



dientes
COMMUNITY DENTAL

Press Release

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Contact: Kristyn Glenn,
kglenn@dientes.org 831-464-5421

Now Open: Watsonville Health & Dental Center Dientes Celebrated Grand Opening on August 25

(Watsonville, CA) August 25th was a day full of smiles as Dientes and the County of Santa Cruz celebrated the grand opening of the Watsonville Health and Dental Center. U.S. Congressman Sam Farr joined Santa Cruz County Supervisor Greg Caput along with many other elected officials and healthcare leaders to celebrate the opening of the clinic, which will greatly increase access to care for South County patients.

Dientes Executive Director Laura Marcus commented “This clinic will serve some of our community’s most vulnerable adults and children and represents the successful partnership between Dientes and the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency and Clinics. With the opportunity to integrate primary and dental care services under one roof, this project recognizes the important part dental care plays in one’s overall health.”

John is a great example of how the co-located clinics will be working together. As one of Dientes’ first County patients, John couldn’t stop talking about how thrilled he is to have access to dental care. At 65 years old, his teeth are in bad shape – chipped and broken. Like 1 in 5 seniors in the U.S., he needs dentures. In John’s case, he needs several teeth extracted so he can get upper and lower dentures. But given his heart condition, he first needs a medical consultation. Now that there is integrated care at the Watsonville Health & Dental Center, Dientes can help him attain a healthy smile!

The Watsonville Health & Dental Center includes five medical exam rooms, four dental chairs, a small lab, counseling space, and a group education/meeting room. The outpatient center will provide integrated health services, including primary medical care, dental care, behavioral health care, and case management. An estimated 2,400 adults and children will be served, providing over 4,000 primary care visits per year. Dientes Community Dental Clinic will provide up to 6,000 dental care visits to adults and children annually.

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Dientes Community Dental Care’s mission is to create lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults in Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities. 96% of Dientes’ patients live at or below the poverty level. Dientes accepts Medi-Cal (one of nine providers in Santa Cruz County) and offers sliding scale fees for uninsured patients. Dientes is a proud partner of United Way.