



CHARLOTTE MAXWELL CLINIC  
INTEGRATIVE CANCER CARE

# Summer 2024 News!

Celebrating 33 Years of Compassionate Care

## Summer Greetings from CMC!



Melbra Watts  
Executive Director

Dear Friends of Charlotte Maxwell Clinic~

As the summer sun brightens our days, I am reminded of the warmth and resilience that define our community. I am inspired by our staff and volunteers, who work together in service to a mission rooted in compassion and equity. Their dedication is a testament to the power of community and the impact we can have when we come together.

At Charlotte Maxwell Clinic, we are privileged to walk alongside incredible women navigating their cancer journeys—women full of hopes, dreams, and goals, facing each day with strength and grace. Together, with our academic and community partners, we strive to enfold them in a network of care that weaves through and beyond our clinic walls.

I must also acknowledge our technology partners, whose applications and systems allow us to serve more efficiently, offer more options, and expand our reach to create greater impact.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Your continued support allows us to stand with our clients and community, offering care, hope, and healing.

With warm regards!

## News & Events

### CMC Launches New Electronic Health Record System!



Dr. Mary Lynn Morales  
Medical Director

Under the direction of Medical Director Dr. Mary Lynn Morales, CMC launched a new Electronic Health Records (EHR) system in June to streamline and support the work of the clinic. This accomplishment comes after two years of focused research and planning.

The comprehensive platform, called JANE, integrates practitioner and client scheduling, facilitates electronic charting of in-clinic services as well as telehealth sessions, allows for easy scanning of client medical records, and tracks the inventory in CMC's wellness dispensary for more effective herb and supplement management.

“The transition from paper charts to our new EHR was a herculean effort and I am grateful to everyone who helped pull it off!” said Morales. “Staff and several volunteers spent months cleaning up and scanning documents, uploading them into the system and customizing the new data fields. We also had to thoroughly test the platform to learn how it works, then develop separate training classes for our schedulers, and practitioner and shift coordinator volunteers.”

CMC hosted fifteen initial training sessions, attended by over 100 volunteers and staff, and the training is being integrated into future orientations for new volunteers and staff.

## CMC Total Volunteers Surpass 150 with Latest Training

CMC conducted this year's third New Volunteer Training in August. The training, which included a brief history of CMC, cultural humility training/discussion, clinic overview, a client panel, and clinic tour, drew



a large and diverse group of practitioner and program support participants. Adding to the 32 trained earlier this year, this group brings our total count of active volunteers to 159! "We are so grateful for the many skilled and talented volunteers that make it possible for Charlotte Maxwell Clinic to provide a wide range of integrative services at no charge to our clients," said CMC's Volunteer Manager Lisa Hartfield.

The new volunteers include a physical and massage therapist, a western herbalist, various energy healers, a hospice chaplain, a lawyer, and a new cohort of five acupuncture students from Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine College who will be undertaking their clinically supervised internships at the clinic. Most of the volunteers have some connection to cancer and all share a passion for holistic health and improving healthcare access for vulnerable populations.

If you are interested in volunteering, please check out the [Volunteer page](#) on our website. For any questions, you may reach out to us by email at [volunteers@charlottemaxwell.org](mailto:volunteers@charlottemaxwell.org), or phone at (510) 601-7660 ext. 8.

## Volunteer Spotlight



### A Change of Pace for Uma Thomas

After retiring as a civil engineer from East Bay Municipal Utility District last year, Uma Thomas began looking for volunteer opportunities.

"I was looking for something different. Serving women with cancer was different work. I did not know what to expect when I came to the clinic; what I found was a community of caring people." Uma became a Shift Coordinator, preparing for practitioner and clients visits, conducting health checks with everyone upon arrival, monitoring work flow, and facilitating end of shift check-ins with practitioners.

"What I enjoy about working there is connecting with our clients. It gives you a peek into someone else's life, and from that, we grow empathy because we never know what life has in store for us."

**Did you know that over 64% of Americans do not have a will?**

August is Make-a-Will-Month, and now is a perfect time to protect what's valuable.

*FREEWILL.com is a free platform that assists in estate planning, whether you're looking for a will or trust. Check it out today!*

[Write your free will.](#)





## CMC Highlighted at Stanford’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Health Symposium

In line with our mission of providing complementary integrative care to underserved communities, CMC participated in the 22nd Annual Community Health Symposium at Stanford University in April. The event drew about 150 participants and featured California Surgeon General Diana E. Ramos as keynote speaker who presented on the topic of “Preventing Toxic Stress and How it Affects Community Health, Mental Health, and Adverse Childhood Experiences.”

Since 2002, the Symposium has showcased the work of Stanford students, trainees, staff, faculty, and community partners in underserved communities in California and worldwide. CMC’s Development Director Shanna Webb staffed a table promoting our services and impact.

Additionally, CMC’s Executive Director, Melbra Watts, joined panelists, Julie Alvarez, Director of Clinical and Community Health Programs at Open Source Wellness, and Dr. Axle Valle, Co-Director of Stanford Medicine’s La Clínica Latina, to discuss our roles in “Promoting Well-being in Communities.” In her remarks about our mission, Watts cited CMC’s diverse and multi-lingual staff and volunteer pool, our academic partnerships, and our university-community partnership with Stanford and Black Ladies Advocating for Cancer Care.

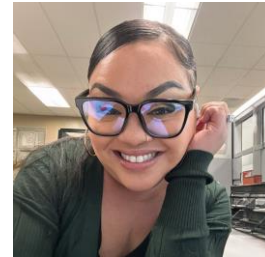
## CMC Welcomes New Staff



**Tomiko Aguayo Pelayo** joined CMC last November as **Client Scheduler & Latina Liaison** scheduling client appointments and providing Spanish language interpretation.



**Souad Elizanni** came on board in April as **Clinic Operations Manager** to supervise clinic staff, organize work flows and increase clinic efficiency.



**Michelle Burns** joined the team in July as **Finance & Administration Specialist** to handle account payables and receivables, payroll, and HR functions.



## CMC Ranks in Best of Oakland Vote!

Concluding a voting period that ran from April to July this year, we have learned that CMC is a top 5 winner for the “Best Alternative Medicine Practices” category in Oakland Magazine’s competition.

An example of our reach and quality comes from a recent client who learned about CMC from the social platform Nextdoor when she sent a message to her neighborhood network. She was looking for resources after being diagnosed with breast cancer.

Upon entering the clinic for the first time, Amma said “I expected it to be different because it was free. But these clinicians are professional, and the clinic is beautiful and full of thoughtful art.”

We at CMC are deeply grateful to our many neighbors, friends, partners and supporters who believe in us, and to the clients who entrust their care to us.



SAVE THE DATE—11/17

## Berkeley Half Marathon

CMC is excited to announce that we will join the Berkeley Half Marathon as a Silver Sponsor to raise money for the clinic. The event will take place on November 17, 2024.



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[charlottemaxwell.org](http://charlottemaxwell.org)

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*Help CMC protect the environment and put more of your donation dollars directly toward our programs and services! Please sign up for our eNews list and help us save on paper, printing and postage costs. Visit our website at [www.charlottemaxwell.org](http://www.charlottemaxwell.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up. Thanks!*