



Smile Report

September 2009 • Issue 1

Our Mission: to provide quality oral health care services in a caring and compassionate manner to those individuals in Waukesha County whose access to dental health care is limited due to inadequate income, or reduced access to Medicaid care

Thank you for helping make more smiles healthy in Waukesha County

Dear Friends,

About ten years ago, a small group of dedicated volunteers set their sights on what some thought was an overzealous goal to build a community dental clinic to serve low income families in Waukesha County. Thanks to the patience and perseverance of these volunteers, the Waukesha County Dental Coalition was established in April 2005. Using a planning grant from the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Coalition developed a community-academic partnership that addressed oral health needs in Waukesha County. The Coalition members devoted 18 months to assessing the need and creating a business plan. They proposed the establishment of the non-profit Waukesha County Community Dental Clinic with the goal to reduce barriers to oral health care for needy families in Waukesha County. A Board of Directors was developed, an appropriate space was identified, and a Clinical Advisory Committee was created to design and equip the dental clinic. An executive director was hired to coordinate the construction, staffing and business aspects of the dental clinic.

I am happy to report that the Community Dental Clinic opened in May 2008. The clinic is located in the Barstow Building; with six treatment rooms, a staff of two dentists, a dental hygienist, two dental assistants, a receptionist, and an executive director. The clinic also has many local volunteer dentists, hygienists and community members who help provide oral health care. The clinic is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dental care at the clinic isn't free; however, fees for dental services do not exceed \$20.00 per visit for uninsured patients. Medicaid coverage is accepted and billed as appropriate. Families in need are identified by showing income falling

below 200% of the U. S. Federal Poverty Guidelines.

The Community Dental Clinic is focused on providing basic comprehensive dental care to children and pregnant women, and treating dental emergencies for adults. During childhood, tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease, five times more common than asthma. Tooth decay still affects more than half of all children by the third grade and by the time children finish high school, about 80% have decay. If left untreated, tooth decay can lead to difficulty speaking, chewing, and swallowing, increased cost of care, loss of self-esteem, needless pain and lost school days. For pregnant women who can not access dental care, there is emerging evidence of a relationship between poor periodontal health and adverse pregnancy outcome, particularly premature birth and babies who do not grow well during pregnancy. The Community Dental Clinic provides early intervention with care to prevent prematurity or small babies. Oral health education for mothers is designed to break the cycle of early childhood cavities.

The Community Dental Clinic has become more than just a dental clinic. It is an organizational home for community outreach and oral health prevention programs, which are conducted in collaboration with the following community partners: the Waukesha County Division of Public Health, Centers of Learning Excellence (Head Start), Waukesha and Oconomowoc School Districts, Waukesha Memorial Community Outreach nurses, WCTC, MATC, Carroll University, Marquette University School of Dentistry, the Medical College of Wisconsin, Hispanic Community and Health Resource Center, the

Waukesha County Dental Society, and the Waukesha Family Practice Center. Projects include prevention and education programs for children, pregnant women, and mothers with young children, and fluoride rinse/ varnish programs. Community Dental is also as an offsite classroom for dental hygiene and dental assisting students.

On behalf of the Community Dental Clinic staff, board of directors and patients, I thank you – individual donors, local businesses and organizations, schools, places of worship, physicians and volunteers – who have believed in and provided initial support to the Community Dental Clinic project. Your donations have helped build the clinic, purchase equipment and supplies and support our excellent staff. You have helped provide affordable dental care and education to more than 2000 children and more than 650 adults.

Just 25% of our costs are covered by patient fees donations and grants. As we continue to serve low income individuals in Waukesha County, and as the costs of providing services continue to increase, your continued support is greatly appreciated. If you have made a pledge to the Waukesha Memorial Hospital Foundation's Dental Clinic Fund Campaign and are in the process of completing this commitment - thank you. For those of you who would like to continue to support the clinic, please enclose a check, made out to the WCCDC, and mail it in the enclosed envelope. Please help us ensure that people who live in our community and who can't afford private practice rates continue to receive the dental care they desperately need.

Thank you for helping make more smiles healthy in Waukesha County!

Reneé Ramirez



Special Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Contributions and grants are needed to support the work at WCCDC. This is list of our donors and grantors who helped make the dental clinic a reality. We thank all the individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations that have chosen to support the clinic financially and with in-kind donations.

Services Provided First Year

With your help and support we provided the following services in the first year for patients of the clinic:

5315 diagnostic procedures, including x-rays and exams

5094 preventative procedures including hygiene, sealants, fluoride, and oral hygiene instruction

1882 restorative procedures were performed

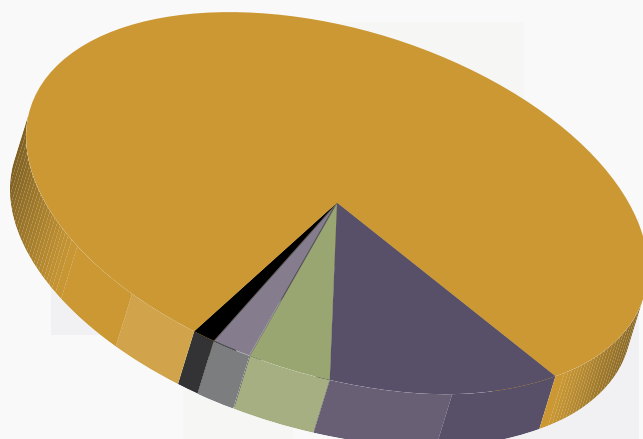
128 endodontic procedures (root canals and pulpotomies)

171 periodontic procedures including scaling, root planing, and full mouth debridements

647 oral surgery procedures

Serving Waukesha County

Percentage of patients by area in county



City of Waukesha 80%

Lake Area 13%

Southern Waukesha 4%

Eastern Waukesha 2%

Western Waukesha 1%

\$50,000 +

Delta Dental
State of Wisconsin - Department of Health & Family Services
Mead Witter Foundation
Waukesha County Community Development Block Grant
Waukesha Service Club
Greater Milwaukee Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth A. Brinn Foundation
WomenConnected
Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Dental Association of Waukesha County
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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WCTC Dental Hygiene Student Association
Wisconsin Centrifugal Charitable Foundation, Inc.
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Waukesha County Community Foundation, Inc. - Women & Girls Fund

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Waukesha Memorial Hospital Nurses Association
2414 JV
AMA Foundation
AppleTree Credit Union
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Waukesha County Community Foundation, Inc.
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Wauwatosa Savings & Loan Foundation
Community Memorial Community Outreach Grant
Michael Bubon, DDS

\$500 - \$999

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Kathleen A. Gray
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Waukesha County Cmty Fdn/George W. & Emily M. Lorenz Fund
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Elmbrook Rotary Club

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\$100 - \$249

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Oconomowoc Junior Women's Club

Under \$100

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B. Richard Behrens
Deb and Jim Ellsworth
Marilyn J. Timper
Richard Fauerbach - Waukesha Service Club
Donna Lea - Waukesha Service Club
Ernest L. Biel
Bob and Jackie Helbig
Barbara A. Gromacki
Anonymous
Catherine R. Miller
Waukesha Evening Lions Club
Jeffrey & J. Joette Barta
Debbie & Dennis Blasius
Richard Brown
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James & Betty Chermak
Girl Scout Troop 2893
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Elizabeth A. Pelzer
David B. Steckbauer
Diane Walworth
Andrew G. Tully
Thomas E. Hoffmann
Deborah L. DeLeon
Nancy L. Hernandez
PEO



Support & Appreciation

I am writing this letter to express my strong support and appreciation for the dental care services that the Waukesha County Community Dental Clinic has been providing in our community during their first year of operations. I have worked in the Waukesha Public Schools for nearly thirty years, most of this time as a Bilingual /ELL teacher and most recently as coordinator of the district's bilingual/ELL program. During my years in the classroom, I witnessed firsthand the acute pain and suffering experienced by my primarily low income students who had untreated dental decay with no access to affordable dental care. Assisting students and their families facing dental emergencies as a result was an ongoing and distressing extension of my educational role.

The Community Dental Clinic, since its opening a year ago, has made a tremendous difference in the lives of my students and their families. My students now have somewhere to go for both routine, preventive dental care and for what heretofore have been devastating physical and financial dental emergencies. The clinic has been giving the gift of health and pain-free days to students who are now better able to focus on their studies.

One hugely successful example of the Community Dental Clinic's outreach during this last year to serve kids and families in the community, took place when the clinic sponsored its first annual Give Kids A Smile Event. The smiles, and lives, of 53 students from the Waukesha Schools were made brighter on that February 6th day by the work and connection to dental services provided through its hosting of this event. The clinic organized a team of dentists from the Waukesha County Dental Society and area dental hygienists and assistants, to provide free and complete oral health evaluations, full cleanings, fluoride and sealant treatments, x-rays and dental examinations. Thanks to the work of the staff at the Community Dental Clinic and these volunteer health professionals, students in need of care received significant oral health treatments. The majority of the students served that day were middle and high school students many of whom had never in their lives been seen by dental health professionals.

The opening of the Community Dental Clinic in May of 2008 has meant the opening of doors to dental care for many of our community's children who previously had no access. We now

have a community clinic that is there for parents when their children face dire dental issues. We also have a clinic that is there working to prevent the need for these emergency services for our families that cannot afford them. I personally am also grateful for the quality of care and the kindness that has been shown by the staff towards our students who have been warmly welcomed and respected.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Community Dental Clinic staff for their high quality of care and the clinic supporters and donors who truly have made this outstanding dental care facility a functioning reality in our community today.

Sincerely,

Brenda L. Ness
Bilingual / ELL Program Coordinator
Waukesha School District