

2021 Annual Report

Building a Foundation



DELTA DENTAL
FOUNDATION

A white graphic element consisting of a curved line that starts under the word 'FOUNDATION' and curves upwards and to the right, ending under the word 'DELTA'.

A Year in Review

Friends,

For so many people, the tragic—and often preventable—effects of the pandemic are omnipresent.

While we couldn't spend quite as much time in our communities and with our grantees as we wanted, we did have time to put long-held plans into action. You might even say that we laid a "foundation" for years of work yet to come.

Part of establishing that base was reworking our digital presence.

The Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) has a new home on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#), along with a brand-new website at www.deltadental.foundation, making it easier for current and future grantees to find funding opportunities, resources, publications and news. We've also been using that new platform to highlight the stories the mainstream media neglects to cover, including thought leadership in oral health.

This report is a snapshot of the ways in which we, and our grantees, are driving oral health equity across multiple sectors—and a preview of what's in store.

We have more opportunities than ever to tip the scales in favor of better oral care for all.



Holli Seabury, EdD
Executive Director
Delta Dental Foundation



John Breza, DDS
Chair, Delta Dental
Foundation Board

Our Purpose

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

Our Team

Board of Directors

John Breza, DDS—Chair

Kelly J. Scheiderer, RHIA, MHA—Vice Chair

Tasha Blackmon—Board Member

Lawrence Crawford, DDS—Board Member

Stephen Eklund, DDS, MHSA, DrPH—Board Member

Ann M. Flermoen, DDS—Board Member

Raymond Gist, DDS—Board Member

James Hallan—Board Member

Joseph Harris, DDS—Board Member

Goran Jurkovic, CPA, CGMA—Board Member

Elaine Loyack—Board Member

Bruce Smith—Board Member

Faiyaz Syed, MD, MPH—Board Member

Carole Watkins—Board Member

Staff

Holli Seabury, EdD, Executive Director

Kimberly Garland, Manager

Jen Anderson, Senior Communications Officer

Megan Schreier, Program Officer

Emily Waldschmidt, Program Coordinator

ORAL HEALTH BY THE NUMBERS

In 2021, we invested **\$4.1 million** in grants, scholarships, sponsorships and educational resources, impacting more than **4.3 million** lives.



Areas of Funding

Dental Treatment: 28%

Oral Health Education: 26%

Medical-Dental
Integration: 13%

COVID-19 Relief: 10.5%

Workforce Development
and Education: 9%

Sealants: 5%

Community Water
Fluoridation: 4.5%

Oral Health Research: 2%

Sponsorships: 2%

390,0000

brochures, flyers
and posters



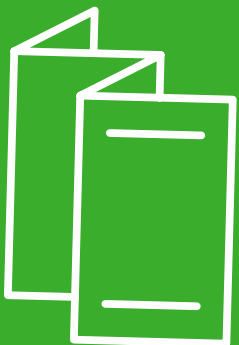
29,459

containers of
floss donated



123,000

toothbrushes
donated



66 ORGANIZATIONS
received a total of
\$213,450
through the Community
Mini-grants Program



43 RECIPIENTS
of COVID-19 Dental
Equipment Fund grants
totaling **\$440,000**

GETTING THE WORD OUT

476
media
mentions



579
SOCIAL MEDIA
FANS

5 digital
media
campaigns

11,088
social media
engagements



631
TOTAL SOCIAL
MEDIA POSTS



285,826
social media
impressions



7 PRESS
RELEASES

31 eblasts sent to
more than 5,300
people with nearly
35,000 total opens

7 blog
posts



Better Care for People with Disabilities

For more than 6.5 million people in the United States with an intellectual or developmental disability, oral health care is often inaccessible.

Shifting the Paradigm

For the more than 6.5 million people in the United States with an intellectual or developmental disability, oral health care is often inaccessible. The reasons are numerous: an undertrained dental workforce, a need for expanded commercial insurance benefits, poor Medicaid reimbursement rates, and limited dental benefits for those covered by Medicaid. As a result, families often face long wait times, sometimes spanning years, for a dental appointment and then endure long drive times to a provider.

We're committed to radically shifting that paradigm through policy change (including the exploration of a Medicaid carve-out to protect dental benefits for those with disabilities), provider training (such as funding an enduring series of free, online courses offered through Penn Dental Medicine), stigma reduction and education (like the national All Smiles Shine campaign and associated app, designed to help children with autism have better dental visits). Last year, we also committed more than \$500,000 to develop Centers for Inclusive Dentistry, a project to provide resources and immersive training to deliver high-quality dental treatment to people with disabilities at designated Federally Qualified Health Centers.



Clinics for Complex Care

In addition, two large projects came to fruition: the University of Michigan School of Dentistry's Delta Dental Integrated Special Care Clinic and the Ohio State University College of Dentistry's Delta Dental Foundation Ambulatory Surgical Center. Both of these clinics, were designed to care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and opened their doors in 2021.

To further the DDF's commitment toward educating and training the next generation of providers to better serve people with disabilities (and promote medical-dental integration), the DDF also granted nearly \$150,000 to the Ohio State University Nisonger Center. With the DDF's funding, the Nisonger Center aims to expand their ability to train oral health professionals who can best care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

All of the above work—and more—inspired Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana to design and offer enhanced benefits for children and adults with special health care needs. You can learn more about it [here](#).

University of Michigan School of Dentistry's Delta Dental Integrated Special Care Clinic



The Ohio State University College of Dentistry's Delta Dental Foundation Ambulatory Surgical Center.



Celebrating Oral Health Education and Research

The DDF recognizes the importance of teaching good oral health across the lifespan.

In 2021, we invested nearly \$400,000 in educational programs throughout Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, including the [Brush](#) oral health program, I Need My Teeth school assembly, the [Girl Scout Smile Squad Patch Program](#), the [Healthy Tomorrow app](#) for pregnant people with opioid use disorder and more.

We also renewed funding for the [Impression 5 Science Center STEM Kit program](#). Every other month, Impression 5 Science Center distributes education kits to Head Start children three to five years old in the Lansing, Michigan, area. Each kit has a different theme, including science and oral health, with concepts that incorporate social-emotional development, literacy and math.

Improving Oral Health Equity

Equitable access to good oral health looks a little different for everyone, and it's not just about opening more operatories.

Last year, we provided an additional \$400,000 in grants to community health centers and other safety-net organizations that provide critical dental access to lower-income populations, LGBTQIA+ people and communities of color. We also provided nearly \$400,000 to support [community water fluoridation](#), a cost-effective, equitable approach to cavity prevention regardless of age, income, race or ethnicity.

But oral health equity also demands dental workforce development and diversity. [Evidence suggests patients of color receive better care from—and establish greater trust with—providers who look like they do.](#) There's just one problem: there aren't enough of those providers to go around.

That's why, in 2021, we provided more than \$270,000 in scholarships to dental assistant, dental hygiene and dental students including a brand-new [Diversity Dental Student Scholarship](#) for individuals from systemically disadvantaged backgrounds entering dental school. You can find out more about the first class of recipients [here](#).



Expanding Access to Care

The DDF funded a multitude of unique opportunities for people to receive care.

Oral Health for Our Nation's Heroes

For many years, veterans have been a population of focus for the DDF. More than half a million veterans call Michigan home—and fewer than 8 percent are eligible for dental benefits through the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). That leaves millions without good options to keep their mouths healthy.

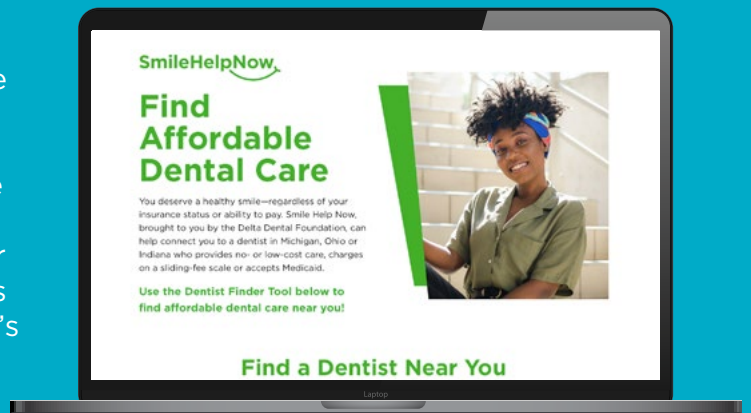
DDF has helped fund Victors for Veterans since 2017—and has committed an additional \$270,000 over the next three years. The program is part of a four-year “Immersion Pathway” at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, wherein students direct their own learning through an immersive capstone project. Students write the grants, conduct associated research, report out on results and provide extensive dental care supervised by volunteer preceptors. Most importantly, Victors for Veterans offers free dental care, including crowns, partial and complete dentures, to low-income veterans at clinics in Traverse City and Brighton, Michigan.

The DDF also provided \$20,000 to My Community Dental Centers in Michigan to offer a free day of dental care for veterans at two of its locations. Forty-two veterans received dental, and many more were connected to a dental home for future care.



Smile Help Now

The DDF has heard, time and time again, that while many options for affordable dental care exist, few people actually know about or take advantage of them. To help make more of those connections, we launched Smile Help Now, a web-based directory that helps users find a provider in Michigan, Ohio or Indiana who provides no- or low-cost care, charges on a sliding-fee scale or accepts Medicaid. While it's still in early stages, the DDF hopes to build upon the platform in coming years.





Reaching People Through Pets

The DDF helped fund a [pets-and-people pop-up](#) in partnership with Michigan Humane. Many people will do anything for their pets—even forgoing their own medical, dental or behavioral health care so that their pets can receive care instead. Michigan Humane’s OneHealth events are designed to challenge that paradigm, offering free vaccinations, spay/neuter services and pet food, all while enlisting human service partners, to offer resources for family members.

During these events in 2021, the DDF provided oral health education and hygiene materials while the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry’s Titans for Teeth mobile unit offered dental cleanings and screenings at not cost to families dropping off pets for care.

Looking Ahead

In the shadow of yet another year fraught with uncertainty and an unrelenting pandemic, we focused on building. Renewing relationships. Facilitating partnerships of purpose. As a result, the DDF was able to invest in more people and programs dedicated to dismantling barriers to care. Although untangling the web of inequalities in our oral health care systems will take time, we are confident that our efforts—and those of our friends and partners—will yield powerful results. After all, everyone deserves a healthy smile.



Grantees

85 HOPE Free Medical Clinic
Adena Health System
African American
Male Wellness Agency
AYA Youth Collective
Baxter Community Center
Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand
Rapids Youth Commonwealth
CAECI Early Head Start
Care Alliance
Case Western Reserve
University School
of Dental Medicine
Cassopolis Family
Clinic Network
Chaldean American
Ladies of Charity
Cherry Health
Cincinnati Health Department
Communities in
Schools of Michigan
Community Action Committee
of Pike County, Inc.
Community Transportation
Network
Compassionate Care
of Shelby County, Inc.
County of Kent
Covenant Community Care, Inc.
Cristo Rey Community Center
Dental Center of
Northwest Ohio
Dental Clinics North
Dental Lifeline Network
Dr. Gary Burnstein Community
Health Clinic
ECHO Community Health Care
Eskenazi Health Center
Exalta Health
Family Health Care
of Northwest Ohio, Inc.
Five Rivers Health Centers
Food Strong
Gennesaret Free Clinic
Good Neighbor House
Good Samaritan Foundation
Grace Clinics of Ohio, Inc.
Great Lakes Bay
Health Centers
Hackley Community Care
HAWK Foundation
Health Department of
Northwest Michigan
Health Net of West Michigan
HealthLinc, Inc.
HealthNet, Inc.
HealthSource of Ohio
Healthy Smiles of Indiana, Inc.
Heart of Ohio Family Health
HNC Living Foundation
HOLA Ohio
Holland Free Health Clinic
Honor Community Health
Hope Family Care Center
Hope Healthcare Services
Hope Medical Clinic, Inc.
Hopewell Health Centers
Impression 5 Science Center
Indiana Health Centers, Inc.
Indiana Immunization Coalition
Indiana University
School of Dentistry
Ingham County
Health Department
InterCare Community
Health Network
Ironton-Lawrence Community
Action Organization
Isaac Knapp District
Dental Society
Ivy Tech Foundation
Jane Pauley Community
Health Center
Judson Center, Inc.
Kent County Oral
Health Coalition
Lake County Free Clinic

Lansing Board of Water and Light	North Carolina Dental Society Foundation	The Ohio State University Nisonger Center
Lansing Housing Commission	Northwest Michigan Health Services	The Way of Rockport Indiana, Inc.
Lorain County Health & Dentistry	Ohio Department of Health	The Wellness Plan
Love in Action of the Tri-Cities	Ohio Hills Health Services	Third Street Family Health Services
Lower Lights Christian Health Center	Penn Dental Medicine	Thunder Bay Community Health Service, Inc.
MAISD Great Start of Muskegon	PrimaryOne Health	Todd Martin Youth Leadership
Malta Dental and Medical Clinic	Project Accessible Oral Health	Transition Resources Corporation
Maple City Health Care Center	Regents of the University of Michigan	Trinity Free Clinic, Inc.
Matthew 25, Inc.	Riggs Community Health Center	Trustees of Indiana University
McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation	Second Chance at Life, Inc.	Tulip Tree Family Health Care
McMillen Health	Shawnee State University Development Foundation	University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
Medicaid Medicare CHIP Services Dental Association	Sidney-Shelby County Health Department	University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry
Medworks	Signature Health	University of Toledo Foundation
Mel Trotter Ministries	Sistahs Reachin' Out	Upper Great Lakes Family Health Center
Mercy Medical Center	Smile Savers Mobile Dental Health Service	Valley Area Agency on Aging
Miami University	Smiles Across Montana	VINA Community Dental Center
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services	Smiles on Wheels	Viola Startzman Clinic
Michigan Humane	Special Olympics Michigan, Inc.	Warren Arts & Education Foundation
Monroe County Health Department	St. Thomas More Free Clinic, Inc.	Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency
Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative	Stowe Mission of Central Ohio	Wood County Community Health
Mott Children's Health Center	Team Maureen	
Muskingum Valley Health Centers	The Bonnell Foundation	
My Community Dental Centers	The Color of Autism Foundation	
National Network for Oral Health Access	The Fountain Clinic	
Neighborhood Health Clinics, Inc.	The HealthCare Connection	
	The National African American Male Wellness Agency	
	The Ohio State University College of Dentistry	

