Dientes Community Dental Care’s mission is to create lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults of Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities.
Dear Dientes Family,

We are proud to celebrate 25 years of partnering with you to provide healthy smiles!

Together, we have created access to high quality, comprehensive, affordable dental care for patients who, otherwise, could not get care. In FY16-17, we served a record 10,624 patients, but we know from our oral health needs assessment and the patients we serve that the demand is still great.

Your help is building a stronger, healthier future for our community.

In December, the Oral Health Access Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan 2017-2020 was launched at the Oral Health Summit. The Strategic Plan, born of a nearly year-long project with a 17-member steering committee, includes three goals to improve access to oral healthcare across the community. The goals address prevention education, establishing dental homes and expanded capacity for the underserved. This work will have long-term impacts on generations to come.

The Strategic Plan also includes our commitment to expanding access to oral healthcare. In June, we opened a 2-chair Outreach clinic to serve 800 patients in Santa Cruz’s Beach Flats neighborhood.

In addition, we are in the early planning stages of a new 10-chair clinic in Live Oak to serve an additional 7,000 patients with medical-dental integration.

We are grateful for your partnership for the past 25 years and for standing with us as we look to the future.

From our first patient in 1992 to those we will serve in the next quarter of a century, we have always believed that everyone deserves a healthy smile. Your support enables us to change lives for the better.

Thank you!

Laura Marcus, Executive Director
Steve Moody, Board President

PATIENT STORY:
A Reason to Celebrate

Vi came to Dientes two years ago to replace 17-year old dentures that were falling apart. “I told Marvin that every time I laughed I would cover my mouth, afraid my dentures would fall out,” Vi explains. “When I got them replaced, it made all the difference. But, I still cringe eating something sweet because after 50 years of dental pain, I have just gotten used to it.” Not only is Vi a Dientes patient, but she is a donor, and joined us at our 25th Anniversary Celebration in October. She said, “The best parts of the party were hearing about all the people Dientes has helped, the new facility in the works, and knowing that I’m a part of it all. I know what I’m contributing to, because have been helped, too,” Vi said with a smile, “and the ice cream was unbelievable!”

- 10,624 patients served
- 35,199 dental visits provided
- 5,525 children
- 4,143 adults
- 956 seniors
- 5,810 school children taught oral health

Marvin Martinez, RDAEF and Vi Olly
1. Papiba & Friends filled the evening with joyous music.
2. California State Senator Bill Monning presents the resolution to Executive Director Laura Marcus, Board Vice President Camille Smith-Ballon, and Board President Steve Moody.
3. Board Secretary Alexandra Navarro shares a personal story of what Dientes means to our patients.
4. 170 donors, community members, board and staff joined in the celebration.
5. Dientes staff and partners enjoy the evening.
6. Dr. Denisse Monroy, Dr. Ilana Vaynshteyn, and Dr. Connie Chen toast 25 years!

Thanks to your support through the years, we have so much to celebrate!
Volunteers:
We are grateful for the work that our volunteers have given to help us provide dental services for the people in our community who need it most. Thank you!

FY16-17 Board of Directors:
Steve Moody, President
Laura Sutherland, Vice President
Ronald Japinga, Treasurer
Brooke Sampson, Secretary
Sara Clarenbach
Javier Carrillo
Clay Kempf
Ben Kromnick
Alexandra Navarro
Camille Smith-Ballon

Quality Committee:
Dr. Brian Del Core
Kendell Kemp, RDH
Dr. Gerry Kondo
Dr. Catherine Modjeski
Dr. Denisse Monroy
Dr. Tom Young
Dr. David Wistrom

Patient Advisory Committee:
Geralyn Lasluk
Gene Leedham
Robert Lemon
Alexandra Navarro
Ebony Smith

Dental Volunteers:
Leslie Eggleston, RDHBS
Monterey Bay Dental Hygienists’ Association

Our 2017 CAP Community Hero

With the release of the Oral Health Access Strategic Plan in December 2016, Dr. Sepi Taghavei Walthard has been a driving force in advancing the steering committee’s goals. For her work in the First Tooth, First Birthday campaign; mandatory first grade dental screenings; and expanding treatment, prevention and clinical capacity, Dr. Taghavei Walthard was named as a Community Assessment Project (CAP) Community Hero. Congratulations Sepi!

Dr. Sepi Taghavei Walthard, 2017 Community Hero Award recipient.

25 years of healthy smiles were made possible by the passion and hard work of our staff. Our shared values help us envision a community where all people have access to quality dental care!