

Delta Dental Foundation

An affiliate of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana

On the Road to Oral Health Equity



A Year in Review

Helping people achieve their full potential through optimal oral and overall health has always been at the heart of the work done by the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF).

The philanthropic power to effect change is what drives our work. We partner with, and are inspired by, our amazing grantees who are working every day to provide dental services, and oral health education and programming to reach children and adults in new and exciting ways.

This report captures a portion of the projects and partnerships the DDF funded in 2019. It was a pivotal year for us as we tightened our focus on finding innovative ways to decrease barriers to oral health access. We deepened our connections and our work with populations who face challenges to accessing dental care, and laid the plans for our work in the coming years.

As you will see in the following pages, the success of our work comes from the passion of our partners. We look forward to sharing this overview of 2019 with you and all that we achieved **together**.

Holli Seabury, Executive Director, Delta Dental Foundation

James P. Hallan, Chairperson, Board of Trustees



Honor Community Health's Healthy Smiles mobile dental coach hit the road in 2019. The coach will provide care to patients at homeless shelters, community organizations and schools across Oakland County in Michigan.

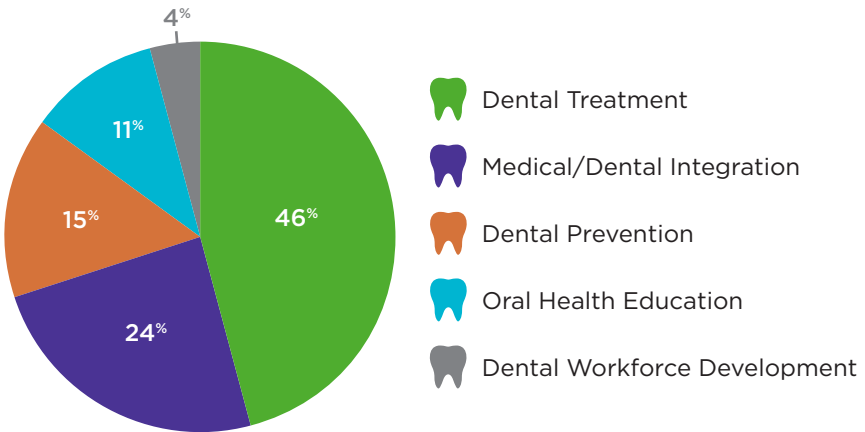
Our Mission

To develop and enhance partnerships and programs to improve health equity in oral and overall health.



In 2019, the DDF awarded more than **\$5 million** in grants and scholarships to increase access to care for at-risk and underserved populations, develop and distribute oral health educational materials, and to support dental students and professionals.

Areas of focus:



Increasing Access to Care for Vulnerable Populations

More than 600,000 underserved and underinsured individuals received direct care as a result of DDF grants.

Veterans

Veteran Gary Nelson's story is all too common. He enjoyed good oral health his entire life until six years of cancer treatments destroyed his teeth. The cancer treatments also made it impossible for Gary to work, and he became homeless, with chronic pain in the few teeth he had left.

Without the ability to chew healthy foods, Gary couldn't keep his blood sugar under control, and he lost his leg to complications of diabetes.

Luckily, Gary found the Victors for Veterans dental clinic in Traverse City, Michigan, and was able to receive dentures.



Funded by the Delta Dental Foundation, the Victors for Veterans dental clinic helps veterans who have no dental benefits. The clinic operates out of Northwest Michigan Health Services, a federally qualified health center in Traverse City.

The University of Michigan School of Dentistry faculty and dental students provide the dental services, reaching more than 150 veterans in 2018. The clinic helps to fill a critical need for the thousands of veterans in Michigan who have no dental benefits.

For Gary, he is thrilled to be eating healthy foods again.

"You can't believe how good a salad tastes when you haven't been able to eat one for years," he says.

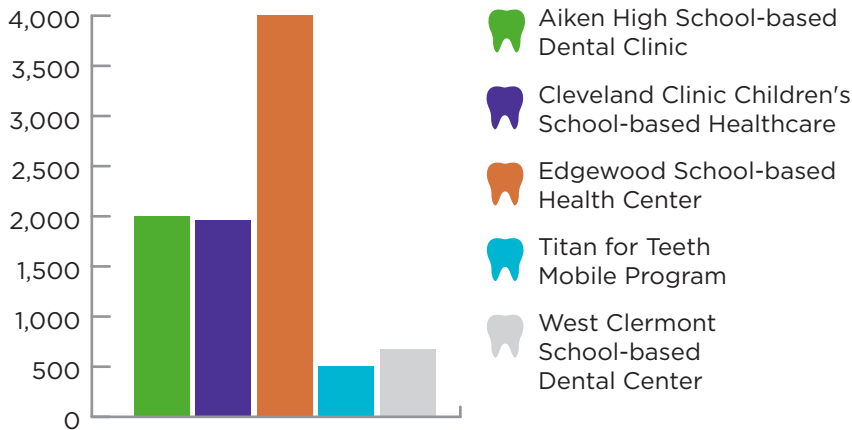
Gary is now able to manage his diabetes with a well-balanced diet, and his new smile tells anyone all they need to know about how he feels about Victors for Veterans.

Expectant Mothers

Through a partnership with the University of Detroit Mercy and the Michigan Primary Care Association, the Michigan Initiative of Mother and Infant Oral Health (MIMIOH) project integrates medical and dental services by embedding a dental hygienist in Ob/Gyn clinics at federally qualified health centers. The dental hygienists work along with the medical staff to provide oral health education, assessment, preventive care and referral to the dental clinic in the same building for follow up care, thus establishing a dental home for pregnant women and their baby post-partum.

School-age Children

School-based dental programs offer much needed access to dental services for students and who are uninsured, underinsured and/or have limited access to transportation.



Total Students Served: 9,128

Seniors

The DDF partnered with PA 161 dental hygienists from Smiles on Wheels to provide seniors at congregate meal sites across Michigan with a nutritious lunch, dental screenings and oral health education.

Number of sites: 13

Seniors educated: 470

Seniors screened: 200

Lunches served: 405



Seniors were treated to a free dental screening and lunch during a Serving Smiles to Seniors event at Arbor North Living Center in Jackson, Michigan.

Supporting the Dental Profession

Each year, the Delta Dental Foundation provides dental and dental hygiene student scholarships and supports continuing education opportunities for dental professionals.



Dental professional
CE credit seminars: **8**



Number of
attendees: **2,000**



Dental student
leadership awards
and scholarship: **45**



Dental hygiene
student
scholarship: **17**



Community
Commitment
Awards: **5**

Community Commitment Award

Dr. Nicole Christy, University of Detroit Mercy's 2019 Delta Dental Foundation Community Commitment Award recipient, has always known that being a dentist was the right path for her.

That's why she chose to go back to her hometown of Iron Mountain, Michigan, to practice in a health professional shortage area (HPSA). It is not uncommon for people to drive four to five hours to come visit the Dr. John Fornetti Dental Clinic. The clinic works with patients to provide them with care regardless of income.

"Treating patients in the office has taught me about patient care and how to be passionate. The Community Commitment Award has helped to ease some of the financial burden so I can focus on giving back to others and help my patients become healthy, confident and love their smile," Dr. Christy said.

The \$25,000 award is given to one graduating dental student at each of the five dental schools located in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana who commits to practicing in a HPSA for at least one year after graduation.



Dr. Nicole Christy

Providing Oral Health Education

The DDF provides educational materials and programs designed to teach children and adults about the importance of oral and overall health, nutrition and careers in the dental profession.

Girl Scout Smile Squad Patch Program

Girl Scouts of all levels use their creativity and scouting skills to learn how their mouth links to overall health and well-being.

	Total	Daisies	Brownies	Juniors	Cadettes	Seniors/ Ambassadors
Patches Earned	8,397	2,818	3,036	1,947	481	115
Educational resources distributed	9,015	3,094	3,284	2,057	485	95

In October 2019, the DDF relaunched the Girl Scout Smile Squad Patch Program. The relaunch was marked by an event at Neighborhood Health in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A local Girl Scout troop visited the dental clinic where a dental assistant, dental hygienist and dentist spoke with the young ladies about careers in oral health. The girls toured the clinic and practiced real life dental cleaning on a mouth model to earn their Smiles Squad patches (pictured right).



Field Trips Grants

Field trip grants were offered to schools with high rates of students who qualified for free/reduced lunch to experience the hands-on oral health exhibits at Impression 5 Science Center, Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum and Cincinnati Children’s Museum.

\$50,000 in field trip grants

7,410 student and teacher admissions

Rethink Your Drink: Water's Cool at School

Providing access to drinking water throughout the school day gives students a healthy alternative to sugary drinks like soda pop and sports/juice drinks. Drinking plenty of water can help combat obesity, increase energy levels and may improve students' cognitive functions. Further, fluoridated drinking water also plays an important role in preventing cavities.

In 2019, the DDF expanded the program by providing new filtration/bottle filling stations to 21 schools in Indiana and 36 additional schools in Michigan through its partnership with the Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA). In addition, \$300,000 was awarded to the Detroit Public Schools Community District to replace old drinking fountains with new filtration/bottle filling stations districtwide.

Since the program's inception, the DDF has installed new filling stations at more than **300** schools in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.



Students at Adams Elementary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, show off their new refillable water bottles.

Brush! Oral Health Curriculum

WIC Training

In its third year of the Michigan WIC project, 29 rural clinics received oral health training and Brush materials from McMillen Health along with children's toothbrushes and other incentives. Partner agency Altarum conducted evaluations, which showed 2,777 oral health education sessions were provided to parents resulting in 1,297 dental referrals. After program implementation, **40 percent** of the 1 year-olds in WIC had a visit to the dentist compared to 11 percent of 1 year-olds in the control group. Nearly 100,000 women and children in Michigan are receiving Brush oral health education sessions through their WIC clinic.



Great Start/Head Start Training

McMillen Health provided Great Start and Head Start staff with professional development training and Brush oral health curriculum for use in their classrooms.

Children educated: 14,552

Staff trained: 510

Sites: 13



5,000 Oral Health Books Distributed



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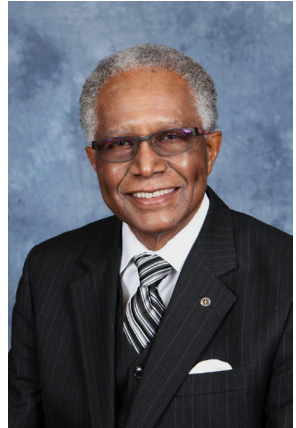
Carole Watkins

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I enjoy serving with members and staff who are tremendously proactive and dedicated to improving the health and welfare of impoverished communities.

~ Dr. Raymond Gist

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It's such an honor to serve on the DDF board where we're focused on making a positive impact. By working together, our efforts are even more impactful in the communities we serve!

~ Kelly Scheiderer

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Looking Ahead

Our annual report is compiled months after the year-end, allowing for a comprehensive look back on the activities and accomplishments of the year. During the first few months of 2020, our entire world changed with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we were writing this report, many of the plans and projects we had so carefully developed and put in place in 2019, and thought we would see to completion in 2020, were put on hold. Instead, we focused on helping our communities deal with the pandemic.

In the first part of 2020, the DDF invested **more than \$600,000** in COVID-19 emergency relief to assist dental clinics, dental schools, hospitals, and to provide emergency food assistance. We are thankful the DDF was in a position to quickly change our carefully laid plans to provide this critical assistance.

As the nation develops a new normal, the DDF is also revisiting our plan. We continue to have a strong commitment to those with barriers to care and a firm focus on those with intellectual disabilities. Our purpose of increasing optimal oral and overall health remains the same, but the methods we are using have changed dramatically. Stay tuned!

Holli Seabury, Executive Director, Delta Dental Foundation

Kim Garland, Manager, Delta Dental Foundation



The grand opening of the new dental clinic at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) was celebrated with a floss cutting ceremony.

Pictured from L to R: Kimberly Garland, DDF Manager, Kenneth Chance, DDS, Dean of CWRU School of Dental Medicine, Holli Seabury, EdD, DDF Executive Director, and Paul Wolansky, Assistance Dean, Development & Alumni Relations, CWRU.



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