We are Thankful for You

Happy New Year! We begin 2020 with gratitude for all of you who help make dental care possible for people in need. Thank you for your ongoing support for our mission and shared belief that everyone deserves a healthy smile. We hope you and your loved ones have a wonderful year!

Karen Flanagan Kleinhans, MHA
Chief Executive Officer

Sealants Prevent Dental Disease

If you have ever tried to concentrate with a toothache, you understand how dental problems interfere with a child’s ability to succeed in school. Untreated tooth decay can lead to pain, difficulty learning, eating and sleeping, missed school days and systemic health complications.

Placing dental sealants on molars is an effective and low cost way to prevent tooth decay, especially in children. Sealants are a thin coating painted on the chewing surfaces of teeth to form a protective shield. Sealants protect against 80% of cavities for 2 years and 50% of cavities up to 4 years.

Community Dental Care provides services in 15 low income schools. Students receive preventive education, screenings, fluoride, and sealants, as well as a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. Our bilingual staff follow up by phone with families of children who need treatment.

With support from Delta Dental Foundation of Minnesota, Park Dental Foundation, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux, Roseville Area Community Foundation, and the Minnesota Department of Health, we were able to provide services to over 2000 school children last year.
Community Dental Care

Valentina’s Story

We first met Valentina at one of our School-Based Sealant events. Our staff could see that Valentina had extensive, painful dental disease and called her mother to let her know.

Valentina’s mom doesn’t speak English, but fortunately, one of our Spanish speaking staff members was able to explain the urgency of treatment for her daughter’s teeth. We were able to get an appointment for Valentina at our clinic within days.

During her appointment, our scheduler interpreted for Valentina and her mother, since she was uninsured and couldn’t get an interpreter.

Valentina’s mother was worried about how she would pay for treatment. With a gift from a generous donor, we were able to cover the cost of treatment for Valentina through a Care Grant of $600.

Like you, we believe everyone deserves a healthy smile. When you support Community Dental Care your gift helps someone like Valentina get the treatment they need to live a healthy, happy life.

If you believe everyone deserves a healthy, happy life, starting with good oral health - make YOUR gift today.
Donor Spotlight:
Drs. Adele Della Torre & Spencer Kubo

Thank you to the Kubo Della Torre Charitable Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation for your generous gifts to Community Dental Care! Drs. Adele Della Torre, DDS, and Spencer Kubo, MD, care deeply about the health and well-being of all people. “We believe that every person has a basic right to health care, education, housing, food and employment, and it is our responsibility to work for the common good.” When asked why they give to Community Dental Care, Dr. Della Torre explained, “You serve so many people who suffer from disparities in access to dental care.”

“We are working toward the same goals and want to support the work that Community Dental Care does for people of all ages.”

Dr. Della Torre, a private dentist in Minneapolis, founded Ready Set Smile in 2013 as a not-for-profit to provide culturally sensitive preventive dental services and education in schools serving low resourced families. “While I have worked in many areas of social justice, as a dentist, I know low income and immigrant families face many barriers in accessing desperately needed oral health care.” Community Dental Care partners with Ready Set Smile to provide restorative care for children with advanced cavities. “We are working toward the same goals and want to support the work that Community Dental Care does for people of all ages.”

Smiles in Action

Thanks to a grant from the Greater White Bear Lake Community Foundation in 2019, we launched Smiles in Action, a service learning program in elementary schools. The program raises awareness about the importance of good oral hygiene, as well as how difficult it is for low income families to get care. We lead kids through an interactive education session and have them help us assemble oral hygiene kits, including a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. Our goal is to raise awareness and inspire philanthropy in the next generation of community leaders.
Our Reach in the Community

Thanks to Your Generosity

- Comprehensive dental care provided to nearly **50,000 people** of all ages each year
- Community prevention programs for kids and families in over **60 locations**
- Patients come to our clinics from **63 counties** throughout Minnesota
- **$1.5 million** in charity care provided annually to individuals in need
- 67% of our staff are minority, from diverse ethnicities and/or **bilingual in 25+ languages**

Thank you for sharing in our vision that all people should have access to high quality, affordable dental care to improve their overall health in a convenient, caring, and respectful environment.