



LASOCHA
Latin America Society of Chagas

2024 Annual Impact Report



Introduction

In 2024, we were able to dramatically increase services. This was facilitated by our dedicated LASOCHA staff, volunteers, partners, and donors.

In 2023, we outlined three goals for the 2024 year. We saw progress on all three goals. Please see the results below.

- Raise funds to cover costs of educational materials/test supplies/malpractice
 - Fundraiser exceeded goals; facilitating additional services, outreach, and testing
 - 9.8 fold increase in tests independently administered by LASOCHA in 2024 versus 2023
 - 2.4 fold increase in tests administered in partnership with INOVA
 - Added MRIs and rhythm testing
 - Combined number of Echos and EKGs more than doubled
- Participate in and organize large scale education events
 - 22 events total
 - 3 provider education events with more than 100 participants
 - 12 events with 20-50 participants
- Participate in and organize large scale testing events
 - 7 testing events with 20-50 participants
 - 1 event with more than 50 participants

We look forward to continuing this momentum in 2025. This year has been an amazing journey.

Thank you for being a part of this story.

LASOCHA: Latin American Society of Chagas

Jenny Sanchez, RPH – President

Deborah Guardado, RN – Vice President

Rachel Marcus, MD – Medical Director

Graciela Taylor, RN – Secretary

Our Mission



What is LASOCHA's mission?

LASOCHA's mission is to provide access to medical services to the at-risk Latin American community in the metropolitan Washington area, as well as to raise awareness of Chagas disease within the community and within the medical community that serves at-risk patients in the US.

This work covers 3 areas:

- medical services:** providing care to those in need
- patient advocacy:** raising awareness of Chagas and barriers to care
- research:** helping advance the knowledge base about Chagas in the US

2024 Partners

We are grateful for our many 2024 partners. We partnered with the INOVA outreach program, Arlington Free Clinic, Mobile Medical Clinic, and Virginia Hospital Center to hold community screening events. We were also honored to partner with the Bolivian, El Salvadorian, Guatemalan, and Mexican embassies for screening events. We continue to appreciate the support of Mother of Mercy Free Clinic, Tu Familia Clinic, Catholic Charities, and Hoya Clinic. We also want to recognize the many dedicated volunteers who make this work possible. Finally, we want to thank the generous donors who made our first fundraising drive such a success. LASOCHA continues to make a difference thanks to all of our wonderful supporters.



What is Chagas Disease?



Chagas disease is a Neglected Tropical Disease caused by a parasite transmitted by an insect chiefly found in rural areas of Central and South America and Mexico. The infection is lifelong and, if left untreated, can cause life-threatening heart disease, including strokes, heart failure, and lethal heart rhythm problems.

Chagas disease can also be transmitted transplacentally, and the optimal time to treat it is in childhood, when the disease can be cured.

Of the estimated 288,000 individuals living with Chagas disease in the United States, 18,000 live in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, which has the highest prevalence of Chagas disease of any locality in the United States.

2024 Impact

	2023	2024
Chagas Tests <small>independently/with the INOVA ICC-W clinic</small>	53/~700	524/1717
Education Events <small>>20 participants/20-50 participants/ 50+ participants</small>	*/2/0	7/12/3
Testing Events <small>20-50 participants/50+ participants</small>	0/0	7/1
EKGs/Echos	28/24	62/45
MRIs	0	2
Rhythm monitoring	0	6
Grand Rounds Talks	4	10
Publication Contributions	2	4
Volunteer Hours <small>Healthcare provider/General</small>	277/123	601/77

*not reported in 2023

Medical Services



2024 At a Glance

This year we added MRI's and rhythm monitoring to our medical services. We had the assistance of volunteers from Georgetown, LASOCHA volunteers, and staff from partner organizations helping to provide this care. Our many partners also helped make this possible. Thanks to these combined efforts, we were able to provide the following:

- 2,241 Chagas disease tests**
- 107 EKGs/Echos**
- 2 MRIs**
- 6 rhythm tests**

Research

This year we partnered with a new Johns Hopkins investigation for Chagas disease screening.

LASOCHA staff also contributed to the following publications:

[Worldwide prevalence of chagas cardiomyopathy—an analysis from the global burden of disease dataset](#)

[Seroprevalence of Chagas Cardiomyopathy Among Hospitalized Latin American Immigrants Within a Washington, DC, Hospital](#)

[Chagas disease in the United States: a call for increased investment and collaborative research](#)

[Small molecule biomarkers predictive of Chagas disease progression.](#)



Community/ Provider Awareness and Patient Advocacy

This year's outreach efforts focused on provider education and outreach. There were more than 22 events and more than half had more than 20 attendees.



Our 2025 Strategy

In 2024, LASOCHA had its first online fundraising drive. It was a success thanks to many generous donors.

In 2025, the organization plans to hold an in-person event to continue this progress. This will be an opportunity to ensure LASOCHA's continued impact and give donors a chance to be more directly involved.

Our 2025 clinical, community outreach, and operational goals are listed below.

Our primary goal is to continue this year's momentum.

GOAL	DETAILS
Add 3-4 board members	LASOCHA hopes to recruit board members with a variety of experience and skill sets to help LASOCHA move into its next phase.
Meet or Exceed number of clinical care services provided in 2024	LASOCHA will work to maintain the same level of services as 2024 and to expand these services to more people in 2025. In addition, Ziopatch testing will be added.
Organize 3-5 Community Education events	LASOCHA did an excellent job conducting provider education events in 2024. In 2025 we will be working to continue those events and add educational events for community members.
Continue to engage with donors in 2025	LASOCHA will be embarking on its first in person fundraising effort in order to fund our expanding activities and increase community involvement

We thank you for your ongoing support of LASOCHA.

Acknowledgements

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