

Bringing Smiles Around The World

Quarterly Newsletter Q3



Thank You Friends

A Letter from Kyle

As we say goodbye to another fun filled, action packed summer, we say hello to fall. A time filled with changing leaves (at least in some places), FOOTBALL, and back to school. For so many kids in the United States and around the world, going back to school is tough when your teeth hurt. At the Pacific Dental Services® Foundation, we are committed to increasing access to care both in our backyards and around the country. This month alone we are taking a team of over 25 people to Ethiopia to partner with Mekelle University to see kids and parents desperate for dentistry. We'll bring a team to Guatemala to provide dental care to people in need. Following our team in Guatemala, a group of dental students from the University of the Pacific will come to provide even more care. We also have Mobile Dental Clinic events planned in Flagstaff and Jerome, Arizona and in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Just this past month we awarded two Dental Assistant Scholarships to the next generation of dental assistant leaders. Lastly, every day we are providing valuable, life changing treatment at our Dentists for Special Needs clinic in Phoenix, Arizona to patients with special needs who previously struggled with finding and receiving dental care. We are fired up for fall and all that it brings, and we thank all of you who contribute in so many ways through your time and generous financial contributions. We'll be sharing updates from all our upcoming activities and service trips on Facebook and Instagram so that you can travel with us on our journey. We can't do the work without you. Here's to bringing smiles around the world



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International Service

Serving Abroad



During the PDS® Foundation's 9th trip to Vanua Levu, Fiji, home of the Mission at Natuvu Creek dental clinic, 365 patients were provided \$109,257 in donated dentistry thanks to the 15 volunteers who donated their time and services. This week was full of heartwarming stories and thankful patients.

One volunteer, Armando Aranda, RDH, shared, "It is our professional and moral responsibility to first help people understand that they need dental care to remain healthy and then to make dental care more accessible." After a comprehensive cleaning and exam, one of Armando's patients received a toothbrush kit so that she could continue taking care of her oral health. She instantly burst into tears thanking the team and asked if her son could receive a kit so that she could teach her son how to take care of his oral health.

Volunteers not only spent their time treating current dental problems but teaching patients in rural areas of Fiji proper oral hygiene instruction. Our goal is to not only treat patients' current needs, but to educate them so that they can live healthier and happier lives.

To hear more stories about experiences serving abroad, visit our [YouTube page](#).



Special Needs

Dentists for Special Needs

As a not-for-profit dental office, Pacific Dental Services® Foundation Dentists for Special Needs is responding to the issue of lack of access to oral healthcare by making proper oral health achievable for each patient between visits.

It has been an exciting time for the clinic. During its first few months, U.S. Rep. David Schweikert (AZ-06) presented the PDS Foundation Dentists for Special Needs clinic with the “Small Business Spotlight Award” for our continued dedication in providing access to care to Arizona’s patients with special needs. The clinic also welcomed Dr. Benjamin Wachter, DMD, as the new practicing dentist! “It is my honor to work with patients from all backgrounds and walks of life,” said Dr. Wachter, an Arizona native who also holds memberships with Special Care Dentistry Association and American Academy of Developmental Dentistry and Medicine.

“With six years of providing dental care for the special needs community and extensive training in adaptive techniques, I have been highly successful in providing quality dental care for every patient.” A graduate of Arizona State University and an active volunteer with Special Olympics and Day for Special Smiles, Dr. Wachter added, “I look forward to offering my experience at the PDS Foundation Dentists for Special Needs clinic. With dignity and respect I will uphold the standards of care in dentistry.” We are ecstatic to welcome Dr. Wachter to the team and see the impact he has on the special needs community.

To keep up with the PDS Foundation Dentists for Special Needs clinic, make sure to follow us on Instagram.



DA Scholarships

Concorde Career College

The Dr. Carolyn Ghazal Dental Assistant Scholarship has been awarded to nine recipients this year, supporting the education of future dental assistants. Tamarian, a recent recipient from Tampa, Florida, shared how this scholarship and mentorship will impact her life. "I am beyond honored to be the recipient of this scholarship. Words cannot explain how ecstatic I truly am. I can wholeheartedly say that this scholarship has truly helped me beyond my finances, but has given me a sense of hope to finish school and receive an education no matter what obstacles I face," says Tamarian. She will be the first in her family to finish school and we are eager to see where a career in oral healthcare takes her.

The Pacific Dental Services® Foundation created this scholarship to offer need-based aid to individuals seeking economic independence in addition to providing guidance, support and mentorship to aid them on their journey to a lifelong career in oral healthcare. The success of these recipients means they can look forward to a life of stability for themselves and their families. It also means there will be more healthcare professionals to provide access to care for individuals in need.

To learn more about the scholarship program visit our [website](#).



Mobile Dental Clinic

Serving Special Smiles

The PDS® Foundation's Mobile Dental Clinic tour has been a great success with nine events in the books. This year we partnered with Transitions Home, Special Olympics, Samaritan Inn, Bethlehem Center, Sacramento Children's Home, Northern Nevada Community Housing, and Rose Haven. Year to date, we've served 283 patients with the help of 304 volunteers donating \$187,925 in dentistry.

One patient, an athlete from the Special Olympic Games in Long Beach, was initially nervous by the thought of receiving treatment until she quickly became friends with all of the volunteers. She along with the volunteers were smiling throughout her cleaning. Her mother was also treated at the Mobile Dental Clinic and they were both thrilled with not only their treatment, but with the friends they made along the way. From seeing the smile on a child's face who has never seen a dentist to the gratitude of athletes from Special Olympics, we are eager to continue serving communities during our upcoming events in Arizona, Texas, Washington and New Mexico.

Take a look at our next stops of 2019 on our website.