






EDITORIAL

Medical Sciences on the Street Project: Providing healthcare to Guantanamo communities

Proyecto Ciencias Médicas en la calle: brindando salud a las comunidades guantanameras

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How to cite: Reyes Flores C, Pérez Jiménez AM. Medical Sciences on the Street Project: Providing healthcare to Guantanamo Communities. EsTuSalud [Internet]. 2025 [cited access date];7(2025):e452. Available in: <https://revestusalud.sld.cu/index.php/estusalud/article/view/452>.

Received: 11/06/2025

Accepted: 24/06/2025

Published: 27/06/2025

Dears readers:

Projects are founded on the design and implementation of a series of interrelated activities aimed at achieving specific objectives. These initiatives involve addressing real-life situations and transforming them for the benefit of a group or society, which requires the active participation of all stakeholders. Today, such projects are considered a dynamic methodology within student training processes across various stages of their academic and personal development.⁽¹⁾

In line with this approach, there is a clear link between the tasks designed to meet these objectives and the crucial role students play in executing them. Medical sciences students have the opportunity not only to participate in but also to lead a project that, due to its scope and interdisciplinary nature, can be implemented in any community. One example is the University Student Federation (FEU) project titled *Medical Sciences in the Streets*, led by students from the University of Medical Sciences of Guantánamo is an example.

Pacios Dorado and colleagues ⁽²⁾ highlight the advantages of participating in a FEU project, including the cultivation of values such as empathy, respect, solidarity, and responsibility; the encouragement of student involvement in community service;



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comprehensive training; the promotion of teamwork and collaboration; and the development of leadership skills.

Since its inception, *Medical Sciences in the Street* has become the institution's most prominent student initiative. Its impactful work in health promotion and disease prevention within vulnerable communities—such as Santa Rosa, Casa de Piedra, and Polvo en el Viento—has been warmly embraced by residents, who eagerly anticipate more frequent visits.

Activities like blood pressure screenings, home visits for mosquito control, educational talks for adolescents on the risks of sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancy, and demonstrations on proper dental hygiene are just a few of the many admirable interventions. Yet, the project offers more than healthcare—it brings joy, smiles, and moments of relief to families facing difficult circumstances. Therapeutic clowns, amateur artists, and the university's sports team play a vital role in this emotional support.

Endless applause goes to the students who, early on Saturday or Sunday mornings, say “yes” to the noble task of reaching out to those in need—whether it's the child who delighted in a song, the one who laughed while playing soccer, or the mother who, with tears of joy, receives donated toys for her daughter. The student's academic year or medical specialty doesn't matter, because, as the saying goes, “what is essential is invisible to the eye.”

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STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.



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FUNDING SOURCES

The authors declare that they did not receive funding for the development of this research.



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