



## Be Brave In The Attempt

Quarterly Newsletter Q2 2022

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### A Letter From Kyle

The Special Olympics motto is “Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt”. Those words keep circulating through my soul after spending a week attending the Special Olympics USA Games and the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry ([AADMD](#)) One Voice conference. These events centered around inclusion, health equity and unleashing the human spirit. A movement that is gaining momentum every day.

The passion and bravery that the AADMD displays led to the first ever eye-opening conversation with current American Dental Association President Dr. Cesar Sabates and American Medical Association President Dr. Gerald Harmon moderated by the past Chairman of the National Council on Disability

Neal Romano. The discussion connected oral health to overall health and shined a light on the shortfalls that this population faces on receiving the needed health care. It was the beginning of a discussion that we all are encouraged will lead to action. The theme of the AADMD was One Voice. The medical and the dental community coming together as one voice speaking loudly for an audience that for a long time nobody could hear. No longer will this group be silent.

The PDS Foundation is happy to be a founding sponsor of the AADMD journal entitled [HELEN: The Journal of Human Exceptionality](#) which was recently launched. Named after the brave and exceptional Hellen Keller, it features helpful articles, evidence based practices, advice to navigate the ability lifestyle, and tools for advocacy. We can't wait to see the impact that this piece can have for future healthcare leaders and parents.

The PDS Foundation met another group this week of brave individuals who are striving to advance their careers into dental assistants. As part of our second cycle of Dr. Carolyn Ghazal Dental Assistant Scholarship interviews we heard stories of incredible perseverance of moving to the United States from other countries and overcoming language barriers to chase the American Dream. Overcoming abuse and financial barriers to chase their dreams to help others smile. All of our upcoming recipients were so brave in their attempt and I have no doubt they will win.

We're grateful for the courage all of you display, coming alongside us every month and supporting the efforts of this foundation. We couldn't do what we do without the generous sacrifice from so many. We will continue to strive for the

health equity of individuals with special health care needs, we will continue to provide a voice for those who aren't heard and we will continue to be brave in the attempt.

Thank you again for your hearts to serve.



Kyle Guerin

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### Students Achieving Their Dreams

This year the PDS Foundation has awarded scholarships to 27 dental assistant students from 12 different states including AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, LA, MO, NV, OR, TN, VA, WA. Since 2016 the Foundation has awarded 160 scholarships to students across the country. [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!](#)

***"Words can't explain how extremely thrilled and grateful I am to be one of the recipients of this scholarship. This opportunity means a lot to me as I move forward with my dental career. I am still in disbelief.***

***Congratulations to all of the other scholarship recipients!" - Claudia Young***

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!](#)



## **Celebrating The Work In Guatemala**

It has been a busy, but productive time for the PDS Foundation Clinica Dental. Here are a few highlights from 2022..

- A team of volunteers travelled to Guatemala in March 2022 to prepare the clinic for a group of volunteers. This was our first visit since February 2020! The trip consisted of shoulder-to-shoulder training between Dr. Rodrigo Barillas and PDS-supported clinician Dr. Charles Rodgers, clinic

upgrades like painting and cleaning, back office training, and more!

Thank you to those who gave their time to ensure the clinic was ready for future volunteers.

- A team of clinical volunteers marked our official return during their visit in April 2022. The three-day visit resulted in 165 patients receiving \$172,276 in donated dentistry.
- We hired a new Lead Dental Assistant, Brenda. Brenda was a dental assistant student highlighted in our Q3 2021 newsletter.
- In partnership with the University of San Carlos Dental School, we are hosting dental student Majo and dental assistant student Eduardo. They will serve at the clinic throughout 2022 and are set to graduate from school fall 2022.

***None of this could be done without office manager, Hilda! She has worked hard to create an outreach program where the team is visiting schools in the community to provide oral health education.***

Once students have gone through their education program, they visit the clinic for fluoride varnish. The team is excited to be out in their communities where they are working to improve oral health care. Moreover, Hilda has started taking English classes in Guatemala. We are very excited for what's to come.

If interested in learning more about the dates of these trips or how to attend, please email Carli Kingsley at [Kingsleyc@pacden.com](mailto:Kingsleyc@pacden.com).

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