

■ **CEO's Letter**



**It's been a beautiful summer with a bright future on the horizon!**

Your support makes it possible to pursue opportunities for expanded access to care, thank you! To help us get ready, Dientes recently welcomed our new Chief Human Resources Officer, Julianne Carroll. She already has a long list of exciting plans for our existing and future staff. Her leadership is key as we continue to grow.

**We achieved another milestone by serving 11,000 patients last fiscal year!**

Yet, the need is still great! Two expansion projects mean we will soon serve more patients: Beach Flats, once a part-time Outreach clinic, will expand to 4 days a week in September. Also, we are in the planning phase of an additional dental clinic as part of the 1500 Capitola Road integrated health and affordable housing project.

**Dientes is reaching more patients outside our clinics.**

Our mobile Outreach Program has grown to over 40 locations, providing dental services for those who struggle to get to the dentist. The recent release of the OHA Report Card underscores the importance of this work to improve access to dental care in our county.

**We appreciate all that you have enabled us to do.**

By improving the health of our underserved neighbors, we improve the health of our whole community. Together, we can ensure access to dental care and a bright future for all our Santa Cruz County neighbors.

**Laura Marcus**, Chief Executive Officer

**Dientes' New Chief Human Resources Officer  
Julianne Carroll**

**A native Californian**, Julianne joined Dientes after most recently living in Seattle. She and her family, including her partner and 2-yr old daughter, couldn't be happier to return to the sun! Julianne holds a Master's in Social Work and a Senior Professionals in Human Resources (SPHR) certification. She enjoys employee engagement, satisfaction, and development. Commenting on her favorite part about her new role at Dientes, Julianne says, *"I love that I get to combine my business background with my passion for caring for the underserved."*



**Julianne Carroll, Dientes' new CHRO**

**Live Oak Development Project  
Receives Positive Feedback!**

**In April**, Dientes joined the County of Santa Cruz, MidPen Housing, and Santa Cruz Community Health Centers (SCCHC) in hosting two community meetings about our new 1500 Capitola Road project. Over 130 neighbors participated and provided feedback on the campus, which includes affordable housing by MidPen, a medical clinic operated by SCCHC and a 10-chair dental clinic for Dientes. As we continue to plan, we are excited to bring our vision of expanded access to care towards reality! Thank you to the Dientes donors, patients, board members, and staff who attended the meetings to show their support!



**Live Oak residents share input on the proposed plans**

# OHA Update:

## Report Card, Education, and \$1 million in Funding!

In June, the Oral Health Access (OHA) Steering Committee released its first report card highlighting the progress made on their strategic plan goals, including:

- **20% increase in County residents on Medi-Cal who have gone to the dentist since 2014.**
- **The rate of children aged 0-11 who have never seen a dentist went from 30% to 15%.**
- **Dientes and Salud Para La Gente together have seen a 30% growth in dental visits and a 17% increase in patients of all ages.**

OHA's work is now backed by a 5-yr, \$1 million state grant from Prop 56 received by Santa Cruz County. This support is fueling the launch of the First Tooth First Birthday education campaign to encourage prevention early in life.



To learn more:

[healthysmilessc.org](http://healthysmilessc.org)

[oralhealthsc.org/strategic-plan](http://oralhealthsc.org/strategic-plan)

# Beach Flats Clinic Expands to Serve New Patients

Initially opened as a part-time location a year ago, our Beach Flats clinic will open four days a week starting September 2018! This service expansion will enable Dientes to care for more than 1,000 new and returning patients with over 4,000 visits.

Patients, like James, are excited about the changes. James explained how he first came to Dientes after radiation from his cancer treatments caused his teeth to become brittle, leading to infections, *"I couldn't move forward with my cancer treatment until the infections were addressed."* Though he required several complex extractions, James was able to get the care he needed at Dientes—and more.

*"After my extractions I wasn't going to get dentures, because I couldn't afford them. I had gotten used to drinking protein shakes,"* he said. Through our Dientes Cares Program, James was able to get his dentures for free. James is getting his health back, and says, *"I'm grateful I can finally smile—and the respect I've received at this clinic is my reason to smile."*



**James is excited to share his new smile!**

Since 1996, The Richard & Mary Solari Charitable Trust has partnered with Dientes and left a profound impact on the health of our community. Their contributions have strengthened our community and helped shape Dientes into the organization it is today—providing comprehensive dental care across the county to 11,000 patients annually!



**Mary Solari, whose support has spread healthy smiles across Santa Cruz County!**

# THANK YOU

## Free Care Event for Seniors in Need

Smiles of gratitude were in abundance on August 4th as uninsured senior patients were provided free dental care at Dientes' annual Give Seniors A Smile Day. Dientes partnered with 8 volunteer hygienists from the Monterey Bay Dental Hygienists' Association to provide 52 patients with preventative and restorative care. Altogether \$23,000 worth of free care was provided, thanks in part to 100 Women Who Care and Bank of America.

For patients like Kathy, a senior on Medicare without dental benefits, this day means one less trade-off to make, *"I'm juggling bills and dental care isn't something I could afford. When I had insurance, it was easier to pay for everything—even food."*

On-site were two of our community partners: Santa Cruz Community Health Centers, who assessed Medi-Cal eligibility, and Second Harvest Food Bank, who provided information on food distributions.

Commenting that diabetes runs in her family, Kathy emphasized how she appreciated that this day was devoted to overall health, *"I keep myself healthy by doing tai chi and yoga, but I need places like Dientes to help keep my mouth and my body healthy."*



**Volunteer hygienist Leslie Gonzales provides a free cleaning to Dientes patient Kathy.**

## Daniel Uriostegui: From Patient to Future Hygienist

Since 2016, Dientes Registered Dental Assistant Daniel has been rapidly achieving his professional goals. Daniel first began as a Dientes intern, quickly achieved his RDA certification, and is now enrolled at the Dental Hygiene program at Cabrillo College, *"my family and my community have really motivated me to succeed,"* he said. But Daniel's experience at Dientes started long ago, back when he was only 8 years old and a pediatric patient.

Daniel explained how coming to Dientes as a child is what inspired him to pursue a career in the dental field, adding, *"I felt comfortable here. And now, working mostly with pediatric patients, my favorite part about coming to work is seeing the kids, who come in scared, leave with smiles on their faces."*

Daniel, his three siblings, mother, and grandmother are all still Dientes patients. *"It feels good to be able to give back to my community, and to have them be proud of the work I do here."* We are proud that this success story has a bright future ahead of him.

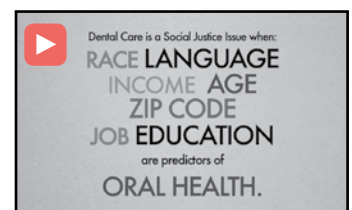


**Daniel works toward smiles in Dientes' pediatric wing.**

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## Smiles and Social Justice

When it comes to oral health access, more barriers exist than just income and dental insurance. Did you know that disability, language, race, and zip code also impact the ability to visit a dentist? Visit our Youtube or Facebook page to watch our most recent video, **Oral Health—a Social Justice Issue**, to learn more.



# Outreach Program Expands Across the County for Kids!

Providing access to more underserved patients than ever before, Dientes' Outreach program has added six new schools this year—bringing the total to 25 schools in Santa Cruz County! Many of our Outreach patients experience barriers to care—like transportation and cost—so our mobile dental team visits them to provide exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride varnish, sealants and oral health education.

In addition, we have added the County's Watsonville Health Center as a Tiny Tooth Tuesday location where we provide some of our youngest patients with their first ever dental exams! At the East Cliff Family Health Center and the Watsonville Health Center, Dientes is providing first dental visits to patients ages 0-36 months to build positive relationships with the dentist and improve the oral health of future generations in Santa Cruz County.



9-month old Connall and his dad celebrate his first dental visit!



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[www.dientes.org](http://www.dientes.org)

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

## Share a Smile Every Month!

**Support access to dental care by becoming a monthly donor!**

By signing up for automatic gifts, you will help make a difference in the lives of children, adults and seniors in our county.

**Visit our donate page to sign up today:**

[dientes.org/donate](http://dientes.org/donate)



Dientes is a proud partner of United Way.

