



## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Salud Medical Center Welcomes Physician's Assistant, Son of Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Nurse in Hermiston

**WOODBURN, OR** – Jesus Carrillo grew up in Stanfield, Oregon, just a few miles from Hermiston, Oregon, where his mother, Maria Carrillo, works at Yakima Valley Farm Worker Clinic's Mirasol Family Health Center. His mother began her career at Mirasol as nursing assistant, and eventually became a registered nurse. Jesus remembers receiving all his health care at the clinic.

“That’s how I got exposed to Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and Mirasol both as a patient and having a parent that worked there,” said Jesus.

Maria began working for Mirasol Family Health Center in 2007, when its name was still Hermiston Community Healthcare. She started as nursing assistant and often helped interpret for Spanish speaking patients. She currently works full time at Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston and part time at Mirasol. According to Jesus, his mom’s work inspired his interest in health care.

“When I was in middle school or high school, I got to see her studying, so at that point I knew I wanted to go into medicine or health care,” said Jesus.

Jesus is not the only family member to follow his mother into the health care field. Two of his five siblings also work in health care. His older brother is a physical therapist, and one of his sisters is a registered nurse.

Jesus' interest in health care also came with the knowledge that language and cultural barriers can make access to health care more difficult. He pointed out that overcoming these barriers often helps improve health outcomes.

“Having a provider that speaks like them, that came from a similar background as them, that’s also a big motivation,” said Jesus referring to the challenge of getting some patients to schedule regular check-ups and take their prescribed medications.

“I think patients, and specifically the Hispanic/Latino community, they are very wary of western medicine,” said Jesus. “Being a bridge and connecting how they view health care, going over why these medications need to be taken, sometimes it’s hard and stuff gets lost in translation. I think speaking to them in a way they can understand, while at the same time, empowering them, that’s the biggest thing for me. Empower them to take control of their health.”

Jesus also understands what some of his patients go through to earn a living.

“During high school and college, I worked as a farm worker during the summers,” said Jesus. “I learned a lot about hard work and discipline doing tough manual labor.”

Jesus is now looking forward to the career he has been working toward since middle school and is excited to start helping his patients improve their health.

“It feels good,” said Jesus. “I feel very honored to have the opportunity.”

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**Photo:** Jesus Carrillo

***Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic** is one of the Pacific Northwest's largest community health centers, providing medical, dental, behavioral health and social services to more than 195,000 people a year. With more than 50 unique service locations across Oregon (Clatsop, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, and Yamhill counties) and Washington (Benton, Franklin, Spokane, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties), we deliver affordable, comprehensive primary care for underserved populations in our communities. We also extend our network of care through our mobile health units and virtual visit technology, bringing essential care to our more remote patients. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic employs over 1,800 staff in addition to our medical and dental residents, fellows, students, and volunteers. All of whom are dedicated to bringing quality care to those in our communities who need it most. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization recognized by HRSA, The Joint Commission, and The National Committee for Quality Assurance*

*for our accomplishments in community health care. For more information, please visit [yvfwc.com/press](http://yvfwc.com/press).  
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**Press Contact**

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

(509) 314-1013

[media@yvfwc.org](mailto:media@yvfwc.org)