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Laura Marcus, Chief Executive Officer

CEO’s Letter

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-year 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.”

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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

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

Laura Marcus, Chief Executive Officer

Like us on Facebook

Dientes is a proud partner of United Way.

9-month old Connall and his dad celebrate his first dental visit!
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-year, $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.

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!

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 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.”

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.

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.

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!
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To learn more:  
[healthysmiles.scc.org](http://healthysmiles.scc.org)  
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Daniel works toward smiles in Dientes’ pediatric wing.

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