

## ■ Director's Letter



**Looking back at the past year,** we have so much for which to be grateful... a beautiful new clinic space to see our youngest patients, the reinstatement of Medi-Cal's adult dental benefits and the generosity

of partners like you, just to name a few!

We're thrilled to announce that we have successfully completed our \$3 million Growing Healthy Smiles capital campaign for our pediatric wing! Even more important than the growth it enables, is the patient lives it will change.

Whether it's sharing a smile with a co-worker, laughing with a child, or just expressing gratitude, our smiles are part of our best moments. Now, Dientes has the capacity to provide those healthy smiles to so many more of our underserved neighbors.

Further change is yet to come! We have two additional expansion projects set to open in 2015 including a 4-chair clinic in Watsonville co-located with the County and a 1-chair clinic at the Homeless Services Center.

The past year has been a transformational time for Dientes, and we could not be happier to have your support as we work hard to provide and expand access to dental care for so many in need.

Thank you for partnering with us to better the health of our community.

**Thank you,**



**Laura Marcus**, Executive Director

## Introducing New Dental Director : Dr. Sepideh Walthard



We're very pleased to introduce our new Dental Director, Dr. Sepi Walthard. She is excited to be a part of the Dientes team, enabling smiles for the people who need it most.

Prior to joining us at Dientes, Dr. Walthard worked as the Managing Dentist at Western Dental Services in Santa Cruz.

She completed her residency at the Community Medical Centers and the Veterans Administration in Fresno, California and obtained her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at New York University College of Dentistry.

*"I'm happy to be a part of an organization that has such an important impact for so many of our underserved neighbors," Dr. Walthard commented, "Oral health is critical to overall health, and I'm looking forward to helping Dientes advance the health of our community."*

**Read more about new staff on Page 2.** ➔

## Pediatric Wing **Now Open!**



**The Helen Webster Children's Dental Center is now up and running after an evening of celebrating our expansion at our Grand Opening on October 23, 2014 ... Learn more on page 3.** ➔



## Watsonville Project Homeless **Connect**

**On November 5, 2014, Watsonville hosted its first ever Project Homeless Connect.**

Dientes is proud to have conducted x-rays and exams at the day-long event, which is designed to consolidate resources for people experiencing homelessness. We have been providing services at the Santa Cruz Project Homeless Connect for several years and are grateful to be a participant in the new Watsonville event, helping ensure everyone in our community has access to high-quality oral healthcare.

## PATIENT STORY :



**Jeffrey has been a Dientes patient for over 12 years.** He first came to Dientes in the early 2000's when he was having a hard time finding a dentist that would accept HIV positive patients. After many visits at Dientes, he now feels confident with his smile.

*"Dientes is a vital part of the community since some dental programs aren't available to certain parts of our society," he commented. "I was greeted with open arms and I couldn't thank them more."*

Dientes was founded as an organization devoted to providing access to dental care for HIV+ patients. While we've grown over the years to broaden our scope, we have always been determined to provide care to those, like Jeffrey, who have nowhere else to turn. Everyone deserves a healthy smile.

## **Welcome** Aboard!

In addition to our new Dental Director we have recently welcomed the following new staff members who are dedicated to furthering the health of our community!

**Left to right:** **Tammy Summers**, Clinic Manager / **Dr. Samuel Kuo**, General Dentist / **Ana Campos**, Dental Assistant / **Noemi Mendez**, Scheduling Coordinator / **Veronica Trejo**, Executive Assistant.

**Not pictured:** **Nick Slay**, Sterilizer / **Yvette Rodriguez**, Dental Assistant / **Luis Garcia**, Dental Assistant



# Celebrating Our New Pediatric Wing :

Creating Space to Provide Thousands More With Healthy Smiles

**October 23, 2014 marked an important day in Dientes history:** the grand opening of the Helen Webster Children's Dental Center, a new 7-chair pediatric wing featuring a kid-friendly waiting room and child-sized tooth brushing stations.

Smiles were all around at the ribbon cutting ceremony that included remarks from elected officials, local healthcare leaders and Alec Webster of the Helen and Will Webster Foundation.

As our Growing Healthy Smiles capital campaign has come to a close, we are happy to announce that the \$3M project was fully funded by the generosity of our community. Thank you to all of those who made this project possible, and in particular thank you to the Webster family for their generous leadership gift and the County of Santa Cruz for the support of the Community Development Block Grant.

The Helen Webster Children's Dental Center will provide 8,800 more dental visits a year for our patients, enabling Dientes to provide 30,000 visits for 11,000 children and adults each year.

On October 27th, Maddy, our first patient in the new wing, was greeted by smiling staff in the brightly colored ocean-themed clinic. Since then we have already seen over 2,000 children in need come through our doors and leave with smiles.



**Shannon Murphy holds Emily Rose Murphy, the great-granddaughter of Helen Webster, as she cuts the ribbon to open the doors.**



**Alec Webster speaks on behalf of the Helen & Will Webster Foundation.**

## CAPITAL DONORS :

Bailey Family Foundation  
Bogard Construction  
The Bright Horizon Fund at the CFSCC  
The California Wellness Foundation  
County of Santa Cruz through a Community Development Block Grant  
Kathy Deagen & William King

Dignity Health Community Investment Program  
Gartner, Inc.  
Simon & Rosemary Hayward  
The Hearst Foundations  
The Joseph and Vera Long Foundation  
Monterey Peninsula Foundation

The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation  
Ow Family Properties  
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk  
Jon & Catherine Webb, DDS  
Helen and Will Webster Family Foundation  
*Many, many more generous donors!*

**WHAT** people  
are **SAYING.**

**"THANK YOU** for this million dollar **SMILE!"**

*- Shannar, patient*

**"DENTAL CARE** is easy to put off, but has a **BIG IMPACT** on **OVERALL HEALTH** and **WELL-BEING."**

*- Kathleen, donor*

**"THANK YOU** for helping in ways that words **CAN'T CONVEY!"**

*- Andrew, patient*



# Laura Marcus

## United Way 'Community Hero'



Recognized for her leadership in addressing the huge demand for affordable dental care, Dientes Executive Director Laura Marcus was recognized as a 2014 Community Hero by United Way of Santa Cruz County.

Under her leadership, Dientes has become a critical part of the healthcare safety net. It is only with Laura's dedication, compassion, and vision that Dientes has become the organization it is today. **Thank you to United Way for this great award and thank you to Laura for all of your hard work!**



**dientes**  
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**Dientes is a proud partner of United Way.**



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**MISSION:** *Creating lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults of Santa Cruz County.*

## Outreach Program Doubles Impact – Now Operating in San Lorenzo Valley



**Dientes Registered Dental Assistant, Nicole Blossom, works on a patient at Boulder Creek Elementary.**

Dientes has expanded its Outreach Program, a program in which our dental services and oral health education are provided at different locations throughout the county. We are now operating at 20 schools across 6 school districts and nearly 30 venues in total.

A key piece of the Program's expansion is the addition of the San Lorenzo Valley School District. These schools are part of a larger push to improve the oral health of underserved kids who cannot make it to the dentist. Dientes' Outreach program aims to teach healthy habits to young children early on in efforts to make prevention more common than treatment.



## A Blast from the Past :

Sister Julie Hyer of Dominican Hospital presents Dr. Catherine Webb and Carolyn O'Donnell Shimek with our very first grant in 1992!

*If you have more historical anecdotes or photos to share, please contact Development Director Sheree Storm: [ssstorm@dientes.org](mailto:ssstorm@dientes.org).*