

## Roadrunners Screening Clinic

November 19, 2011

On November 19, 2011, a health screening clinic was held in the Williamsburg community of Brooklyn, NY. Shriners teamed up with a local community group, El Puente, who sponsored the well-attended event.

Kismet Shriners planned to hold a clinic this fall. We were asked by Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia to consider holding a Scoliosis Screening Clinic for inner city children. Because a clinic in this inner city area had not been held for many years we researched many venues and options. It was felt that because Mecca Shriners is a neighboring Shrine that is part of New York City, it would benefit the target audience to ask Mecca to join us. After going to the local politicians looking for a location we were told about a local organization that helps the local community with health issues, El Puente. We had numerous meetings to plan setup this clinic. We now have a working relationship with this large Spanish community and are now looked at as a resource in the area to help children. The Shriners booklets in English and Spanish are now part of there

Of the thirty-six children who came to the health fair:

- twenty went through the screening process
- four will need follow-up visits
- two were referred to the Philadelphia Shriners' Hospital for Children

To inform the community of the event, ads were placed in seven local newspapers; announcements were made on a Spanish radio station; hundreds of flyers were distributed; posters were placed throughout the community; and, notices were sent out via the social network.

Undoubtedly, with an event like this, many people contributed their time and talents. Martha Laureano, director of the community health and environment center, was the contact within El Puente, while Edda handled the appointment schedule. Dr. Harold Selden, a Mecca Shriner, accompanied by his wife Joyce Hoffman, Dr. Harold van Bosse MD and Janet Cerrone PA, traveled from Philadelphia to assist in the screening process. Also in attendance were: Ill Ted Jacobsen PP and Nobel Avery Toledo from Mecca; Kismet Shriners Ill Charles Schueler PP and his Lady Elaine, Noble John Hassell and his wife, Susan; Noble Robert Di Carlo; Kismet Roadrunner Unit head Sam Zakian; Ill Joe Savaglio; Noble Russell Madagan, Noble Greg Feldman, Noble George Heyden and his Lady Nancy, Noble John Mckoy and Noble John Kelly entertained all as the clown "Silly"; Noble Ben Santos was a wonderful help with the planning. Maria Follenius and her family welcomed the planning group into their home many times over the last few months to plan and prepare for this event. Everyone should be commended for their input and hard work. The many hours expended help make this a very successful event.

Some families who could not attend the clinic have been given literature which will help them contact the appropriate people for services they might require.

We did whatever we could think of and, most importantly, we worked as a team in true harmonious spirit. We believe we have seeded the path which will enable families in the future to avail themselves of the good work of Shriners' International and Shriners' Hospitals for Children health care opportunities. We are already in the planning stages for future events.

We are very appreciative to everyone dedicated to Shriners' International and Shriners' Hospitals for Children, their good work and their future.

Respectfully submitted,

Noble John J. Kelly III

Kismet PR Chair