

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

# Dignity in Every Smile



**dientes**  
COMMUNITY DENTAL

# Dear Dientes Family,

Thanks to your unwavering partnership, Dientes remains steadfast in our mission to create lasting oral health for all. Your generosity is the foundation that allows us to stand strong—even as federal policy shifts and budget cuts create ripple effects statewide.

**Your support enables us to remain a beacon of care for those who need it most.**

Our work is strengthened by tireless advocacy and powerful partnerships. Through workforce initiatives like our Residency and Registered Apprenticeship Programs, we maintain our commitment to excellence.

**Every dollar you invest fuels the dignity that comes with a healthy smile.**

This past August, your support helped us open our Penny Lane clinic—which will ultimately expand our reach to 18,000 patients annually across five clinics countywide.

**Your generosity creates real change.**

When I walk through our doors and see families greeted with warmth, watch our team deliver expert care to those turned away elsewhere, and hear stories of pain relieved and smiles restored, I see the power of what we can do together.

Thank you for standing with us and ensuring that every person in our community receives the care they deserve, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

**With heartfelt gratitude,**



Laura Marcus,  
CEO

Gary Bencomo,  
Board President



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (FISCAL YEAR 24-25)

Gary Bencomo,  
*President*

Masina Hunnicutt,  
*Vice President*

Janis Bolt,  
*Secretary*

Jennifer Martinez,  
*Treasurer*

Brian Del Core, DDS

Marshall Delk

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Marco Martinez-  
Galarce

Alicia Moody

Michael Moore

Steven Robins

Stephanie  
Villa-Lopez

## MISSION

Dientes is on a mission to create lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults of Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities.

## VISION

A community where children can focus on school instead of a toothache, adults can make good first impressions and get a job with a healthy smile, and seniors can comfortably eat nutritious foods.

## VALUES

STRIVE FOR  
EXCELLENCE

TREAT  
EVERYONE WITH  
DIGNITY AND  
COMPASSION

COMMUNICATE  
OPENLY

CHAMPION  
EQUITY

USE  
RESOURCES  
WISELY

CULTIVATE  
LEARNING

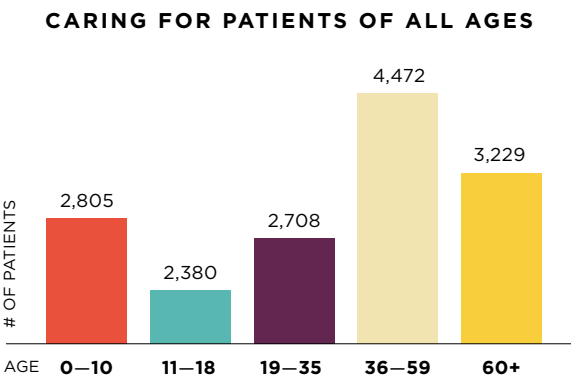
FOSTER  
TEAMWORK AND  
COLLABORATION

DARE TO  
LEAD

METRICS OF YOUR IMPACT

Your Generosity  
in Action!

Our commitment to community-centered care has fueled growth across Santa Cruz County. From babies welcoming their first tooth to seniors celebrating their 100th birthday, Dientes served over 15,594 patients last year alone.



875  
PATIENTS  
SERVED BEYOND  
CLINIC WALLS  
(OUTREACH  
PROGRAM)

61,035  
TOTAL VISITS

1,292  
PATIENTS WHO  
ARE CURRENTLY  
UNHOUSED

\$667,136  
VALUE OF FREE  
CARE PROVIDED

93%  
PERCENTAGE  
OF PATIENTS  
RECEIVING  
PREVENTATIVE  
CARE

5,112  
SPECIALTY  
CARE VISITS  
(ENDODONTIST,  
ORAL SURGEON,  
PEDIATRIC  
DENTISTS)

Financial Health

Dientes is committed to long-term financial health to continue serving our community far into the future. Our ability to serve the growing need is a testament to the unwavering support of people like you—thank you.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
JUNE 30, 2025 (AUDITED FINANCIALS)

INCOME	\$17,468,036
EXPENSES	\$16,543,098
NET INCOME*	\$924,938

*\*includes fundraising for new Penny Lane clinic which opened in the following fiscal year.*

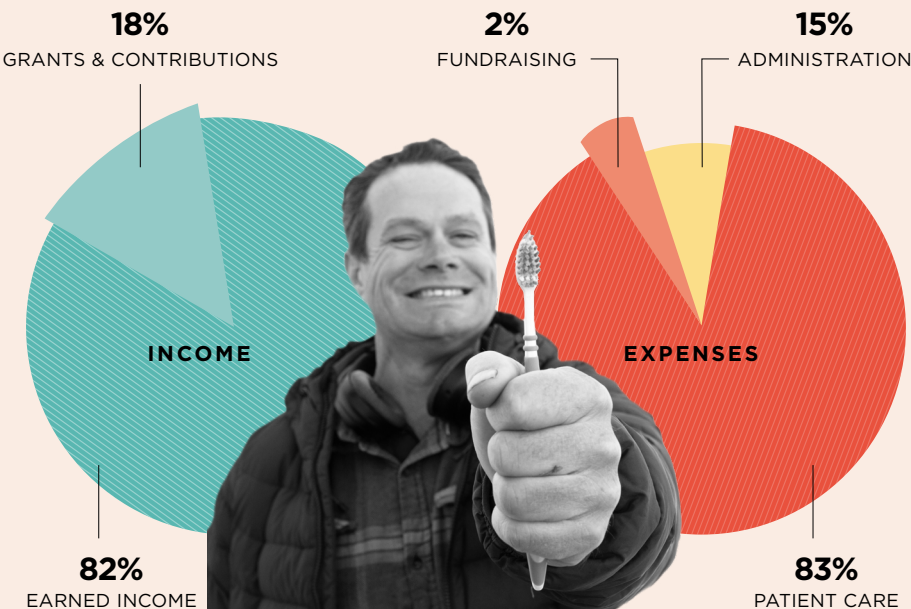






Photo credit: Kevin Painchaud

## STEPPING UP TO MEET THE GROWING NEED

### Expanding Access in South County

This past August, we opened our new clinic on Penny Lane—our second Watsonville location and fifth countywide. This expansion will ultimately bring our total patients served annually to 18,000, a milestone that fills us with pride and gratitude as healthcare access grows more uncertain.

For many, a dental visit triggers anxiety—but imagine not knowing if you can afford it or having no coverage at all. This struggle is increasingly common across Santa Cruz County and will worsen with Medicaid cuts, plus heightened work requirements and more frequent re-enrollment. In the face of this challenging environment, we recognize our patients need us now more than ever.

Your generosity made this expansion possible. When our 2022 assessment revealed 35,000 South County residents couldn't access dental care, we knew we needed to act, and you helped us act boldly. Thank you!



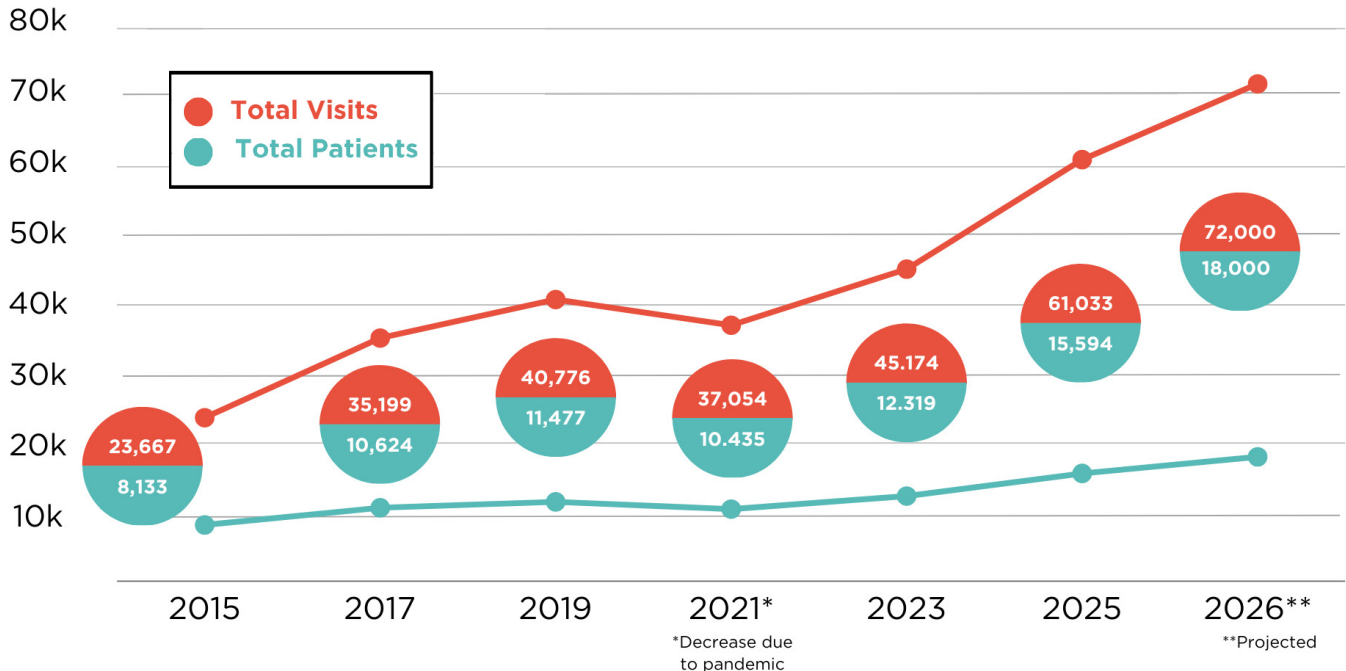
We are proud to support the people of South County and excited to expand our capacity in a region with significant unmet need. We are deeply grateful to Carol Fuller for her generous support of our expansions—and for gifting us this vibrant photograph of children celebrating Día de los Muertos. Captured by Huve Rivas, a retired photography teacher from Watsonville High School, the image brings warmth and joy to our walls, reminding us every day of the community we are honored to serve.



"I was always self-conscious about my teeth at school. Going to Dientes taught me how to improve my health and be confident with my own smile."

JENNI, PATIENT

## A Decade of Growth



Over the past decade, we've become Santa Cruz County's largest dental care provider, more than doubling our patient volume while deepening the quality of care we deliver. Thanks to you and our generous community, we strive to meet the growing need.

### YOUR IMPACT AT WORK

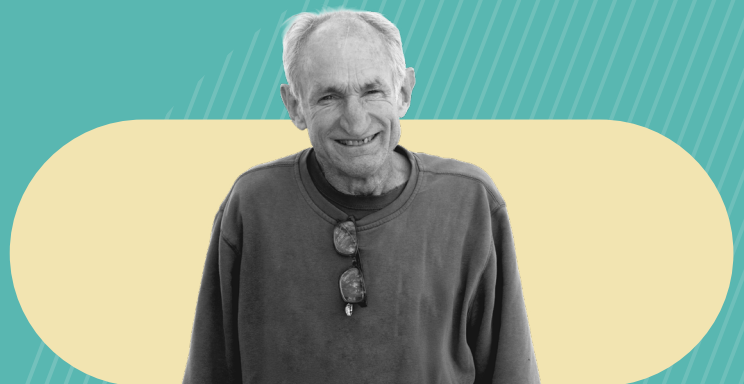
## Stories from Our Patients

Harry, in his mid-60s, represents thousands facing the healthcare coverage gap. When he lost his job and insurance the gap in coverage left him vulnerable as he faced numerous health challenges, including heart disease—a condition correlated with the severe oral health issues he was also experiencing. Depression set in as Harry watched his teeth deteriorate. He had nearly given up hope.

Dientes offered Harry a path forward. Through our affordable sliding scale fees, made possible by your support, Harry received comprehensive care, including extractions and complete dentures. The transformation was profound: **"It turned my whole attitude around. I'm back!"**

For Harry, Dientes provided hope during his darkest health challenges. "Dientes opened a beam of sunshine and gave me a positive

outlook during a time of negativity." Harry's story demonstrates how accessible dental care can transform lives when people need it most. As uninsured numbers rise due to cuts to Medicaid, stories like Harry's will only become more common. With your support, Dientes will be here for them.



*\*Patient photo & information have been changed to protect privacy*



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Administration: 831-464-5410

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U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SANTA CRUZ, CA  
PERMIT NO. 322

**Your support makes it possible! There are giving options for every donor:**

#### MONTHLY

Consistent support that transforms smiles and lives year round. Set up your monthly gift online at [dientes.org/monthly](https://dientes.org/monthly).

#### MATCHING

Maximize your generosity at no extra cost. Turn your employer into a giving partner through corporate matching programs—many include retirees and spouses in their programs.

#### RETIREMENT

A smart giving strategy for retirees: Direct IRA distributions to Dientes are tax-free for donors 70½+, satisfy required minimums, and lower your tax burden.

#### ONLINE



Scan the QR code  
to donate today!

#### LEGACY

Build a bright future for your community. Legacy gifts through wills, trusts, or beneficiary designations ensure healthy smiles for generations to come.



**We are so grateful for your partnership in creating lasting oral health here in Santa Cruz County.**

Questions? Contact us at  
[development@dientes.org](mailto:development@dientes.org)

Learn more at [dientes.org/donate](https://dientes.org/donate)