



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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Dientes Provides \$31k in Free Dental Care to Local Seniors **Dientes' Give Seniors A Smile Day Addresses A Top Community Need**

(Santa Cruz, CA) Healthy smiles were plentiful on August 3rd at Dientes' 5th annual *Give Seniors A Smile Day*, a day dedicated to providing free dental care to low-income, uninsured senior patients. Dientes partnered with 5 volunteer hygienists from the Monterey Bay Dental Hygienists' Association to provide 57 patients with preventative and restorative care. Supported in part by Bay Federal Credit Union, charitable donations and help from volunteers, Dientes provided \$31,560 worth of free care. Community partner, Santa Cruz Community Health Centers, was on-site and helped sign seniors up for Medi-Cal.

Britta, a Dientes patient for more than 10 years who was seen at the event said, "When I found Dientes, they made me feel welcome and that my health is in good hands. Dientes doesn't feel like a dentist to me – it feels like a home. The service I have received over the years has been so helpful – life can get so difficult and its days like today that make all the difference!"

"I've been at this event every year and it feels good to give back to seniors who have made a lasting impact on our community," said Leslie Gonzales, RDA, RDHS, of the Monterey Bay Dental Hygienists' Association.

In addition to *Give Seniors a Smile Day*, elected officials and community advocates joined Dientes to take part in a Senior Advocacy Day. During this event, attendees participated in writing postcards to California State Representatives in support of two proposed bills to Congress that would add dental coverage to Medicare: Medicare Dental Benefit Acts of 2019, HR2951 and S22. Elected officials in attendance were Santa Cruz County Supervisor John Leopold, Santa Cruz City Council Members Cynthia Matthews and Drew Glover, Capitola Mayor Jacques Bertrand, and a representative from California Representative Jimmy Panetta's office. To get involved and make your voice heard visit: www.dientes.org/seniors

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Dientes Community Dental Care's mission is to create lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults in Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities. 97% of Dientes' patients live at or below the poverty level. Dientes accepts Medi-Cal and offers sliding scale fees for uninsured patients. Dientes is a proud partner of United Way.

Photo 1: Dientes' Patient Britta getting ready to receive treatment at Give Seniors A Smile Day