A letter to our community

Dear Friends,

Our nation’s health care now focuses on the broader health of populations, and that makes our work more important than ever. The Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation provides the greatest impact when it partners with community organizations, and we are grateful for the relationships that help us understand the needs of our communities.

In 2017, foundation grant recipients provided dental care and education to more than 107,764 Virginians. Since inception, foundation grants have provided 63 different organizations a total of 190 grants across Virginia in the past six years. These grants are designed to improve oral health research, advance education and provide access to care for thousands of adults and children. I am proud to report that since the foundation began, we have provided more than $4.2 million to these organizations.

The most compelling proof of what we are doing in helping others is not in numbers but in the lives we have changed. I am always humbled by the stories of compassion, courage and hope that our grant recipients share. As you read this report, I’m confident you will be, too.

Thank you, and never underestimate the power of a healthy smile.

Frank Lucia
President and CEO, Delta Dental of Virginia

OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE ORAL HEALTH OF ALL VIRGINIANS THROUGH FUNDING FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE ACCESS TO CARE FOR THE UNDERSERVED.
What We Do

The Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation provides grants to Virginia not-for-profit organizations working to improve oral health. Funding allows these organizations to focus on education and access to care for the underserved in their communities. Eligible organizations include governmental agencies, educational institutions and/or entities holding a 501(c)(3) tax-exemption or who have a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt fiscal sponsor. For eligibility rules or to apply, visit DeltaDentalVA.com.

Or look for us on:

Facebook: facebook.com/DeltaDentalVA/
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/delta-dental-of-virginia
Twitter: @DeltaDentalofVA
YouTube: youtube.com/DeltaDentalVA
Pinterest: pinterest.com/deltadentalva/
Blog: DeltaDentalVABlog.com

"IT’S JUST GOOD TO FEEL LIKE WE ARE TRULY MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES."

— Janet McIntosh, Dental Hygienist, Craig County Dental Center
Education and Outreach

The Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation Smart Smiles® At the Dentist and Smart Smiles® In School programs provide dental care and oral health education for children. For more information about these programs, visit DeltaDentalVA.com.

Smart Smiles At the Dentist partners with organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs, to provide oral health care and education to children who lack dental insurance or who qualify for Medicaid or Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS). The program coordinator schedules dental appointments, provides transportation, stays with the children in the waiting area, coordinates follow-up care and keeps parents and caregivers informed of their children’s oral health.

Smart Smiles In School teaching kit was developed with input from teachers and school nurses. The kit provides a complete curriculum with teaching tools and resources to educate students on good oral health habits. The kits are available on loan for free to all Virginia elementary schools.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia

64 children served

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula

311 children served
“THE SMART SMILES® AT THE DENTIST PROGRAM IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT’S THE ONLY WAY SOME OF OUR KIDS SEE A DENTIST.”

— Michelle Dykstra, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia

Smart Smiles® in School Report Card*

177 DENTAL KITS LOANED
29,376 STUDENTS TAUGHT
57 SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING
18,232 TOOTHBUSHES AND TUBES OF TOOTHPASTE DONATED

Community Outreach
The Foundation also donated 1,200 toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss to a school nurse from Campbell County to take to Guatemala on a mission trip.

*August 2017–May 2018
2017 Grant Recipient Achievements

55,813
CHILDREN AND ADULTS RECEIVED DENTAL TREATMENT

49,625
CHILDREN RECEIVED ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION

2,326
CHILDREN AND ADULTS RECEIVED PREVENTIVE DENTAL CARE

A Salute to Virginia’s Dental Warriors
The Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation salutes the hard-working professionals and volunteers who help our most vulnerable citizens in Virginia’s free and community clinics. It’s an honor to support their efforts.

“THANKS TO DELTA DENTAL, I GOT MY SMILE BACK.”
— Carl Carter, Roanoke Rescue Mission
Success by the Numbers

Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) helps bring dental safety net clinics to localities that do not have one, elevates operations and business practices of existing dental safety net clinics, and reduces costs for dental supplies and equipment.

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Dentistry and Health Focus of Southwest Virginia have created scholarships to address the shortage of dental professionals. Forty-seven dental students have benefited from the scholarships so far.

Virginia Tech Carilion (VTC) School of Medicine developed the Delta Dental oral health curriculum. 504 medical students have participated to date. VTC School of Medicine was one of the first in the nation to provide an extensive oral health component for its students through its partnership with the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation.

29,155 LIVES DIRECTLY AFFECTED
47 SCHOLARSHIPS
504 MEDICAL STUDENTS

“I LIKE WORKING WITH DELTA DENTAL BECAUSE OF THEIR CHARITABLE GIVING, BECAUSE THAT’S SOMETHING I TRY TO DO TOO.”
— Dr. Jack Allara, DDS
Prince William Area Free Clinic

Susan came to the clinic with a swollen cheek. She was unable to eat anything but soft foods. She knew she needed urgent dental attention, but there was no way she could afford to see a dentist. Susan was put on the waiting list and given an antibiotic to treat the infection. She was thankful for the relief the antibiotic provided when it healed her infection, but worried the infection would return before she got an appointment. “If it weren’t for the pain I would not be as anxious because, honestly, if you’ve never had a toothache you don’t know what real pain is,” she said.

Susan was thankful when her name came to the top of the waiting list, because her tooth was on the verge of another infection. One of the clinic’s local volunteer dentists took care of the tooth that was causing her so much pain.

“The free clinic has been a smile-saver for me. Sometimes there is a waiting list, but the doctors at the clinic help control infections and manage your pain until an appointment is available. I don’t know what I would do without the dental services the free clinic offers. One thing is, I would not be smiling nearly as much as I do now.” Susan said.

“Many of our adult patients admit that as children, their families did not have the financial resources to see a dentist regularly. As a result, they experience dental issues as adults. Grants from Delta Dental help us keep these patients out of pain and on their way to treatment.” — Caitlin Denney, Executive Director

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula

Shawn is a seven-year-old boy. His mother doesn’t have dental insurance and has struggled with getting him dental care. He came to our program with six cavities, two teeth that needed to be extracted and he required space maintainers. Due to the nature of his decay and his age, an oral surgeon was required for the extractions.

Without Smart Smiles® At the Dentist, Shawn’s mother would not have been able to afford the dental work provided by the clinic. Without this care, not only would Shawn still be in pain, but he would be at high risk for complications caused by the decay, such as losing his teeth.

“Many kids like Shawn depend on the Smart Smiles program, and we are proud that we can be a part of keeping their mouths healthy. Thanks to Delta Dental of Virginia, we can treat hundreds of kids every year.” — Stephanie A. Wilder, Director of Government and Foundation Funding

Megan came to the dental clinic with severe dental issues. She was not able to get dental care as a child and has had problems with her teeth throughout her adult life. “We gave her an exam and sat down to talk to her about the treatment. When we advised her that her front teeth would need to be extracted, she started to cry.” said Kimberly Meredith, Dental Care Coordinator. “It was breaking our hearts to tell this young woman she would lose her front teeth. She didn’t want to be without her smile. But when we told her how serious the infection was and that it could affect her health, she was terrified and agreed to the procedure.”

The clinic found a lab that agreed to make her partial denture for a very small fee. Through the grant from Delta Dental, they were able to provide hygiene, restorations, extractions and a partial to this young lady.

“After having her teeth removed, Megan was shy and did not want to smile — until the day she received her partial denture. We handled her a mirror and she started to cry — but this time it was tears of joy. Before leaving she said that she didn’t want to be without her smile. We are proud that we can be a part of keeping their mouths healthy.” — Stephanie A. Wilder, Director of Government and Foundation Funding

Lloyd F. Moss Free Clinic

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Continued on next page
to leave her house to go to work before today. But tomorrow she was going to work with a smile on her face. We have seen her several times since that day for check-ups and cleanings. Every time she walks into the clinic she has a smile on her face.” — Kimberly Meredith, Dental Care Coordinator

Craig County Dental Center

The grant from Delta Dental allows the dental center to provide care to underprivileged children in Craig County. Once a week, the dental team visits the school to provide children with a positive dental experience through cleanings, X-rays, fluoride treatments and exams. If they require further treatment, then restorative work is scheduled.

The grant also allows the dental center to keep the school program running with new and updated equipment. This year a portable X-ray gun was purchased to replace an X-ray gun that was held together with duct tape. In the past, Delta Dental also provided toothbrushes for the entire elementary school during dental health week. The children were so excited.

But one young man really made an impact on the team. The school nurse brought an 18-year-old senior to the clinic. He stated that his teeth hurt. He was very shy and embarrassed. After a quick exam, it was determined this young man was in need of immediate attention. He had severe decay. Every tooth had a cavity. He was referred to the clinic for the necessary treatment. He had to have six upper front teeth extracted and a partial denture was made.

“The next time I ran into him at school I asked how he was doing and he smiled at me. To see a smile from this boy touched me to the point of tears. He still has a lot more work to be completed, but there was a change in him. He was no longer embarrassed by his appearance and seemed proud of his teeth. It is for those kids that we continue our mission.” — Janet Mcintosh, Dental Hygienist

Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center

During one of the free health and dental screenings offered by Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center, a dentist found a large growth on the tongue of Rachel, a 34-year-old woman. She was referred to the dental center’s volunteer oral surgeon and a biopsy was taken. She was diagnosed with a squamous cell carcinoma — a serious cancer of the mouth.

Rachel was sent to the medical clinic and referred to an ear, nose and throat surgical oncologist. The tumor was removed and, because it was caught early, it had not spread.

“Although Rachel lost nearly one third of her tongue, it completely healed and she has no problem with her speech. On follow-up exams, she and her husband, with tears in their eyes, praised the expert and timely care they received and continue to receive at Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center.” — Jenis MacQueston, Director of Development

Christian Free Clinic in Botetourt

Lisa, a new patient, came to the clinic barely able to walk. She needed clearance for knee and hip replacement surgery due to many chronic health problems. But the state of Lisa’s oral health was preventing her from having the surgery she needed. Her teeth had deteriorated beyond repair and the surgeon could not perform the surgery until her teeth were extracted. Delta Dental made it possible to perform procedures for Lisa and many other patients. Not only did her oral health improve, but she regained her ability to walk.

As a non-profit, the free clinic operates on a limited budget. Funding from Delta Dental replaced a broken suction pump with a brand new unit. It is vital that the volunteer dentists have the necessary equipment to perform much-needed dental procedures for patients.

“We often see immediate improvement after a dental procedure, but the long-term impact may be more difficult to spot. The return on investment we receive from Delta Dental will continue. Thank you for giving our patients the opportunity to smile again.” — Jenny Daniels, Executive Director
Virginia Dental Association Foundation

Last year, an elderly woman arrived in a wheelchair for dental care at the Mission of Mercy (MOM) clinic in Wise County. This was the third year she had traveled to the clinic with the hope of obtaining dentures, having lost all her teeth. While they are often able to provide more than 100 complete dentures at the 2½-day clinic, a lack of time and resources still leave so many in need.

Peggy was determined to try again and made the bus trip alone on a hot, summer day. She wheeled herself over to the dental triage area with hopes of getting dentures, although she was not on the list. She explained that her health had suffered from her inability to eat.

The denture team created her dentures that weekend, enabling her to eat solid food again. She can now begin building the physical strength to match the fierce determination of spirit that brought her to the Mission of Mercy for help.

— Tara C. Quinn, Executive Director

Prince William Area Free Clinic

Hector is a long-time patient of the Prince William Area Free Clinic. The doctors at the clinic manage his diabetes, hypertension and cholesterol.

When he developed an infection surrounding one of his back molars, he was not aware he could receive dental care through the clinic.

As a diabetic, Hector knows it is important to try to keep from getting infections. He had looked into going to a dentist on his own, but could not afford it, so he suffered with this tooth for almost a year. Finally, he mentioned the pain to his doctor at the free clinic. The doctor immediately put Hector on the dental waiting list and gave him antibiotics to take care of the infection. Hector said, “The pain sometimes keeps me from eating or sleeping,” but the expression on his face changed when he was handed the referral and told to call the dentist for an appointment. With a sigh of relief and a referral in-hand, Hector said, “thank you so much,” and left with a smile.

— Caitlin Denney, Executive Director

Virginia Oral Health Coalition

Oral health care is important for expecting mothers, but many pregnant women covered by Medicaid and FAMIS MOMS aren’t using the dental benefit available. With periodontal disease linked to an increased risk of pre-term or low birth-weight babies, the Virginia Oral Health Coalition set out to share resources that educate pregnant women and their doctors on the importance of dental care during pregnancy.

Funding from the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation helped the Virginia Oral Health Coalition promote its online resources, including educational videos for obstetric and dental providers and a page dedicated to providing current information and facts about the Medicaid pregnancy dental benefit. The Coalition also leveraged funding to share health and dental benefit information with obstetric, rural health, dental and primary care providers at community events across Virginia.

— Samantha Dorr, Operations Director
Northern Neck–Middlesex Free Health Clinic

Jake’s teeth were so decayed he could barely chew. He lived mostly on yogurt and cottage cheese, until his daughter told him about the dental clinic at the Northern Neck–Middlesex Free Health Clinic.

When he first visited the clinic, Jake, 71, expected all his teeth would be pulled, but the Virginia Commonwealth University students and staff dentist filled his cavities instead, addressed the decay and provided restorative dental work over the next few months.

“It’s really nice they could save my teeth,” he said. “I am pleased with the competence of the students who treated me. And now, my diet is so much better because I can chew. The clinic really helped me. I am so grateful.”

Jake paid $25 for each of his eight visits and received $3,881 worth of services, including one extraction and a host of fillings and restorative procedures. — John Wilson, Administration

Western Tidewater Free Clinic

Due to a learning disability, Diane was unable to manage what many might consider simple, daily tasks. She didn’t have insurance and had not had access to medical or dental care for years. Diane was not one to complain, but her chronic tooth pain became so unbearable that she finally told her son. He found a dentist to pull Diane’s tooth, but it was too expensive to schedule the additional dental work she desperately needed. Her pain persisted and her health deteriorated.

Then Diane’s sister read an article about Western Tidewater Free Clinic (WTFC) dental services and made the call to enroll her as a patient. Diane’s sister says, “getting Diane into the clinic saved her life.”

Everyone needs a lifesaver once in a while. Diane’s sister, the WTFC medical and dental team, and other safety net agencies helped rescue Diane. “Thank you for your gift, it is an investment in Diane and thousands of other patients who need your help.” — Robert S. Fry, Chair, Board of Directors

2018 Recipients

Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation grant recipients help improve oral health across Virginia. Some are purchasing much-needed dental supplies and equipment, while others are improving access to care by offering expanded dental services.

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