



Transformation of Epic Proportions

Quarterly Newsletter Q2 2021

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A Letter From Kyle

It's an incredible time to be alive. People are getting vaccinated, stadiums are being filled, and smiles are starting to appear from behind the mask. This past month were two very exciting events for the PDS Foundation.

The first is the implementation of EPIC into the [Dentists for Special Needs Office](#). This will allow us to streamline operations truly connecting the medical and dental records of our patient base. With the complex medical conditions of our patients the ability to link the mouth and the body together will produce some incredible outcomes and excellent patient care. We're incredibly grateful for all the people involved to make this happen.

The second experience is the awarding of 12 [Dental Assistant Scholarships](#) to a new group of deserving servant-hearted leaders. Individuals from around the globe who shared with us stories of inspiration, dedication, and aspiration. Stories of servant-hearted individuals who cared for patients with special needs, who cared for residents on her Native American Reservation, and who cared for the elderly. All of them shared a bright light and a desire to make us all incredibly proud.

Our DA students and our Special Needs patients are all part of an EPIC blockbuster story, these heroes are destined to win in the end. But they [need all of our help](#). Transformation isn't easy, and change is hard but together with the support of our donors and friends we can elevate a profession and flip the script on how special needs dentistry is done. Think you can handle the ride?

Thank you again for your hearts to serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kyle Guerin", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Kyle Guerin

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Relieving Student's Financial Burdens

This month the PDS Foundation awarded scholarships to 12 dental assistant students from across the country. Four different schools were represented in the recent scholarship awarding including: Carrington College, Concorde Career College, UEI and Unitek. Since 2016 the Foundation has awarded 108 scholarships across 15 states.

[Watch the most recent scholarship awarding!](#)

We are thrilled to be able to provide continual educational support to students who want to make a positive impact on the lives of others through a career in dental assisting. You can support students by donating [here!](#)

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to receive this scholarship. It allows my mind to be at ease knowing that the financial aspect of my education is taken care of. I am very grateful!" - Doga Aktop

The first time Doga knew she was interested in pursuing a career in dentistry was after her first dental treatment in the U.S., as dental care was not always available in her country. In middle school, Doga was able to get braces and her new smile made her confidence skyrocket. Her goal is to help others gain that same sense of confidence that her dentist gave her, as a person's smile is one of the first things that you see.

If you are a dental assistant student or know one make sure to spread the word that August 1st is the next deadline to submit scholarship applications. [Apply today!](#)



Creating A Dental Home For Each Patient

This month the Dentists for Special Needs office launched EPIC! We are excited to introduce the new scheduling platform to our patients and collaborate with other providers on each patient's care. There are so many benefits from the new system and we are learning more and more about how our patients including Joshua, will benefit so greatly.

Joshua's family found us from their pediatrician, they had tried three offices prior to our office and were unable to complete the appointment due to Joshua's anxiety. We noticed he had some cavities and treatment that he needed to have done and due to his anxiety proposed sedating Joshua. He was excited to visit the office for his sedation appointment and talked about the fish in the bubble lamp and how nice the staff was to him. He completed his appointment without complication and with his dental work being completed!

He lovingly refers to our team as his "doctor friends" and eagerly anticipates visiting us for weeks prior to his appointments.

Joshua's mom explained that he was diagnosed at the age of 5 after noticing some behavioral issues from ages 3-5. After having him tested and diagnosed, she went through a process of being diagnosed herself. Joshua has since visited our office and completed exams and even x-rays without complications.

We have a passion to increase access to care for patients with special needs and these are the outcomes we are looking for! For more information, visit us [online.](#)



Influencing Hearts of Those Who Serve

The PDS Foundation Clinica Dental in Xenacoj, Guatemala opened to serve patients earlier this year. The team has been working hard these past few months and have served 338 patients totaling \$255,937 in donated dentistry.

Our team members, Hilda and Kevin, have been busy scheduling patients, stepping in when a dental assistant is needed, and ordering supplies from our in-country partners at IMFOHSA Dental Center.

Hilda often expresses the joy she feels being able to work and serve again. "I am so happy to help my people," said Hilda.

Our partners at Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala have placed three dental students at our clinic where they will serve patients throughout 2021. Two of these students graduate this year and one will stay with us until Spring 2022 when she graduates.

Make sure to follow us on social media below!

Do you know someone who would be interested in updates on the PDS Foundation?

They can sign up for our newsletter [here](#).