Press Release

100 Days, thousands served: Santa Cruz Community Health and Dientes Mark Major Milestone at new campus on Capitola Road

Nonprofit providers of health services and dental care have served hundreds since opening early December 2022

Santa Cruz, CA — Santa Cruz Community Health (SCCH) and Dientes Community Dental are celebrating their 100th day of care at their new facilities on Capitola Road! This duo joined forces to provide a comprehensive range of health services to low-income patients on a new 3.7-acre health and housing campus in the heart of Live Oak. The first phase of the project, which includes an 11-chair dental clinic and a 20,000-square-foot primary care health center, opened early December and provides a wide range of services to patients in need.

Together, Dientes and SCCH have so far served 6,000 patients through 14,000 medical, behavioral health, and dental visits. Dientes' new 11-chair dental clinic will allow Dientes to serve up to 6,000 additional low-income patients annually. Meanwhile, SCCH's 20,000-square-foot primary care health center is offering a broad set of services provided by 100 staff members, including family practice, pediatrics, integrated behavioral health, acupuncture, chiropractic and more. Both Dientes and Santa Cruz Community Health are hiring for open positions as they continue to ramp up operations.

Laura Marcus, CEO of Dientes, said *"Our clinic brings us one step closer to addressing the great need for high-quality, affordable dental care for our community. We are grateful for all those who generously gave so that we can celebrate these first 100 days and look forward to caring for our patients for years to come."* Leslie Conner, CEO of Santa Cruz Community Health, added *"This state-of-the-art campus is opening opportunities for so many. It's incredibly rewarding to see the positive impact we're having and look forward to providing top-notch care and services for many years to come."*

Patients are reaping the benefits: "*I am very grateful*," commented 78-year-old Mark who was referred by his SCCH doctor just across the plaza to Dientes for emergency dental care. "*I was in pain, and now I feel a lot healthier.*"

This vision, six years in the making, was made possible through the generous support of our community. Dientes and SCCH raised a combined $18M to build the health centers. The health and housing campus is the first of its kind in the county. It features a family-friendly public plaza, a native garden and art walk, and 57 affordable housing units scheduled for completion later this year.

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Photo: Capitola Road Health and Housing Campus 111922, photo credit: Kevin Painchaud

About Dientes Community Dental Care
Dientes Community Dental Care's mission is to create lasting oral health for the under-served children and adults in Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities. Dientes currently serves 11,000 patients annually and with this new clinic will serve 17,000 patients a year, 97% of whom live at or below the poverty level. Dientes accepts Medi-Cal and offers sliding scale fees for uninsured patients. Learn more at dientes.org*.*

About Santa Cruz Community Health
Santa Cruz Community Health's (SCCH) mission is to improve the health of our patients and the community and advocate the feminist goals of social, political, and economic equality. Driven by a 49-year commitment to health care as a human right, Santa Cruz Community Health is a leading nonprofit provider of high-quality, affordable, and comprehensive health services in English and Spanish to all ages, gender identities, ethnicities, abilities, and sexual orientations, regardless of their ability to pay. SCCH (a Federally Qualified Health Center) operates three health centers (downtown, Santa Cruz, Live Oak, and Ben Lomond) serving over 12,000 low-income patients including over 2,000 individuals experiencing homelessness. SCCH's clinics offer primary care, pediatrics, prenatal care and education, mental health and substance use treatment, chronic disease management, health insurance enrollment, food distribution, and more. Learn more at schealthcenters.org*,* facebook.com/schealthcenters *or on Instagram @schealthcenters*