



Voices for Children Montgomery
Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

1010 Grandin Avenue · Room B-3 · Rockville, Maryland 20851

Phone: (301) 340-7458 · Fax: (301) 686-8574

www.voicesforchildrenmontgomery.org

email: mail@casamontgomery.org

March 28, 2022

Montgomery County Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for \$450,000 in funding to Casa Ruben, Inc. to purchase a pediatric mobile medical clinic to connect uninsured, under-insured, and under-resourced children and youth (ages 0-21 years) to healthcare and increase the number of children and youth who receive vaccinations needed for overall health and to enroll in school. It is my understanding that the Casa Ruben Foundation will match Montgomery County's investment of up to \$450,000 to fund staffing and operating expenses for the clinic.

During the pandemic, Casa Ruben found that there were delays in children receiving their needed vaccinations and that this was a particular issue for newcomer children and children in certain under-resourced zip codes. These delays impacted children's ability to enroll in school. Casa Ruben has provided more than 7,000 immunizations to Montgomery County children during the pandemic. Fully funded, the pediatric mobile medical clinic will achieve three main objectives: (1) Improve the vaccination rates among children and youth 0-21 years of age; (2) Provide developmentally appropriate primary care evaluations for children and youth who have missed their routine health care examinations; and (3) Address social determinants of health and linkages to care to youths 0-21 years of age.

This public/private partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services and CASA Ruben, Inc. will provide comprehensive primary care, vaccinations, referrals to behavioral health care, and HIV and GBLTQ care to many low-income children and youth who are currently under-served. This pediatric mobile medical clinic would support Montgomery County's ongoing efforts to address health disparities by eliminating barriers to healthcare access.

I hope the County Council will support this investment in our County's most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

Francha T. Davis
Executive Director