Welcome

At the CDA Foundation, it’s our privilege to be a part of the heart of dentistry and express its philanthropic values, empowering thousands who face barriers to care to access essential dental treatment that relieves pain, restores dignity and instills hope. Established in 2001, the Foundation has been unwavering in its mission – to improve the oral health of all Californians by supporting the dental profession in its efforts to meet community needs. Nineteen years later, we’re proud of how much we’ve accomplished together through our tireless and equally fulfilling work.

In 2019 alone, our CDA Cares events provided $2.75 million in dental care at no cost, creating smiles for 3,117 people in need. Individuals and families achieved freedom from pain and infection, increased self-confidence and improved quality of life, while public and policymakers were made aware of the great, ongoing public health needs close to home.

The Student Loan Repayment Grant again awarded an exceptional new dentist $105,000 in repayments over three years in recognition of his commitment to practice in an underserved community. By reducing the financial burden for dentists to serve populations in need, we’re increasing access to care for many. It’s only with the generosity of volunteers, sponsors and donors like you that we can innovate, enhance and expand these remarkable programs. We look forward to delivering more smiles across our great state in the years to come.

Together, we are creating smiles and changing lives.

Ronald Mead, DDS
Chair, CDA Foundation Board of Directors
“The groundwork for all happiness is good health.”
— LEIGH HUNT

CDA Cares
Over the course of two days, each CDA Cares event provides no-cost dental care in communities across California. We focus on underserved individuals and families who experience barriers to care, and we help relieve pain and infection, restore dignity and confidence, and create healthy new smiles for thousands of Californians. Treatments include extractions, fillings, cleanings and oral health education. Time and resources permitting, root canals, dentures and temporary partial dentures are also provided.

In 2019, a total of 3,117 people received care at CDA Cares in Solano and San Bernardino, reflecting $2.75 million in donated care with 19,367 procedures completed through the work of more than 2,700 volunteers.
“I totally appreciate this program and all they do to help and improve the health of our teeth and smiles. Every person who works and volunteers in this program is extremely professional and friendly, and they treat each of us as very important individuals. They treat us like family! Thank you again for all your hard work and smiling faces.”

— CDA CARES 2019 PATIENT
The success of CDA Cares would not be possible without the generous support of our corporate sponsors. Their invaluable partnerships, monetary contributions, donations of equipment and supplies, along with volunteer manpower, have transformed the lives of thousands of people in need.


Many of our corporate sponsors have supported our efforts to provide care at no charge since our first event in 2012. Thanks in part to these sponsors, more than 30,000 people have benefited from $25.12 million in dental services provided by CDA Cares to date.

Support from Generous Sponsors

Fluoridation

The state oral health plan is focused on addressing determinants of health, healthy habits and population-based prevention interventions, which includes increasing the proportion of the California population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water.

Some of the $30 million allocated annually to the state oral health program has been set aside for local projects and Community Water Fluoridation is identified as a qualifying project. CDA and the CDA Foundation continue to support the state’s water fluoridation efforts.

CAMBRA

The CDA Foundation’s easy-to-access, online program increases dentists’ confidence to see babies and young children, using caries risk assessment and chronic disease management principles to reduce the prevalence of dental caries. This program, known as TYKE (Treating Young Kids Every Day), is available online at cda.org and has been completed by more than 4,300 dental professionals to date.

The Foundation has been at the forefront of supporting research on caries management by risk assessment (CAMBRA®), the results of which were published in 2003, 2007 and 2019 in the Journal of the California Dental Association.
Financials

2019
Charitable Care Programs $1,990,560
Grants and Scholarships $327,735
Fluoridation $79,061
Education $63,169
Total: $2,460,525

$0.93 cents of every dollar raised goes to funding programs.

I would like to thank you for the Disaster Relief grant. It was such a wonderful help in a great time of need. It enabled us to set up a long-term temporary residence. The dentists who I work for were able to set up temporary dental offices in a nearby town. Many medical doctors and dentists have retired or moved out of the area after the disaster. Many patients have felt abandoned by their caregivers. Making it possible to stay in the area and practice dental hygiene has brought comfort to me as a practitioner, but also comfort to the many patients we serve. I cannot tell you how many patients have sat in my chair and cried because there is a familiar place to go. Thank you for helping me to make it possible to stay here!

— RECIPIENT OF CDAF DISASTER RELIEF GRANT
“Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present.”

— JOHN MAXWELL

Disaster Relief Grant

In 2019, the Foundation continued to provide Disaster Relief Grants in response to the 2018 Woolsey and Camp fires. In all, 64 individuals received emergency funds and the total dollar amount awarded was $395,000. Fortunately, 2019 did not bring the same destruction, and while the CDA Foundation did not award any Disaster Relief Grants, the Foundation remains extremely committed to helping dental professionals affected by natural disasters and continues to seek financial support for this fund when and if it’s needed.
Student Loan Repayment Grant

The Student Loan Repayment Grant provides an annual award of up to $35,000 (for a maximum of $105,000 over three years) to assist a recently graduated dentist with repayment of education loans in exchange for the recipient’s commitment to care for the underserved.

The 2019 recipient, Matthew Mecheal, DDS, is a graduate of the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry who credits his family and his church for igniting his desire to work in public health. He currently works at St. Jude Neighborhood Health Center, a faith-based organization that provides medical and dental care to underserved communities in Orange County.

Mecheal himself was born in the county, in the city of Laguna Niguel, and his commitment to serving those in need has taken him around the world. He’s provided care to patients in Honduras and Angola and has volunteered his time and skills at several dental clinics in Southern California, including CDA Cares — a place he says allows him to truly connect with patients.

“My church and my parents raised me to put others before myself and to serve those who may not have necessities that are conducive to a healthy lifestyle. Working in public health gives me that opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to me over the years.”

As a former CDA student representative, Mecheal understands that his support for public health initiatives could have the potential to impact millions across the state. He gained hands-on experience with grassroot advocacy, meeting with local legislative representatives and discussing critical issues affecting dentistry.

“The valuable lessons I’ve learned will positively shape my role as a public health care provider.”

— MATTHEW MECHEAL, DDS

Webb Family Grant

The Webb Family Grant provides an annual award of $5,000 toward education expenses for the individual who is selected runner-up for the Foundation’s Student Loan Repayment Grant.

The 2019 recipient, Priyadarshini Agrawal, DMD, will use the grant to continue her work at Healthright 360 in San Francisco. Her focus is to expand the pilot pediatric program and collaborate with leaders to better meet community needs.

As the child from a small, rural village in Northern India, Dr. Agrawal was exposed early on to disparities in healthcare and basic living standards. With a heart for public health dentistry, she has volunteered and organized dental services for large underserved populations, and she’s working to develop new interdisciplinary care models, test drive solutions and recruit more dentists in her pursuit to improve access to care.
“Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.”

— THICH NHAT HANH

Dental Materials and Supplies Grant

To help California community-based organizations providing dental care to underserved communities minimize their operating expenses, the CDA Foundation offers in-kind support of materials and supplies necessary for dental operations and oral health services.

2019 Recipients

• The Children’s Dental Center of Greater Los Angeles, Inglewood, CA
• Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine, Indio, CA
• Cura Smiles Inc., San Diego, CA
• Gardner Family Health Network Inc., San Jose, CA
• The Los Angeles Free Clinic dba Saban Community Clinic, Los Angeles, CA
• Neighborhood Healthcare, Escondido, CA
• San Diego County Dental Foundation, San Diego, CA
• San Gabriel Valley Foundation for Dental Health, La Puente, CA
“As a provider of free healthcare services, receiving these donated supplies will reduce our direct care costs substantially, allowing us to redirect the costs of those supplies to new programs and additional services for our low-income and uninsured patients.”

— DOUG J. MORIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE
Thank you

The contributions of our generous donors and volunteers allow us to deliver even more health, hope and happiness. To become a Friend of the Foundation and learn how you can be a part of this rewarding mission, please contact:

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