

CEO's Letter



Dear Dientes Family,

For 25 years we have been focused on our vision of a happy, healthy community.

This includes fostering an environment where everyone—employees and patients alike—has the chance to live to their full potential.

We are creating a culture of equal opportunity.

At Dientes, women and minorities have a rightful place in our workforce. As a learning organization, we are constantly

striving to improve how we do things, and help our staff do the same. We work to provide training and to nurture the confidence for all our staff to succeed.

Dientes supports DACA and continues to provide support to those staff and patients who are Dreamers. Watch our newest video to hear Brenda's story—one of 800,000 Dreamers in our country living, working and contributing to the only place they have known as home.

We help our patients be their best.

Whether it is through our medical-dental integrated care, a free care event, or specialty services, we are enabling our patients to open doors to a healthier life. We want to do this for even more patients

to improve the health of Santa Cruz County. As Dientes looks towards its next clinic, we want to hear your ideas. Please join us as one of the upcoming community meetings to share your thoughts.

Thank you for being a part of our family!

Whether it is for the care we provide every day or for something special like our Give Kids A Smile Day free-care event, we could not build a happy, healthy community without you!

Thank you!



Laura Marcus, Chief Executive Officer

Building a Family at Dientes

Yari Alvarado joined Dientes fourteen years ago, "back when Dientes was a small family of less than 30 employees," she recalled. Yari began as a volunteer receptionist at Dientes' first ever Give Kids A Smile Day in 2004, and was hired soon after that. Since then, Yari has witnessed a lot of growth professionally and personally. She became Front Office Supervisor, then Watsonville Clinic Manager when it opened in 2015, and welcomed 4 children along the way. Yari explains, "Both work and home are so important to me. My family is my priority, but my Dientes family comes second!" Dientes has grown to a staff of 65 and expanded to clinics throughout the county. Yari says, "I've seen so many transformations... so many grateful families in our community. It's why I love being here."



Watsonville Clinic Manager Yari Alvarado and her family.

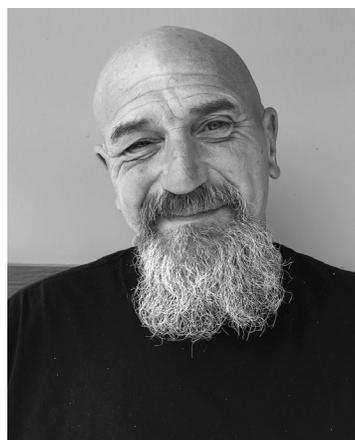
Leaving a Legacy of Healthy Smiles

An easy way to support Dientes' work far into the future is to include us in your estate planning. You can make Dientes a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, retirement account, will, or living trust.

Please identify us as:

Dientes Community Dental Care
1830 Commercial Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95065
Tax ID: 77-0311752

Find out more: dientes.org/donate



Patient Johnathan is thankful for his care.

Watsonville Clinic Provides Unique Access to Care

In 2015, our Watsonville clinic opened with a vision of providing medical-dental integrated care to the Pajaro Valley. For patients like Johnathan, a local plumber and lifelong Watsonville resident, it meant accessing care in the town he calls home.

"I had some bad experiences with a dentist long ago, then I didn't know where to go," Johnathan explains. When it became difficult for him to eat, he was referred to Dientes at the Watsonville Health and Dental Center. Christian Santa Cruz, Scheduling Coordinator says, "being co-located with the health center makes it easy for patients to make appointments, and they're referred by physicians they're comfortable with."

Happy to receive care locally after so many years, Johnathan said, "I am comfortable at Dientes and I'm looking forward to my health getting better."

There are 800,000 DACA recipients in our country who share a dream of giving back to their communities. These Dreamers risk losing the country they call home—where they have been educated, live, work, and raise families. Go to <http://bit.ly/2FhD50D> to hear Dientes' Dental Assistant Brenda share her story!



Help Shape Our Next Clinic!

Please join us and share your ideas as we plan our next clinic! Part of the 1500 Capitola Road mixed use development, we are looking to add a 10-chair dental clinic. This proposed new construction project would feature medical care from Santa Cruz Community Health Centers, housing from MidPen and dental care from Dientes. We would love to hear from you!



dientes
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Community Meetings:

**Thursday April 12, 4-7pm and
Saturday April 14, 10am-noon**

Live Oak Elementary School,
1916 Capitola Rd, Santa Cruz

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

PARTNER :



Sharing Smiles with Underserved Kids

On February 3rd Dientes staff was happy to partner again with volunteers from the Monterey Bay Dental Hygienists' Association for our 14th annual Give Kids A Smile Day! We use this event as an opportunity to provide much needed dental care for children who otherwise might not receive it—children from low-income, uninsured families in our county. As Kami, a patient and mother of two kids who receive care at Dientes said, *"This event helps so much, it relieves a big financial burden!"* Commenting on how easy it is to get her kids to go to the dentist, *"We love coming here because the dentists really know how to treat children!"*

38 children received preventative and restorative care at no cost to their families. The services provided at this event totaled \$28,000 and were made possible in part by generous sponsorships from Bank of America and Kaiser Permanente, as well as funds from local donors who participated in the 2017 Santa Cruz Gives campaign hosted by the Good Times. Thank you to all who made this day possible, and for partnering with Dientes to help build a foundation for healthy smiles for local children!



Dientes staff is all smiles and ears on Give Kids A Smile Day!



Dientes Endodontist Dr. Orapin Horst gets her patient ready for his procedure.

Program Highlight: Specialty Care

In 2016, Dientes launched the Specialty Care Program to address our #1 referral need. For patients on Medi-Cal, access to an endodontist or oral surgeon used to mean having to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket, travel out of county, or endure months-long wait lists. For some, extreme pain meant taking more drastic measures, like opting to have the tooth extracted despite it being savable. In our first year we provided over 1,000 specialty care visits, but the need is still great.

With the help of The Stanley & Audrey Goldstein Foundation and The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, we are happy to have significantly increased appointment availability for specialty care. Growth in this program supports our goal of providing comprehensive, high-quality, affordable care to our patients!

WHAT people are **SAYING.**

"Dental health is often neglected when families have barely enough to cover food, housing, phone and clothing needs."

- Ellen, donor

"From the staff at the front desk to the dentists in the back and their assistants—Dientes is a godsend! Thank you for giving me back my smile!"

- Fermin, patient

"As a dental hygienist, I know how important it is to maintain a healthy mouth for whole body health."

- Nancy, donor