

Dear Dientes Family,

As we embrace the fall season, my heart is full of gratitude for you—our incredible supporters who make everything we do possible.

Your generosity doesn't just fund dental care; it transforms lives.

Together, we're expanding our reach. Our new Watsonville clinic will bring comprehensive dental care to 3,000 South County residents, ensuring zip code never determines access to care.

We're standing strong as advocates. From mobilizing our community through our Medicaid postcard campaign to sharing our Measure Z advocacy on PBS News Hour, we're ensuring every voice is heard in the fight for healthcare equity.

We're also proud to share that four graduates from our inaugural Registered Apprentice Program have joined our team as full-time dental assistants, proving success in building a recruitment pipeline. Our innovative workforce initiatives recently earned us the 2025 Employer Champion Award!

Your partnership makes all of this possible.

When I see our new staff proudly wearing their Dientes badges, when I witness the relief on a parent's face knowing their child's toothache is gone, when I hear from seniors who can enjoy nutritious meals again—I see your compassion in action.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our community, and for making lasting oral health possible for all.



With gratitude,

Laura Marcus
Chief Executive Officer

Registered Apprenticeship Program: Building Careers, Changing Lives

Our Registered Apprentice Program is a win for everyone: creating life-changing career opportunities for apprentices, empowering our staff to grow professionally as mentors, building a sustainable recruitment pipeline for Dientes, and ensuring patients never lose access to care by proactively addressing workforce shortages.

With your support, this program changes lives. Our apprentices work alongside mentors, earning wages while training to become Dental Assistants.

We're proud to have hired four apprentices from the inaugural class and excited to launch into year two of the program with a new class eager to learn!



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RAP was a turning point in both my personal & professional life. The program showed me what I was capable of achieving & gave me a clear path forward. I'll always be grateful for the opportunity—it opened doors I never thought possible & made me feel like I belonged in this field. **-Liz, graduated apprentice, now employee**

Now Open! New Watsonville Clinic Touches 3,000 More Smiles

All too often, wealth equals health. But thanks to you, Dientes is changing that equation.

When our 2022 assessment revealed 35,000 South County residents couldn't access care, you helped us act boldly. When opportunity knocked, a rare space for an 8-chair clinic in a high need area, your support empowered us to answer.

Our new 8-chair Penny Lane clinic represents your investment in action: up to 3,000 additional patients will be served annually, bringing comprehensive care—from cleanings to specialized pediatric dentistry—delivered by bilingual staff who understand our community's needs.

Thanks to our workforce development initiatives and your support, we hit the ground running with a fully staffed team ready to serve on day one.

Because of you, we're ensuring zip code never determines access to dental care.

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"It's so convenient to have the clinic here. With this care, I finally feel comfortable smiling around others again."

-Daniel, Grateful Patient

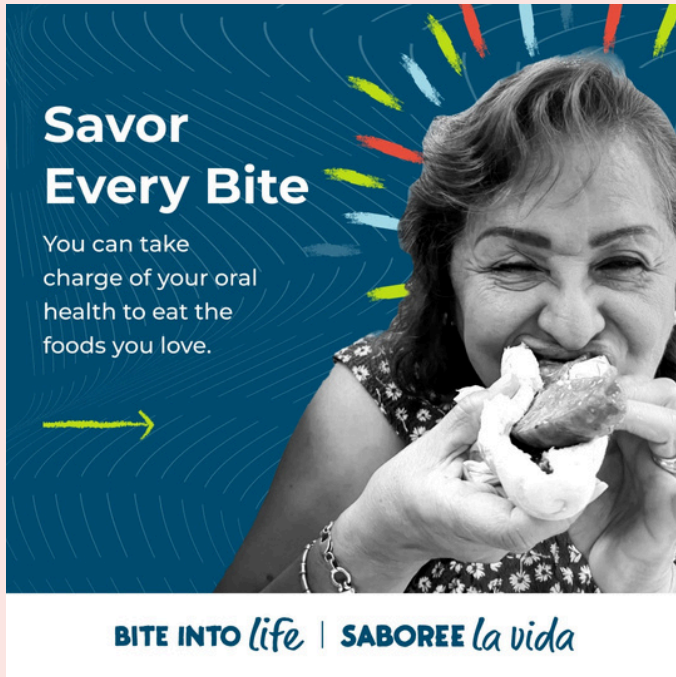


Standing Strong Against Healthcare Cuts

Dientes remains unwavering in our advocacy efforts. We've maintained communication with elected representatives and mobilized staff and patients through a postcard campaign—flooding legislators' offices with over 2,000 postcards in support of dental benefits on Medi-Cal!

We're amplifying patient voices and will continue advocating for every person's right to dental care because oral health is essential health, not a luxury.

Bite Into Life: 100,000 People and Counting



Have you ever had to think twice before you bite into an apple?

We believe you should have a healthy mouth to eat foods you love at any age.

'Bite into Life' is a groundbreaking education campaign developed with direct input from local seniors, in collaboration with Salud Para La Gente.

This campaign, supported by Delta Dental's Senior Oral Health Partnership, empowers older adults with practical, at home oral health strategies that help maintain quality of life.

We've reached over 100,000 people in its first stage! Together we're creating a model for other communities to replicate.

Digital Innovation Transforms Smiles



Thanks to your generosity, Dientes invests in cutting-edge technology that ensures everyone, regardless of income, receives the exceptional dental care they deserve.

Our state-of-the-art digital scanners are revolutionizing how we create dentures. The scanners replace messy and expensive impression molds with precise 3D scanning that captures every detail in minutes.

For patients this means improved comfort and perfectly fitted dentures, faster. Your support helps us deliver top-notch care, ensuring our patients can work, eat, and smile with confidence once again.



Local Leadership, National Recognition

Dientes took the national stage on PBS News Hour as CEO Laura Marcus discussed Dientes' support of Measure Z.

This groundbreaking sugar-sweetened beverage tax represents a significant victory for community health. We're honored to share our story on national television!

You can watch the national news segment by scanning the QR code!





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Look inside for exciting news about our new Watsonville clinic!

**Thank you for believing in our mission to create lasting
oral health for the underserved children and adults
of Santa Cruz County.**

Employer Champion Award: Investing in Our Community's Future



Scan to
watch our
award video!

Dientes has won the 2025 Employer Champion Award from the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board! This honor celebrates our incredible team of compassionate professionals.

With retention rates well above industry standard and nearly 15% of staff here over 10 years, we're a launchpad for healthcare leaders.

Our workforce investments strengthen our ability to deliver consistent, high-quality care. Promoting from within, apprentices become dental assistants who can advance to providers or managers. This team investment translates directly to exceptional patient care.

When you support Dientes, you're transforming lives and proving that great dental care starts with great people! Thank you!



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latest updates



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