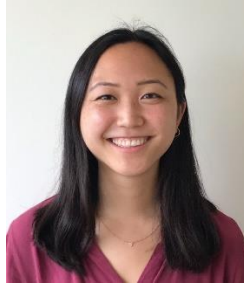


Meet the Rhode Island Free Clinic VISTAs! (2019-2020)



Name: Karen Ha
Hometown: Demarest, NJ
Education: Tufts University: BA Biology; BA Spanish

1. What do you do at the Clinic? / What is your role at the Clinic?
 - a. I am the Patient and Volunteer Service VISTA member in charge of recruitment, coordination, and training of all volunteer providers at the Clinic. There are over 200 volunteer providers at the Clinic, which include but are not limited to, primary care physicians, physician assistants, dental providers, counselors, and over 20 different types of specialty providers. I also manage partnerships with nearby schools and universities to allow residents and other health care students to volunteer at the Clinic and receive important workforce development training. Additionally, I handle all credentialing and FTCA malpractice coverage of our volunteer providers.
2. How has the Clinic influenced your next step? / What's next? / How has the Clinic prepared you for life after VISTA?
 - a. After my VISTA year is over, my next step is to work at a medical non-profit or clinic next year while I apply for medical school. Working at the RIFC has solidified my desire to continue serving populations without access to comprehensive healthcare throughout my medical career. Additionally, working at the Clinic has given me invaluable experience with clinic and volunteer coordination, electronic medical records, and the administration of healthcare systems.
3. What is the most rewarding part of your job? / What is your favorite part about working at the Clinic?
 - a. The most rewarding part of my job is being able to work so closely with our volunteers every day, from providers to interpreters to students. Every volunteer brings their own unique skills, backgrounds, and ideas to the Clinic, creating a diverse community that is excited to be here and truly passionate about the Clinic's mission. This community demonstrates to us and the patients every day how much incredible work can get done by a group of passionate and dedicated people.