



It's an exciting time at the PDS® Foundation and I am honored and humbled to serve as the new Executive Director. I have seen firsthand the amazing work the PDS Foundation has done to provide patients with the dentistry they need in Guatemala and Fiji, as well as provide instruction and leadership partnering with Mekelle University Dental School in Ethiopia. I have worked side-by-side with so many of you on the Mobile Dental Clinic, providing the patients much-needed relief with their dental issues. I've had the privilege to see the impact on future dental assistant students' lives through the Carolyn Ghazal Dental Assistant Scholarship and I now have the incredible opportunity to work on opening the first-ever PDS Foundation Dentists for Special Needs clinic.

Our mission will stay the same as we continue to create opportunities to serve through improving oral health care locally, nationally, and internationally. We look forward to partnrng with you throughout the coming weeks, months, and years to make a huge impact on the world around us.

Thank you for your continued support. We could not do what we do without you!

Kyle Guerin
Executive Director, PDS Foundation

If you would like to help support our initiatives please donate to the PDS Foundation.

[Donate Now »](#)



Special Needs Advocacy & Training

New Clinic in Phoenix

We are excited to announce that the PDS Foundation Dentists for Special Needs clinic is due to open in March 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona. This 2,400 sq. ft. clinic will consist of five operatories with state-of-the-art equipment and team members to provide excellent patient care. It will also be fully sensory integrated to ensure a successful dental visit for special needs patients.

According to the Arizona Department of Economic Security and Development Disabilities (DDD), the need for oral healthcare to those with disabilities is growing in the Phoenix area, as only 2.7% of individuals with intellectual disabilities are able to find a dentist to provide care to them. The DDD provides services to over 35,000 people in Arizona. However, there are 110,000 Arizonians who are considered special needs, but do not qualify for the services from the DDD. The necessity for a special needs clinic has also dramatically increased with the closure of the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health's resident clinic in the west valley of Phoenix. Our goal is to advocate and educate for the special needs population and we can't wait to see the positive impact this clinic will have on the community.

We are happy to announce that our first special needs clinic will be led by PDS Foundation Board Member, Dr. Jack Dillenberg, who will serve as Clinical Director. His experience and expertise in dentistry will prove to be a driving factor in the success of this clinic. "I am thrilled and truly honored to be the Clinical Director of the PDS Foundation Dentists for Special Needs clinic," said Dr. Dillenberg.

Learn more about our Special Needs Advocacy & Training Program or see future training dates.

[Learn more »](#)



Mobile Dental Clinic

Smile Generation® Serve Day - MDC Oregon

The PDS Foundation was overjoyed to be a part of Smile Generation Serve Day, an annual day about coming together to serve our communities. On Saturday August 18th the Mobile Dental Clinic partnered with Project Homeless Connect in Tigard, Oregon. Our 33 volunteers served 24 patients donating \$11,859 in dentistry.

On this day of service, there were many great patient stories, including that of Wayne, a homeless veteran who frequently volunteers at different charities so that he has a place to sleep, shower and eat. Wayne was the first to arrive as he was eager to improve his oral health. He even started helping set up and shared his story with all of our volunteers.

But, that's not all! Although this was the mobile dental clinic's first time participating in Smile Generation Serve Day, we were able to extend the event into a second weekend, during which we partnered with the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. We exceeded our efforts and donated \$51,620 in dentistry. With the help of 65 volunteers, we were able to serve 73 patients. Our

volunteers were also able to help with food prep and prepared two days' worth of meals for the rescue mission.

More inspiring stories stemmed from this second weekend, including that of Jan. She had two fillings, one of them on her front tooth. 10 years ago it started chipping and staining, and due to financial hardship Jan could not afford to get it fixed. She doesn't have any pictures of herself smiling because she was embarrassed to show her teeth. Once her tooth was repaired, she began crying and couldn't stop thanking her Smile Generation-trusted clinician for renewing her smile.

Check out more pictures from this event on our [Instagram](#).

Learn more about our Mobile Dental Clinic Program or see future event dates.

[Learn more »](#)



Dr. Ghazal Dental Assisting Scholarships

Brenda Naranjo-Cruz

We have given out 22 scholarships in total since 2016, awarding over \$280,000 in dental assistant scholarships. That means at least 22 lives have been changed by the PDS Foundation. This scholarship not only provides students with financial assistance, but also a renewed sense of hope for the future.

Our most recent recipient, Brenda Naranjo-Cruz, a student at Concorde Career College in Portland, Oregon, shared her big plans for the future. “This scholarship has allowed me the opportunity and motivation to fulfill my dreams. Dental assisting is just the start for me; I love learning and helping others and I eventually want to become a dental hygienist and maybe even a dentist,” said Cruz.

This opportunity will allow Brenda to help others, while expanding her knowledge of oral health. Always goal-driven, Cruz says, “This scholarship means actually reaching my goal to help people achieve a beautiful smile.” The Dr. Carolyn Ghazal Dental Assistant Scholarship gives students like Brenda an education free of financial stress, as well as an opportunity to learn from a mentor who has walked in their shoes.

We are excited to support Brenda as she embarks on her journey to becoming a dental assistant.

Learn more about our Dr. Ghazal Dental Assisting Scholarship Program.

[Learn more »](#)



International Service Trip

Ethiopia International Trip and Guatemala Clinic

Through the Foundation's partnership with Smile Generation-trusted clinicians on the recent trip to Ethiopia, we were able to treat and improve the lives of 655 people, serving 147 patients on day one!

We've seen the real impact that this initiative has had, as the skill levels of the Mekelle University dental students have grown significantly since our first trip to Ethiopia in 2011. It starts with the leadership of Dr. Melese Tabor, who has recently been promoted to the Dean of the Dental School. Through the years, we have partnered with Dr. Tabor in providing both leadership and expertise. Thank you to our valued partner, Henry Schein, which has provided us with much-needed dental supplies.

"It's been an honor to see individuals who were students when we began this initiative become talented clinicians in leadership roles at the university. The shoulder-to-shoulder teaching and training has gone a long way," said Dr. Walter Jefferson from Sierra Lakes Dental Group in

Fontana, CA.

This was Dr. Jefferson's fourth time serving in Ethiopia with the PDS Foundation. The idea of service has now been integrated into Mekelle University's way of doing things as they performed a free day of dentistry in March as part of World Oral Health Day. Our September mission trip was once again validation that we are making an impact to our friends in Ethiopia.

We have also seen great strides in Guatemala. The PDS Foundation's clinic was host to 21 dental students from the University of the Pacific, as they took the opportunity to practice dentistry abroad with the support of three faculty members. The students traveled to Guatemala October 1st through the 5th and were able to create an impact for a number of individuals.

Learn more about our International Service Trips or see future trips.

[Learn more »](#)

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