of care - until she found Arlington Free Clinic.

Andrea remembers accompanying her mom to appointments at Virginia Cancer Specialists, one of our pro bono medical partners, and helping look after her sister with spina bifida when cancer treatment left her mom feeling sick and drained. These early experiences sparked in Andrea a love of healthcare - and a desire to give back through the organization that helped her family.

Early in the pandemic when Andrea's department was turned into a COVID-unit, she decided the safest option was to have her kids stay with her mom and sister. Since school is virtual, the kids have been going over every morning for help from their "teacher" aunt while mom and grandma are at work.

This family stuck together when Marianela was so sick all those years ago, and that's how they're getting through this crisis.



If you've already given this year, we send you our heartfelt thanks. If not, your year-end gift will help us continue to provide essential care to Arlingtonians in need.

Go green! Visit www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org and click "donate" to give online.