

Messages from Our Board

As chair of the Arlington Free Clinic Board of Directors, I was incredibly proud of the way my board colleagues stepped up this year, providing more hands-on volunteering than ever before. They jumped at the opportunity to work directly with our patients - many for the first time, and others by continuing their commitments. Some worked at the vaccine clinics; others provided medical care on-site or in their private offices; and our Spanish-speaking members worked as interpreters.

In addition to serving on the board and the fundraising committee for our Gala, I've been volunteering as a scribe since 2015. Scribes are in the exam room with the patient and the provider, and they work to enter visit notes into the electronic health record. It's a front-row seat to the excellent, compassionate care each AFC patient receives, care for which there is such a great need.

Many of my fellow board members now share that experience of coming into the Clinic and seeing first-hand what they may only have seen from the Board room in the past. My hands-on service makes me a more successful ambassador and fundraiser for the Clinic - and I know that thanks to my board colleagues who got involved in recent months, their immersion into the operations of the Clinic at such an essential time will help make us a stronger, more effective board.



Diane Naughton
Chair, Board of Directors

Laura Fuentes, interpreted for vaccine clinics:

I volunteered as a Spanish interpreter for the vaccine clinics, and it was one of the most meaningful activities that I did over the course of the pandemic. I met dozens of patients and the many outstanding volunteers who bring our services to life. During every shift, their stories moved me to tears and inspired me to do even more to help support this community that offers so much to so many. My son Alex joined me for a few shifts, and watching him support this work, connect with the patients, and better understand the Clinic's role made me very proud and grateful.



Tannia Talento, interpreted for vaccine clinics:

As a new Board member, coming into the Clinic to volunteer for our COVID vaccine clinics was a wonderful way for me to see first-hand the amazing work and service Arlington Free Clinic does for patients and the greater community. I also witnessed our outstanding staff managing logistics for an unprecedented situation and making it all look easy.



Danine Fresch Gray, DDS, long-time dentist volunteer:

AFC has continued to care for those in our community who need it the most. Post lockdown, I have seen personally how the dental clinic has continued to provide necessary dental care for a very vulnerable population - which is essential in lowering some of their risk factors for COVID.

