We are Thankful for You

As we observe the anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic upending our lives, we are deeply grateful for the many good things that have sustained Community Dental Care over the past year. Most significant of these is people—the people who staff our clinics and business office, as well as the people and organizations who support us. Time and again, we are reminded that it is the people who are motivated to make the world a better place, who actually do. As Jane Goodall once said, “What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Thank you to all of YOU who are motivated to provide oral health care to people in need.

Karen Flanagan Kleinhans, MHA
Chief Executive Officer

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

I am so impressed with what a wonderful place Community Dental Care is to work. Our staff and mission make it a pleasure and an honor to serve our patients and communities. We are guided by principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We seek to be a place where everyone feels welcome, comfortable and respected for who they are as a person. We celebrate that 65% of our employees and patients are BIPOC, and we are inclusive of LGBTQ. As stated in our mission, we strive to provide culturally sensitive oral health care, preventive education, professional training and to advocate for access for all.

We know we live in a world characterized by racism, inequality and discrimination. The recent shootings in Atlanta brought to light our nation’s long history of racism against Asians. I imagine this reminded several of our employees and patients of their own experiences of discrimination and threats to their safety. We work hard to make Community Dental Care a safe and welcoming place for all.

To this end, we are planning ways to more intentionally build Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into our culture, beginning with a leadership development event led by the YMCA’s Equity Leadership Institute. We will follow this up with education, events and activities for all staff in each of our locations this summer and fall. We will continue to do our part to build a world where everyone has access to a happy, healthy life.
Grayson’s Story

Grayson and his family drive over forty minutes to access dental care at our clinic. During his visit, our dentist found that Grayson had some cavities and gave him a treatment plan, as well as a referral to our Program to Improve Community Oral Health (PICOH) to help him learn how to prevent cavities.

Grayson and his family were able to meet with David, our PICOH Health Educator immediately following his dentist appointment. Grayson, eager and curious, carefully brushed the green alligator’s teeth as they talked about brushing habits at home, while David helped the family plan how to help Grayson brush effectively twice daily, floss and manage his diet to prevent cavities. Grayson left the dental clinic with a big smile underneath his mask—along with a goal sheet, toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. He now has practical tools to establish healthy habits at home.

In three months, David will call Grayson’s mom to check on his progress and help troubleshoot any challenges. Good oral health is achievable with the right tools and encouragement.

Donations from generous donors like you allow us to meet the growing needs of the community. Your charitable contributions help us provide comprehensive dental care for children like Grayson.
Donor Spotlight: Carolyn Bass

“This is where I am meant to be,” Carolyn shared as she reflected on her nearly 30-year history with Community Dental Care in St Paul. In the beginning, Carolyn was an advisor to Dr. Peterson’s dental practice, leading staff meetings once a month. As the clinic grew, serving a high number of refugees and immigrants from Southeast Asia, Dr. Peterson recruited her to manage her practice full-time. Since then, Carolyn has dedicated her career to providing compassionate and thoughtful leadership. Carolyn explained, “Oral health is often overlooked when we talk about the overall health of the body. Oral disease causes children to miss more school than for any other reason. Without access to care, it can cause a great deal of pain and, in extreme cases, an infection can travel to your brain and cause death. This continues to be very dear to my heart because we see so many people who are suffering. You also see their gratitude and how you’ve made a difference in their lives.”

When asked why she donates to Community Dental Care, Carolyn shared, “When you really believe in something, you invest. You invest your time, your efforts, and your money.” We are deeply grateful for Carolyn’s investment in improving the health of our community.

Support CDC while You Shop

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to Community Dental Care at no extra cost to you. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon and Amazon Prime you know. When you shop through AmazonSmile, you support Community Dental Care with donations!

To get started, select Community Dental Care, Location: St. Paul, MN as the nonprofit you support in your settings. For further instructions, visit: www.cdentc.org/amazonsmile
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Maplewood, MN 55109
www.cdentc.org

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
- **65%** 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.