



San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic 2012-2013 Annual Report



San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic • 2 2012-2013

The Year in Charitable Care	3
Stories from the Clinic	5
Improvements in Patient Care	12
Clinic Support	14
Volunteers	18
Board of Directors	20





### **RDA Training Program**

This year, SACDC was honored to receive funds from the Greehey Family Foundation to help us complete two cycles of our RDA (Registered Dental Assistant) training program aiming for 18 graduates in two cycles.

Our first cycle ended in September when, on the first try, all of our students achieved 100% pass rate on their state certification exams.

Our second cohort will be completed by February of 2014. This cohort includes 4 members of Haven for Hope and SAMMinistries communities.

The four stories highlighted in this section represent the breadth, diversity, and impact of care provided by the San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic. These achievements are by no means exhaustive, yet underscore some of our proudest accomplishments from this past year.

While each year presents its own unique challenges, given the financial shortfall we faced in 2013, we are particularly pleased with these accomplishments and thankful for our dedicated staff and volunteers who had a hand in making them all possible. We could never do this without you.



#### Waitlist Reductions

One of our proudest accomplishments from 2013 was the complete elimination of a 3-month wait list for appointments and a 73% reduction in wait time for prosthetics.

Thanks to an improvement in eligibility determination, we now qualify patients more quickly, assure they return more frequently, and most importantly, expedite appointments so that our clients spend less time in pain.

### **Electronic Records**

One of the biggest shifts in clinic operations this year came from our transition to electronic medical records. This system relieves storage space and assures secured patient data.

This system is much more conducive to helping us manage the over 50,000 procedures we perform each year and it helps us better track the progress of our patients.

#### **UTHSC Dental Hygienists**

While SACDC has proudly hosted the dental students and residents from the University of Texas Health Science Center Dental School we were excited this year to also introduce a hygienist rotation as well.

The 2013 rotation has enabled us to begin meeting the preventive needs of our patients in conjunction with issues of urgent care.





# **Monica's Story**

This summer, we received a call from a corporate dental chain employee who asked if we would see a patient who needed twelve extractions. She told us Monica's insurance only covered three extractions and that corporate supervisors would not provide any additional care without compensation.

Normally, a patient with insurance would not qualify at SACDC, yet Monica was in such pain that she was unable to eat. The resulting malnutrition prevented her from reaching the healthy weight level she needed in order to proceed with treatment for multiple sclerosis. An executive decision was made and Monica was treated immediately.

Our staff juggled to squeeze in an appointment. Our dentist came in on an "off" day just to see Monica. Our volunteers processed her paperwork even as she was in triage. Thanks to the commitment and dedication of our volunteers and dental assistants, we were quickly able to respond to Monica with the care she needed.

In June, Monica sent us a lovely thank you note, joined our prayer circle, and blessed us all. She then made a personal donation that we are certain was excessive for her situation. Monica told us that the gift was the result of a calling from Christ.



"I am writing this letter of appreciation to all the staff of the Christian Dental Clinic. I want to let all of you know that you're making a difference in the very good job. As a former homeless citizen in the city of San Antonio Texas, I find myself so grateful today because I have my smile back and thanks to you all my self-esteem just returned to me. I want to acknowledge the people who went out of their way to help."

Thank you, Sergio G God bless you all





"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

-Albert Schweitzer



Over the past year, major progress emerged from a shift in the way we delivered care. In prior years, emphasis was placed on the numbers of patients who came through the clinic as opposed to the volume of performed procedures. However, we knew a significant level of non-compliance for patient visits existed, especially when it came to treatment plans requiring multiple visits.

Since our patients include many wage-earners, day-laborers, and transient people, we also knew that they have tough choices to make: "Do I bring home income and tolerate the pain? Or does it hurt too much to wait?" Pain levels were a big factor in this decision. To reduce the hardship of this choice, our dental team decided to extend treatment time to help dentists complete treatment plans over the course of fewer visits.

As a result, the number of patient visits over the past year decreased slightly, yet the number of procedures performed rose by 11%. This increased care means that our patients who are less likely to return for subsequent visits still receive the treatments they need without having to weigh their pain against their time at work.

Additionally, this new approach to care opens up more chairs for future growth, better reflects the actual value of care our agency strives to provide, and ensures our goals to restore dentition, relieve pain, prevent infections, and help our patients maintain good oral health.

# **Partners in Care**

as of September 30, 2013

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Dixie Starnes Wenger Charitable Trust

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Littlestar Foundation

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The Trull Foundation

Valero Energy Foundation

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## \$50,000 and over

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First Presbyterian Church

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Houston Harte Charitable Trust

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WellMed Charitable Foundation

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TDA Smiles Foundation

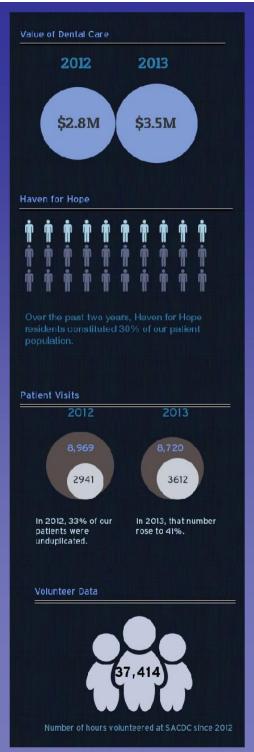
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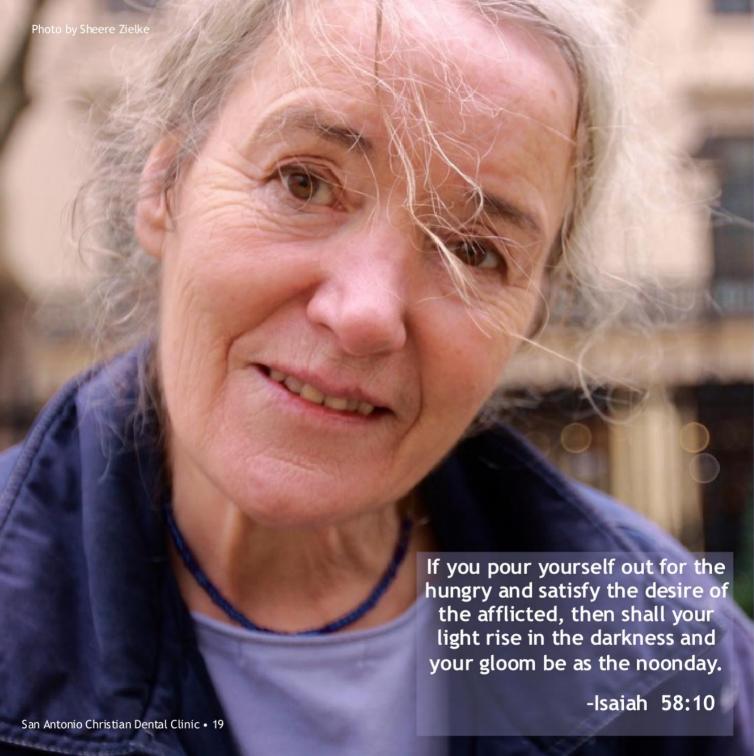
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