

# Romeena Lee, PGY-2, DO, MPH

NOVEMBER  
**Spotlight**



**Location: Miami, FL**

**Practice Type: Community Health of South Florida, Family Medicine Residency Program**

**Roles played: Physician, Daughter, Wife, Dog Mom, Advocate, Friend, Diver, Traveller, Life Enthusiast.**

My entire life I have had a deep-seated drive to help others. Growing up, if I wasn't at swim practice, I was volunteering: fundraising for health initiatives, feeding the homeless, or playing the piano for the elderly. I have always found peace in comforting others. So, I embarked on the journey to become a physician.

In college, one of my advisors encouraged me not to apply to medical school. I could have let their lack of faith in me be a setback, but instead I used it as an opportunity to work for Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, where I became a Street Team Outreach worker and devoted myself to connecting underserved individuals to medical care and social services. Every individual's story changed my outlook on the world of medicine. Medicine is not just about science. It encompasses understanding an individual's story and their socioeconomic background. Being an advocate for the homeless community only fueled my passion, and I became even more determined to make a difference in other's lives.

It was the week of Thanksgiving when I received my first interview for medical school. I was overwhelmed with joy that my dream may become a reality. Today, I am living my dream as a Family Medicine Resident Physician who, more than ever, loves to advocate, educate, learn, and take care of the underserved. In South Florida, where I practice, I get to do what I love most – provide quality medical care to the immigrant, migrant and uninsured. In my spare time, I participate in Global Health Initiatives, where I educate young women on safe sex practices and family planning, and mothers on how to prevent malnutrition, dehydration and water-borne illnesses in their newborns. I have traveled to areas where health care is scarce in hopes of empowering communities. At the end of May, I will be traveling to Ghana for a Global Health initiative to promote simple primary care health services like vision, diabetes, and hypertension screenings.

While I wouldn't change anything that led me here, the truth is that the life of a physician is taxing. We work long hours, place the well-being of others before ourselves, and constantly think of our patients outside of our workdays. In my journey, I've learned to focus on any accomplishment, whether it be big or small. Even on the hardest days, I remind myself and my patients to focus on the positives. One of the quintessential values of Family Medicine is getting to know a patient. It also happens to be one of my favorite parts of being a physician. Being able to understand someone's story turns a stranger into a patient whose trust you had to earn. That is what makes me truly love the art of medicine. We all have a unique story. For me, my story is one that I cherish, and am beyond thankful for because it allows me to continue to comfort and advocate for those that have no one to do so for them.