

May/June 2026

the Nugget

Extending the Heart of Service

Inside: 2025 Foundation Annual Report

A PUBLICATION OF THE SACRAMENTO DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY



Get Ready For Our UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1, 2026

Continuing Education Hands-On

Friday • SDDS Classroom

Lecture only: 8:30–11:30am • 3 CEU, Core

Member Price: \$184 | **Non-Member Price:** \$368

Lecture and Hands-on: 8:30am–2:30pm • 6 CEU, Core

Member Price: \$420 | **Non-Member Price:** \$840

Mimicking Nature: Navigating the Complex Root Canal System

Presented by Peter Ham, DDS, MSD

Sponsored by Henry Schein Dental and EdgeEndo

May 8, 2026

Swing For Smiles Golf Tournament

Friday • 7:00am check-in • Teal Bend Golf Course

May 12, 2026

General CE Meeting

Tuesday • 5:45– 9:00pm • Social/Exhibits, Dinner and Program
Hilton Sacramento Arden West • 3 CEU, Core

Member Price: \$99 regular (ends 5/9) \$109 late (begins 5/10)

Non-Member Price: \$218

Drugs, Bugs and Dental Products, What to Prescribe!

Presented by Peter Jacobsen, DDS

Sponsored by Capitol Periodontal Group

May 13, 2026

Dentists Do Broadway - Back to the Future

Wednesday • 7:30pm show

May 19, 2026

Business Forum

Tuesday • 6:30–8:30pm • 2 CEU, 20% • SDDS Classroom

Member Price: \$75

Preventing Dental Practice Embezzlement & Fraud:

Signals, Systems, and Solutions

Presented by Clint Bedolido, CPA; MUN CPAs and Dave Nelson; US Bank
(SDDS Vendor Members)

May 21, 2026

SDDS Member Mixer - Roseville

Thursday • 6:00–7:30pm • Zocalo Roseville

Sponsored by BPE Law Group and Western Practice Sales

Member Price: \$25 (ends 5/7) \$35 (begins 5/8)

June 10, 2026

Harassment Prevention Training Webinar*

- Required every two years!

Presented by California Employers Association (CEA - SDDS Vendor Member)

For Non-Supervisors

Wednesday • 11am–12pm • Live Webinar • 1 CEU, Core

Member Price: \$49 (ends 5/20) \$69 (begins 5/21)

For Supervisors

Wednesday • 11am–1pm • Live Webinar • 2 CEU, Core

Member Price: \$69 (ends 5/20) \$89 (begins 5/21)

June 16, 2026

Licensure Renewal Webinar*

Tuesday • 5:30–7:30pm • Webinar

Member Price: \$75 early (ends 5/26) / \$95 regular (begins 5/27)

Non-Member Price: \$190

Responsibilities and Requirements of

Prescribing Schedule II Opioids (2 CEU, Core)

Presented by Ronni Brown, DDS, MPH, FADI

Mandatory Licensure Renewal Course

This course meets the Dental Board of California's mandated license-renewal CE requirement of responsibilities and requirements of prescribing Schedule II opioid drugs. This webinar is live and interactive.

** Does not qualify for AGD credit*



Join us for
Dental Day
with the **River Cats!**

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

Bring your staff, family, and friends to
enjoy a fun night out of baseball at our
own Sutter Health Park.



View all CE Courses & Events
online with this QR code.

\$25 per ticket

Tickets available at sdds.org!

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Nugget Editorial Board

Bryan Judd, DDS; *Editor-in-Chief*
Ranna Alrabadi, DMD • Nicholas Scordakis, DDS
Ramsen Warda, DDS • Peter Yanni, DMD, MS
Idean Rezaei, Student Rep

Editors Emeritus

James Musser, DDS
William Parker, DMD, MS, PhD
Bevan Richardson, DDS

Awards

International College of Dentists (ICD)

2025 • Special Citation Award
2025 • Humanitarian Service, honorable mention
2024 • Special Citation Award
2023 • Special Citation Award
2022 • Humanitarian Service Award
2022 • Special Citation Award
2022 • Overall Newsletter, honorable mention
2021 • Platinum Pencil, *honorable mention*
Outstanding use of graphics
2021 • Special Citation Award
2020 • Platinum Pencil
2020 • Golden Pen, *honorable mention*
Article / series of articles of interest to the profession
2020 • Special Citation Award
2019 • Special Citation Award
2019 • Golden Pen, *honorable mention*

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It's Time For... SDDS ELECTIONS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

Elections will be held at the **May 12, 2026** General Meeting

On behalf of the 2026 SDDS Leadership Development Committee (LDC), we are pleased to present the following slate of candidates for election for the 2027 term, as well as the 2026 CDA House of Delegates.

The LDC Committee is tasked with guiding the future of SDDS by evaluating and nominating leaders for our organization. The committee met in the first quarter of 2026 and considered a very strong slate of candidates. We are pleased to report that the outlook is good with the following members listed below being nominated. SDDS is only as good as its volunteers and we appreciate all who give back to our organization. Hope to see you all at the May GM!

Nima Aflatooni, DDS (Chair of the Leadership Development Committee)

SOCIETY SLATE OF NOMINEES

SDDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To be elected:

President: Craig Alpha, DDS

President Elect/Treasurer: Chirag Vaid, DDS

Secretary: Joel Whiteman, DDS

SDDS BCR Rep: Bryan Judd, DDS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To be Elected (for 2027- 2028 term)

Diana Fat, DDS (2nd term)

Kevin Keating, DDS, MS (1st term)

Sarmad Paydar, DDS, MS (1st term)

Kart Raghuraman, DDS, MPH (1st term)

Cherag Sarkari, DDS (2nd term)

Gaetan Tchamba, DDS (1st term)

Continuing (2027-2028 term)

Andrea Cervantes, DDS

Rosemary Wu, DMD, MS

DELEGATES TO THE CDA HOUSE

To be elected for the 2026 term:

Diana Fat, DDS

Sarmad Paydar, DDS, MS

Cherag Sarkari, DDS

Joel Whiteman, DDS - Executive Committee

Rosemary Wu, DMD, MS

Continuing:

Jeffrey Sue, DDS - Executive Committee

Craig Alpha, DDS - Executive Committee

Chirag Vaid, DDS - Executive Committee

Bryan Judd, DDS - Executive Committee

Guy Acheson, DDS

Nima Aflatooni, DDS

Margaret Delmore, MD, DDS

Eric Grove, DDS

Kart Raghuraman, DDS, MPH

FOUNDATION SLATE OF NOMINEES

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To Be Elected:

Carl Hillendahl, DDS, President (3rd term)

Volki Felahy, DDS, Vice President (3rd term)

Kevin Keating, DDS, MS Treasurer (3rd term)

Margaret Delmore, MD, DDS (1st term)

Jeffrey Sue, DDS, (SDDS Past-President)

Joel Whiteman, DDS (SDDS Secretary)

Jagdev Heir, MD, DMD (1st term)

Sean Roth, DDS (1st term)

Continuing (through 2027):

H. Wesley Yee, DDS

Lisa Dobak, DDS, Assistant Treasurer

Bryan Judd, DDS

Karen Harris, Associate Member

SDDS CURRENT BYLAWS - CHAPTER VI - ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 10. NOMINATION BY COMMITTEE: The Board of Directors shall appoint a Leadership Development Committee to nominate qualified candidates for election to all offices including Secretary, President-Elect/Treasurer, the BCR Representative, Directors, and Delegates.

Section 20. ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS: Any active or retired Member in good standing who meets the qualifications of the office he/she is seeking may be nominated by filing with the Secretary at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting a written nomination signed by at least ten (10) active or retired Members in good standing.

Celebrating 45 years of Excellence at MidWinter



Wow—another incredible MidWinter Convention hosted by the Sacramento District Dental Society is in the books! This year, we welcomed more than 730 attendees and featured 99 exhibitors, making it one of our most engaging gatherings yet. Each year, this event reminds us how fortunate we are to be part of a profession grounded in lifelong learning, collaboration, and service—and this year truly lived up to that tradition. The energy on the exhibit hall floor was especially inspiring, with meaningful connections and conversations happening at every turn.

From the moment attendees arrived, it was clear that something special had been created. The new location was a hit, and the atmosphere was vibrant, welcoming, and thoughtfully organized, allowing colleagues to reconnect, new relationships to form, and ideas to flourish. The educational programs were outstanding, offering a diverse range of topics that reflected both the art and science of dentistry. Attendees moved from session to session, gaining valuable insights, practical techniques, and fresh perspectives to bring back to their practices. At times I would just sit back and listen to the “buzz” of the room, the laughter and conversations occurring on the expo floor.

What truly made this MidWinter Convention exceptional, however, was the tremendous effort and dedication of our SDDS staff. Caroll, Della, Jessica, Sofia, Jen, and Katie outdid themselves for our 45th year! Behind every seamless transition, every well-prepared room, every smiling greeting, and every detail that felt effortless was a team working tirelessly to ensure success. Their commitment often goes unseen, but it is deeply felt in every aspect of the experience. From early planning stages to the final

moments of the event, their professionalism, organization, and passion were evident. We are truly blessed by having such talented and dedicated staff at the SDDS!

This issue highlights the “heart” of our dental society, the Sacramento District Dental Foundation. It has been a cornerstone of service within our dental community, continually demonstrating a deep commitment to improving oral health for those in need. Through outreach programs, charitable care initiatives, and partnerships with local providers, the Foundation helps expand access to essential dental services for underserved populations, especially children with our Smiles for Kids, and Smiles for Big Kids programs. Beyond direct care, it fosters a spirit of giving among our members, uniting the community around a shared mission of compassion and service. Its impact is felt not only in healthier smiles, but in stronger connections across our entire dental community. If you are not a member yet, now is the time to join! ■



By **Jeffrey Sue, DDS**
2026 SDDS President

Swing for Smiles

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Join us to support the SDDS Foundation on May 8th at Teal Bend Golf Club! All proceeds benefit the programs funded by the Foundation

CONTESTS! • RAFFLE PRIZES!
DRINKS ON THE COURSE!
GOLF SOUVENIRS!



Learn more and
register today!



By **Carol Badgley**
SDDS Executive Director

Beyond Profession, True to Our Purpose

As I reflect on this issue of *The Nugget* and the incredible philanthropic work highlighted in the Foundation's annual report, I find myself thinking about what drives people, especially dentists, to give their time, their skills, and their hearts to others.

Dentistry is both science and artistry. Every day, our members restore confidence, relieve pain, and change lives, one patient at a time.

What stands out most is how many of you take that calling beyond your practices and into the community, through programs like Smiles for Kids, Smiles for Big Kids, and other ways all around the world. You are reaching those who might otherwise go without care, volunteering your expertise, and making a lasting impact. That kind of service comes from a deep passion for your profession and a genuine desire to help others.

I recently experienced that same spirit of service in a very different setting. As an artist and animal advocate, I traveled to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to volunteer at an elephant sanctuary, painting a mural on the wall of a newly built animal hospital funded entirely through donations. This multi-million-dollar facility will provide critical care and treatment for rescued elephants, animals that have endured hardship and are now being given a second chance.

While very different from a dental office, the feeling was familiar: a sense of purpose, a commitment to giving back, the same understanding that what we do, whether with our hands, our skills, or our time, can have a profound impact on lives that cannot advocate for themselves.



That experience reinforced what I see every day within the Sacramento District Dental Society: giving back is not just about those you help, it also reconnects you to your purpose, reminds you why you chose this profession, and fills a space that success alone cannot.

The SDDS Foundation is a powerful reflection of that shared purpose. Because of your volunteerism, your engagement, and your donations, we are able to expand access to care, reach more patients, and strengthen our community. Every gift matters and directly enables the work that transforms lives.

Together, you are doing more than practicing dentistry; you are making a difference, and your generosity is at the heart of it.

Warm regards,

LEADERSHIP

President: Jeffrey Sue, DDS
President-Elect/Treasurer: Craig Alpha, DDS
Secretary: Chirag Vaid, DDS
SDDS BCR Rep: Bryan Judd, DDS
Editor-in-Chief: Bryan Judd, DDS
Executive Director: Carol Badgley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Andrea Cervantes, DDS
Diana Fat, DDS
Eric Grove, DDS
Sarmad Paydar, DDS, MS
Kart Raghuraman, DDS, MPH
Cherag Sarkari, DDS
Joel Whiteman, DDS
Rosemary Wu, DMD, MS
CNU Student Rep: Christopher Brandon Azali
UOP Student Rep: Resha Shah

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CPR: Margaret Delmore, MD, DDS/ Brad Archibald, DDS
Membership/Engagement:
Shahrazad Paydar Hogan, FAADOM
Nominating/Leadership Development:
Nima Afatooni, DDS

COMMITTEES STANDING

Budget & Finance Advisory: Craig Alpha, DDS
Bylaws Advisory: Nima Afatooni, DDS
CE Advisory: Arryan V. Emamian, DDS
CSUS Pre-Dental:
Brian Orcutt, DDS/Shannon Chris, DDS
Social Media Advisory: Jasraj Sandhu, DMD
Strategic Planning Advisory:
Craig Alpha, DDS/Chirag Vaid, DDS

TASK FORCES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Foundation President: Carl Hillendahl, DDS

SDDF

Carol Badgley | Executive Director
Della Yee | Director of Operations
Sofia Gutierrez | Foundation Projects/CPR
Jessica Luther | Graphic Designer
Jen Jackson | Member Liaison
Katie Carrillo | Administrative Assistant

SDDS STAFF

The Nugget is an opinion and discussion magazine for SDDS membership. Opinions expressed by authors are their own, and not necessarily those of SDDS or *The Nugget* Editorial Board. SDDS reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity and length, as well as reject any material submitted. *The Nugget* is published bimonthly by the SDDS, 2035 Hurley Way, Ste 200, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 446-1211. Acceptance of advertising in *The Nugget* in no way constitutes approval or endorsement by Sacramento District Dental Society of products or services advertised. SDDS reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

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By **Bryan Judd, DDS**
Editor-in-Chief

The Rare Gift



As dentists, we possess a rare gift; we help make our patients' lives better and feel that reward daily. I feel that reward the most when I am giving back and caring for those in need, with no expectation in return. But yet, the thank-you's come back to you in wonderful and various ways.

I have, like so many of you, donated my time and skills at CDA Cares, Remote Area Medical, and Stand Down events. But for me, the best rewards have come from working together with our Dental Society and Foundation, patient by patient, in my own dental office with my own team. Our Sacramento District Dental Foundation

raises money to help with lab costs, supplies, and so many other things that allow us to give back to our community.

A good man came to my office, and we were able to give him not only a denture but a newfound confidence. My office team immediately took to this man, and they, too, love giving back. We were also able to help a woman who had been beaten. She sat down in the chair and just cried tears of gratitude, saying, "Thank you, thank you." Hers was a full-mouth case where Frontier Dental Lab donated its lab expertise. Moments like these lift us and remind us how blessed we are.

May is Foundation Month, and in honor of the SDDS Foundation, the entire May/June issue of The Nugget is dedicated to the incredible work of our members and the vital role the Foundation plays. This issue also features the SDDS Foundation Annual Report. Inside, you'll discover stories of fellow dentists giving their time, talents, and support to improve the lives of those in need. We hope these stories touch your heart and

inspire you to take action in ways that feel meaningful to you.

Please set a goal of donating your time every few months to help someone in need. Your team will be proud of you and will jump at the chance to be a part of something larger than just themselves. You will be able to give back, using your wonderful, rare gift. Please contact our Dental Society and let them know that you want to help bring something special—and often, out of reach to those in need. ■



PLEASE DONATE

May 7, 2026

On May 7 donate to the
**Sacramento District
Dental Foundation**

Big Day of Giving

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Our promise? To protect dentists, their practices, their reputations and their futures.

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YOU SHOULD KNOW

SAVE OUR DENTAL CARE — STAY INFORMED, TAKE ACTION

California dentistry is at a critical moment. Proposed state budget cuts would eliminate approximately \$1 billion in Medi-Cal Dental funding, nearly one-third of the program, by July 1, 2026. These cuts target Proposition 56 funding, which has been essential in expanding access to care, increasing provider participation, and improving oral health outcomes for millions of Californians.

Without this funding, reimbursement rates could fall back to 1990s levels, jeopardizing the stability of dental practices and limiting access to care for more than half of California's children and millions of adults who rely on Medi-Cal.

The **Save Our Dental Care** coalition, now representing dozens of organizations statewide, including CDA and SDDS, has launched a centralized resource to keep providers informed and engaged in advocacy efforts. The website offers the latest updates, tools to contact legislators, and ways to share your voice in protecting dental care for our patients.

Visit SaveOurDentalCare.org today to stay informed and take action! Our collective voice is essential to preserving access to care and protecting the future of dentistry in California.

IMPORTANT SECURITY REMINDER REGARDING CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

You should never send your credit card number by email. Email is not a secure method of transmitting sensitive financial information; messages can be intercepted, forwarded, stored on multiple servers, or accessed if an account is compromised. Even when sent with good intentions, email exposes both you and the recipient to unnecessary risk of fraud and identity theft.

Following PCI compliance requirements, we want to remind you to never submit your full credit card details via email. Please be sure to use only approved, secure payment methods when providing payment information.

HR HOTLINE-MEMBER BENEFIT

As a dentist, you're also an employer, and managing staff, labor laws, and personnel matters can be complex.

Through SDDS, members receive exclusive access to the California Employers Association HR Hotline. Get expert answers to your HR questions at no cost!

Call 1-888-784-4031 and take advantage of this valuable member benefit.

MENTORING OPPORTUNITY!

We would like to invite you to consider mentoring or sponsoring a UOP or CNU student at an upcoming General Meeting. Students receive a discounted rate to attend GMs, and sponsorship is a great way to welcome them into our community and support their professional growth. If you are interested in sponsoring a dental student at any future General Meeting, please call (916) 446-1227 or email sdds@sdds.org - we'd be glad to help make the connection.

THE SDDS ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS ONLINE
VISIT WWW.SDDS.ORG/CURRENT-MEMBERS/



Don't hesitate to ask.

When you need an advocate for your physical, mental or emotional health, 24/7 confidential assistance and peer-to-peer support is available.

When you don't know where to turn, there is help. CDA's Wellness Program exists to support and advocate for the mental, emotional, and physical wellness of dental professionals and their families.

Whether your wellness challenge is anxiety, depression, mental illness, physical illness, or substance dependence, we have volunteer members who can relate. They are available around the clock to offer confidential peer-to-peer support, assistance finding specialists or treatment facilities and guidance for your support network.

Visit cda.org/Wellness-Program to learn more.

Call or text for 24/7 confidential assistance.

Northern California
530.864.4264

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510.209.5637

Central California
916.947.5676

Southern California
310.487.5040

San Diego
619.275.7190





By Dean Ahmad, DDS, FICOI, DAABP
SDDS Member

Dr. Dean Ahmad is a board-certified periodontist and founder of INNOVA Periodontics & Implant Dentistry. He has served as President and is a Fellow of multiple professional dental organizations. Dr. Ahmad graduated from both Harvard University and Stanford University. He combines advanced surgical expertise with strategic leadership and a deep commitment to service and expanding access to care.

Smiles for Kids: Look Beyond the Teeth

On Saturday, February 7, 2026, our office had the honor of serving as a host site for Smiles for Kids Day. What unfolded that morning was more than a volunteer event — it was a powerful reminder of what organized dentistry can accomplish when service, structure, and compassion come together.

Smiles for Kids Day demonstrates the strength of our Society and Foundation. Through thoughtful coordination and member participation, access to care becomes more than an aspiration — it becomes action.

While many children received preventive and restorative care, several cases underscored how meaningful specialty-level intervention can be in a community setting.

One young patient presented with a persistent swelling on her lower lip that had been present for months. Her mother shared that the cyst lesion continued to enlarge. Beyond the clinical presentation was a child who had grown increasingly self-conscious. She often covered her mouth while speaking and avoided smiling in photographs.



Pre-operative



Cyst exposure



Cyst removed / measured

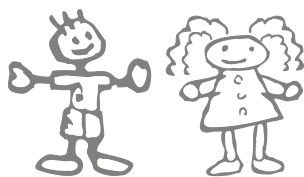
We were able to perform an excisional biopsy that day under local anesthesia in a calm, supportive environment. The procedure itself was straightforward. The impact was not. For that family, specialty surgical evaluation and treatment might otherwise have required referrals, delays, and financial strain. Instead, care was delivered promptly and compassionately. The relief and gratitude in the room were unforgettable.

In another series of cases, several children presented with inflamed operculum tissue partially covering erupting molars. The tissue was swollen and tender, trapping food and bacteria and making oral hygiene difficult. Some children reported discomfort while chewing; others had begun avoiding brushing in those areas altogether.

Conservative gingivectomies were performed to remove the excess tissue and allow proper eruption and improved hygiene access. The procedures were efficient and minimally invasive, yet transformative. Discomfort was relieved. Hygiene became manageable. Future complications were prevented.

These cases may not seem dramatic in isolation. Yet in the context of access to care, they are profoundly important. They represent intervention at the right time — preventing chronic inflammation, infection, and long-term instability.

As a Periodontist and Oral Medicine specialist, I am trained to look beyond the teeth.



Smiles for Kids®



Looking beyond the teeth means looking at the periodontium — the living foundation that supports every tooth. The gingiva, periodontal ligament, cementum, and alveolar bone form the biologic architecture that determines whether teeth remain healthy and stable over time.

Teeth do not exist independently. They are suspended in a dynamic, vascular, immune-responsive system. When inflammation develops in the gingiva, when tissue architecture traps bacteria, or when eruption patterns create areas of chronic irritation, the issue is not merely cosmetic or localized — it is biologic.

Periodontics trains us to evaluate tissue quality, bone levels, inflammatory patterns, and healing capacity. It requires understanding how systemic health, hygiene, growth, and immune response intersect.

Even in children, this perspective matters.

An inflamed operculum is not simply “extra gum tissue.” It is tissue responding to eruption dynamics and bacterial accumulation. A lower lip cyst is not simply a bump. It is a pathologic response to trauma that requires thoughtful management.

When we intervene appropriately, we are restoring biologic harmony.

Looking beyond the teeth also means looking beyond the procedure. It means seeing the whole child — confidence, nutrition, speech, self-esteem, and overall wellness. A child who can chew comfortably eats better. A child who is not embarrassed to smile participates more freely in school. A child who has a positive surgical experience is less likely to fear future care.

more freely in school. A child who has a positive surgical experience is less likely to fear future care.

On Smiles for Kids Day, access is not just about treating what hurts today. It is about protecting the foundation for tomorrow.

Hosting the event strengthened our team and reaffirmed our commitment to service. It reminded us that leadership in dentistry is not defined solely by clinical complexity — it is defined by stewardship.

The Society and Foundation make this possible. Through their coordination and vision, generosity becomes an organized impact. Participation in Smiles for Kids Day is a privilege, and we are deeply grateful to be part of a profession that values both excellence and empathy.

When we protect the periodontium, we protect the foundation of the smile. When we protect the foundation, we protect the future.

That is why we must always LOOK BEYOND THE TEETH. ■



Gingivectomy procedure on the lower left quadrant: Pre-operative



Gingivectomy procedure on the lower left quadrant: 1-week post-operative

“

Looking beyond the teeth also means looking beyond the procedure. **It means seeing the whole child — confidence, nutrition, speech, self-esteem, and overall wellness.** A child who can chew comfortably eats better. A child who is not embarrassed to smile participates more freely in school. A child who has a positive surgical experience is less likely to fear future care.

”

DEAN AHMAD, DDS, FICOI, DAABP
SDDS MEMBER AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTER

A Lifetime of Compassionate Service: **My Dedication to Dental Missions Around the World**



By **Donald Liberty, DDS**
SDDS Member

I came from humble beginnings. I was born in Seoul, South Korea in 1966, and was later adopted and immigrated to Guam, where I grew up. I obtained a Bachelor Business Administration in Economics/Finance from the University of Guam and went on to earn my Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Indiana University School of Dentistry, followed by Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery specialty training at Indiana University Medical Center.

In my life I have been very fortunate, with a wonderful wife and children and a awesome career. For more than 25 years, I've tried to use my skills as an oral surgeon to actively give back to the community. I've volunteered on dozens of missions, providing free oral surgery care to hundreds of underserved people around

2019, Coachella 2018, Sacramento 2018), CDA Cares clinics (2017, 2014, 2012), a California RAM Medical/Dental event in 2011, and Placer Dental Academy Veterans Standdown weekends in Auburn (2018 and 2019). Hoopa Indian Reservation - CA 2022. Through these efforts, I've had the privilege of supporting veterans, low-income families, and rural communities across California.

Internationally, I've been fortunate to serve in places like Haiti (1998), El Salvador (2011) Panama (2010), Ensenada, Mexico (2017), Bogotá, Colombia (2016), Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands (2018, 2019, 2020), and Belize (May and September 2021). On many of these missions, patients walked for

with the demands of travel, long clinic hours, and often challenging conditions. Whether I'm treating veterans at a Standdown event in California or caring for patients on a remote island in Belize, I strive to treat every person with dignity, strong surgical skill, and genuine compassion.



I've been fortunate to share many of these missions with my wife, Diane. Our daughter Nisa is a dentist and practices with Diane. Our son Niko is also a dentist and is currently in oral surgery specialty training at UMKC, and our son Jake is pursuing his PhD in Molecular Biology at USC.

Most recently, my responsibilities as Commander of the 185th Medical Company (Dental Area Support), a role I've held since 2022, has required my full attention, limiting my ability to participate in missions. I've dedicated 25 years of my life to the United States Army Reserve, including three deployments, and I will be retiring this year with the rank of Colonel. Throughout my service, I've also volunteered on Army overseas missions in El Salvador (2011), Panama (2010), and CNMI/Saipan (2024).

My journey has shown me that dedication has deepened. Through every mission, whether at home or abroad, I've simply tried to improve lives and restore smiles. ■



the world. What began with a life-changing trip to Haiti in 1998 grew into a lasting commitment to service that continues today.

My domestic service work includes multiple California CareForce events (Grass Valley 2023, Chico 2020, Placer County VA Clinic

hours or waited days just to receive basic oral surgery care—care that many of us take for granted.

What has always mattered most to me is the commitment to showing up and doing the work. Since the late 1990s through 2023, I have balanced my professional life and family

All-on-6 Advanced Pterygoid



All-on-4 Classic

Quad Zygoma with Pterygoid



Quad Zygoma +1 Implant



Alexander Antipov, DDS
Oral Surgeon



André-David Kahwach, DDS MD
Oral Surgeon

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Sacramento County Oral Health Program Celebrates National Children's Dental Health Month

in Partnership with SDDS



By Jennifer Fitzpatrick, BSDH, RDH
Dental Health Program Coordinator;
Sacramento County Public Health

Each February, National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) highlights the importance of early oral health habits and preventive care for children. This year, the Sacramento County Oral Health Program (SCOHP) joined partners across the region—including the Sacramento District Dental Society (SDDS)—to bring engaging oral health education to families throughout the county.



About the Sacramento County Oral Health Program

SCOHP works to improve oral health through education, prevention, and community partnerships. Funded through Proposition 56 and aligned with the California Oral Health Plan, the program focuses on increasing oral health literacy,



supporting school based prevention efforts, and connecting families to dental care. Collaboration is central to SCOHP's mission, and its partnership with SDDS plays a key role in reaching children where they learn and play.

Partnering With SDDS to Bring Oral Health Education to Schools

A highlight of this year's NCDHM activities was SCOHP's collaboration with SDDS to deliver Smiles for Kids® puppet shows at Witter Ranch Elementary School and Jefferson Elementary School in the Natomas Unified School District. These lively performances—long beloved by students and teachers—use humor and storytelling to teach brushing, flossing, healthy eating, and the importance of regular dental visits.

The partnership between SCOHP and SDDS helps extend the reach of these shows, ensuring more children receive fun, memorable oral health education.



Student Art Contest: Creativity for a Cause

SCOHP also launched a Student Art Contest to reinforce positive oral health messages through creative expression. With support from SDDS, students were invited to design artwork promoting healthy smiles and good oral hygiene habits. Winning entries will be featured in the SCOHP Annual Oral Health Calendar, which is shared with community partners throughout the year—spreading oral health awareness well beyond NCDHM.

“We really appreciated the Sacramento County Oral Health Program sponsoring the SDDS puppet shows at our school. The kids were engaged, had so much fun, and loved participating in the activities. The goodie bags were definitely a favorite and made the experience even more special for them.”

SARAH CARMONA
WITTER RANCH ELEMENTARY HEALTH AID



Countywide Awareness and Community Events

In addition to SDDS related activities, SCOHP led several broader outreach efforts during the month:

- **County Proclamation:** Sacramento County Health Officer, Dr. Olivia Kasirye, accepted an official NCDHM proclamation at the February 2, 2026, First 5 Sacramento Commission meeting.
- **Public Awareness Campaign:** With support from the Sacramento County Public Information Office, a billboard along Highway 99 and a Sacramento County News feature helped elevate oral health messaging across the region.
- **Library Story Time:** SCOHP partnered with the Sacramento Public Library to host a dental themed Story Time at the Rancho Cordova site,

providing families with dental-themed children's books, oral health education, and dental supply kits.

- **Preschool Toothbrushing Kits:** SCOHP distributed 35 classroom toothbrushing kits to preschools in the Elk Grove Unified School District. Two of these schools committed to implementing a daily classroom toothbrushing protocol throughout February—with the possibility of continuing beyond the month. This effort supports early habit building and helps normalize preventive oral health routines among young learners.



Working Together for Healthier Smiles

Through its collaboration with SDDS and its commitment to community centered outreach, SCOHP continues to advance its vision of improving oral health for all Sacramento County children. This year's NCDHM activities showcased the power of partnership—and the lasting impact of engaging, preventive education. ■

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Sacramento County Oral Health Program and SDDS for sponsoring the puppet shows at our school. Your support made learning about oral health fun, engaging, and meaningful for our student we truly appreciate all that you do!

WENDY GOMEZ
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL HEALTH AID



By **Kene Eze, DDS**
SDDS Member

Dr. Kene Eze is a dentist owner at Bubbles Dental and a father who believes every child deserves to feel safe, valued, and confident when they smile. As a dad, he understands that each child has unique needs and that a thoughtful, gentle approach helps them feel more relaxed and comfortable. He is passionate about serving families and strengthening the community through compassionate care.

Smiles for Kids Day at Bubbles Dental: *When Service Gives Back*

Every year, when our team at Bubbles Dental prepares for Smiles for Kids Day, there is a familiar sense of excitement in the office. Schedules are adjusted, supplies are organized, and our team prepares to welcome children and families who may not otherwise have access to dental care. On the surface, it may appear that we are simply volunteering our time and skills to help children in our community.

But the truth is something much deeper.

In many ways, Smiles for Kids Day helps us just as much as we help the families we serve.

Community service is not something we view as an occasional activity at Bubbles Dental—it is a core part of who we are. Our team believes that dentistry carries a responsibility beyond the walls of the clinic. Access to oral health care, especially for children, has a profound impact on confidence, education, and overall well-being.

At Bubbles Dental, we often say that the most meaningful part of our work happens when compassion meets purpose. Events like Smiles for Kids Day bring that belief to life. They remind us that dentistry is not just about procedures or appointments—it is about people, families, and the trust they place in us.

Events like Smiles for Kids Day allow us to reconnect with that purpose.

Throughout the day, our office fills with energy that is different from an ordinary clinical schedule. Children who arrive nervous or unsure often leave smiling, holding a toothbrush, stickers, or simply the reassurance that the dental chair is not something to fear. Parents express gratitude that is deeply moving for our entire team.

Moments like these remind us why we chose this profession.

Our front office team plays a critical role in setting the tone from the moment families walk through the door. Rubi, Karely and Jennifer welcome families with warmth and reassurance, helping children feel comfortable even before they sit in the dental chair. That

first interaction often sets the tone for a positive experience and reminds us how important compassion and kindness are in healthcare.

Behind the scenes, our clinical team brings patience, skill, and heart to every interaction. They not only provide care, but they also take time to educate children about brushing, flossing, and how to take pride in their smiles.

One of the most meaningful aspects of Smiles for Kids Day is the way it brings the entire team together around a shared mission. On a typical workday, everyone has specific responsibilities and schedules to follow. During this event, however, there is a collective euphoric spirit that reinforces why teamwork matters so much in dentistry.

These moments remind us that community service is not simply about providing treatment for a day. It is about participating in something larger than ourselves.

For our team, Smiles for Kids Day is an opportunity to help ensure that every child in our community has the chance to experience positive dental care. But it is also something more personal.



Volunteering with Sacramento District Dental Society through the Smiles for Kids program allows us to give back to families in our community. **Helping kids build healthy habits early on is incredibly meaningful.**

ITZEL MANZO
BUBBLES DENTAL
TEAM MEMBER



Participating in the Sacramento District Dental Society's Smiles for Kids event is always such a rewarding experience. **I love seeing children leave with big smiles and knowing we helped families learn more about keeping their kids' teeth healthy.**

SANDY BOUNMA
BUBBLES DENTAL TEAM MEMBER

It reminds us why we entered this profession in the first place.

While it may appear that dental teams are the ones giving back during this event, we often feel that we are the ones receiving the greater gift. Programs like Smiles for Kids Day help us reconnect with the heart of our profession and reinforce one of our most important goals: ensuring that every child feels welcomed, cared for, and confident in their smile.

In many ways, Smiles for Kids Day helps us reconnect with the very heart of dentistry.

And for our team, that sense of purpose is something we carry with us long after the day is over, with so much gratitude to all the families that entrusted their care to us and to the Foundation for creating such a memory-lasting opportunity that pours back into our lives. ■



Volunteer OPPORTUNITIES

Ways to volunteer and support the SDDS Foundation:

Become a member of the Foundation – it's only \$75 per year

Donate to the programs of the Foundation – donations help provide screening supplies, toothbrushes and fund the puppet shows

Smiles for Kids Day – 2026 was a success! Now we need DDS volunteers to adopt a child post SFK Day to complete any treatment not completed on SFK Day.

To volunteer, Contact: SDDS office
916.446.1227 • smilesforkids@sdds.org

Smiles for Big Kids is ongoing all year long – we need volunteers to adopt the BIG kids too (especially vets and the elderly)

Volunteers Needed: Dentists willing to “adopt” patients for immediate/emergency needs in their office.

To volunteer, Contact: SDDS office
916.446.1227 • sdds@sdds.org

Willow Dental Clinic

One Saturday every other month
Contact dental@willowclinic.org for more information. You can check out their website here: www.willowclinic.org/services/dental

CCMP (Coalition for Concerned Medical Professionals)

Volunteers needed: General Dentists, Specialists, Dental Assistants and Hygienists.

To volunteer, Contact:
916.925.9379 • ccmp.pa@juno.com

Everyone for Veterans

To volunteer, Contact: SDDS office
916.446.1227 • sdds@sdds.org
everyoneforveterans.org/for-dentists.html



Providing Dental Care: Returning to Guatemala to Continue Giving Back



By Lisa Dobak, DDS
SDDS Member

Since 2015, I have participated in annual dental service trips to Guatemala organized by Dr. Michael O'Brien and his family in partnership with Common Hope. These trips are coordinated on the ground by Lisa Yamauchi, RN, whose leadership and organization make the entire program possible.

Our volunteer teams, made up of dentists, assistants, sterilization technicians, and educators, provide care at the clinic in Antigua and in mobile clinics in rural indigenous communities such as San Rafael, where access to dental care is extremely limited.

Working alongside Dr. Michael O'Brien, Dr. Kevin O'Brien, Dr. Kenneth Moore, and Dr. James Childress, we primarily treat children who have often never seen a dentist. Many families lack basic oral hygiene supplies, so we focus on relieving pain through extractions and treating severe decay using portable dental equipment in very basic settings.

Our education team also provides simple, low-cost prevention strategies to support long-term oral health. Despite the challenges, the gratitude and resilience of the communities we serve make this work deeply meaningful. ■



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EXCLUSIVE LOCAL LISTINGS

CAMERON PARK/PLACERVILLE: #CA4702

GP, 4 Ops+RE, 4 Hyg. days/wk. Dentrix PMS, No Delta Premier. 2024 GR \$755K.

CARMICHAEL/FAIR OAKS AREA: #CA4300

4 Ops, 19+ Yrs. Goodwill, 1,310 Sq. Ft., Open Dental PMS, Paperless, Digital, 55% Delta Premier. 2024 GR \$516K.

EL DORADO HILLS/FOLSOM/GRANITE BAY AREA: #CA4628

GP Practice & Real Estate in a highly desirable city/community, in 6 Ops, 8 days of Hygiene and \$1.1M Collections!

ELK GROVE/SOUTH SACRAMENTO AREA: #CA4731

Amazing 6 Op GP Practice, Eaglesoft PMS, New 3D Conebeam, Pano, 5 Hyg. days/wk. 2025 GR \$370K.

GREATER MODESTO AREA: #CA2795

7 Ops+RE, GP, 18+ Yrs. Goodwill, Dentrix PMS, Digital, Desirable Area! 2025 GR \$589K.

GREATER STOCKTON METRO & SURROUNDING AREA: #CA4533

6 Ops, GP, 55+ Yrs. Goodwill, FFS, 8 days/wk. Hygiene, 1,880 sq. ft. 2024 GR \$1.4M.

REDDING/RED BLUFF/SHASTA COUNTY AREA: #CA3790

6 Ops+RE, GP, 41+ Yrs. Goodwill, 3,000 Sq. Ft., Dentrix PMS, CEREC, 3D Conebeam, Hi Tech! GR \$1.73M.

NORTH SACRAMENTO AREA: #CA4489 **New Listing!**

High-end GP Practice+ Real Estate, 4 Ops, 8 days of Hygiene, 2025 GR \$1.495M.

METRO NORTH SACRAMENTO AREA: #CA4630 **New Listing!**

8 Ops, GP, Steady 21% Growth, Elite Demographics, Modern Facility, Strong Team, 2025 GR \$4.791M.

SACRAMENTO METRO AREA: #CA3851

8 Ops+RE, Advanced Laser Technology, 42+ Yrs. Goodwill, Rare FFS Pediatric Practice. 2025 GR \$1.5M.



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2026 Smiles for Kids Day

Smiles for Kids Day, February 7, 2026, was a tremendous success thanks to the generosity of our volunteer dental community. Across eight host sites, more than 100 volunteers, including SDDS dentist members, dental staff, interpreters, and community members, came together to provide care for 144 children. The total value of treatment delivered exceeded \$100,000.

This incredible day highlights the power of collaboration and our shared commitment to improving children's oral health. We extend our sincere thanks to every volunteer and host site that helped make this event possible.



Thank you...



to our SFK Day Sites

Ascot Family Dental (Dr. Purvak Parikh)
Bubbles Dental (Dr. Kenechukwu Eze)
Caring Tree Children's Dentistry (Dr. Michelle Kucera)
INNOVA Periodontics & Implant Dentistry (Dr. Dean Ahmad)
Pediatric Dentistry of Sacramento (Dr. Paul A. Johnson)
Roseville Family Dental (Dr. Jyothsna Reddy Sabalam)
Sheldon Grove Family Dental (Dr. Andrea Cervantes)
Smile Kingdom (Dr. Jose Juarez)

to our SFK Day Dentists

Dr. Dean Ahmad	Dr. Darcy Owen
Dr. Miriam Behpour	Dr. Purvak Parikh
Dr. Michelle Borg	Dr. Khalid Rasheed
Dr. Andrea Cervantes	Dr. Jyothsna Reddy Sabalam
Dr. Arya Dadashzadeh	Dr. Lora Rode
Dr. Kenechukwu Eze	Dr. Jasraj Sandhu
Dr. Radha Gandhi	Dr. Rajbir Sanghvi
Dr. Kelly Giannetti	Dr. Jeffrey Sue
Dr. Paul Johnson	Dr. Jonathan Wang
Dr. Jose Juarez	Dr. Ken Wong
Dr. Michelle Kucera	Dr. Madhavi Yellamanchili

And to our many SFK Day Volunteers!



Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.

— Erma Bombeck

We want to take this opportunity to blow the horns of two very special SDDS staff members; Della and Sofia exemplify the heart of our organization. Their long-standing commitment to volunteering at Smiles for Kids Day reflects not only their professionalism but also their genuine compassion for the community we serve. Year after year, they give their time and energy to help children receive much-needed dental care. We are deeply grateful for their generosity and proud to have them as part of the SDDS team.

PASSING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT ON TO OUR CHILDREN

Smiles For Kids Day is the perfect opportunity to share the joy that comes from volunteering. We asked a few of our members who brought their children, to share a bit from the day with us.

Darcy Owen, DDS

2026 Smiles for Kids Day Volunteer

Wow! I absolutely love being a pediatric dentist! I love the pediatric dental community, and I love SDDS. On February 7, 2026, Dr. Paul Johnson graciously hosted Smiles for Kids at his Land Park office. Paul and his co-workers are kind and organized. Thank you all!

It was a full circle day for me that left my heart full regarding the path I've taken in dentistry and gave my 16-year-old daughter, Cassidy, a view of what our profession can do. Over the last 26 years, I have been fortunate as an associate dentist to work for and with amazing dentists, assistants, front office and hygienists (including where I currently work with Dr. Lisa Laptalo and her amazing crew!). These people have taught me, shaped me and loved me. What a joy to work with so many of these friends again at Smiles for Kids!

As my two high-school kids start to launch their own independent lives over the next few years, I am looking forward to more volunteering and adventures with our awesome community! Thank you SDDS! ■



Khalid Rasheed, DDS

2026 Smiles for Kids Day Volunteer

In my everyday practice, I focus on the serious business of adult periodontics, caring for the gums and bone that support grown-up smiles. It's a specialty that keeps me mostly in my professional lane. But once a year, I eagerly step out of that lane and into the beautiful, organized frenzy of Smiles for Kids Day. This event isn't just a day of volunteering; it's a personal priority, and this time, I had a very important mission: introducing my seven-year-old daughter, Tala, to a bigger, more essential side of my work.

Tala is incredibly bright and, like most children her age, endlessly curious. She knows I'm a doctor, but the concept of a healthcare provider's true duty—the idea of service beyond a scheduled appointment—can be abstract. She wanted to know why we do this, and why some children don't have easy access to the kind of dental care she takes for granted. I believe that part of raising resilient, compassionate children is not just shielding them, but gently exposing them to the world's realities, and showing them that we have the power and the responsibility to fill the gaps.



Smiles for Kids Day was her chance to see that mission in action. She wasn't just a spectator; she was a participant. Watching her move through the clinic, she was completely captivated. She saw the children waiting with their parents, and she saw the dedication of the doctors, assistants, and support staff. She was thrilled to be part of the team, meeting and interacting with the professionals, and helping to streamline the day's flow. It was a tangible lesson in empathy, a demonstration that caring for others is not just a kind thought, but a deliberate action.

For a child at such an impressionable age, these experiences are foundational. They build a moral compass stronger than any

textbook lesson. Tala didn't just absorb my professional world; she absorbed the value of contribution and the role one person can play with the needs of the community in mind. She learned that while my focus is usually on adults, the spirit of providing care extends to everyone, especially those who need it most. Smiles for Kids Day, therefore, isn't just about dentistry—it's about planting a seed of service in the next generation and showing them the joy of being part of a team that lifts others up. I couldn't be prouder to have shared this important day with my special little helper. ■





Foundation Annual Report

The *Heart* of Our Dental Society

Looking Back at the SDDS Foundation in 2025



By **Carl Hillendahl, DDS**
2025 Foundation President

"It is the mission of the Sacramento District Dental Foundation to promote the oral and general health of the public by serving as the charitable arm of the Sacramento District Dental Society (SDDS) and the dental community."

2025 was another good year for the Foundation. The Foundation started the year with \$3.7 million in assets, and thanks to the generosity of donors and the appreciation of equities and fixed income, we ended the year with \$4.2 million. A detailed breakdown of Foundation financials follows this report.

2025 was also a year of change. We were sorry to acknowledge the passing of Dr. Matt Campbell on February 24. He was an esteemed member and leader in SDDS, CDA, and ADA, a good friend and mentor, and a past president of the Foundation. In June, the Foundation welcomed Carroll Badgley as our new Executive Director, when Cathy Levering retired. Our best wishes went out to Cathy, hoping for a long, healthy retirement.

The Foundation received donations honoring Cathy and her tenure with SDDS, and the Foundation Board agreed to establish a legacy scholarship fund in her name. Cathy was a great proponent for developing leaders, and the scholarship will be called "Cathy Levering Leadership Scholarship." The details for the management of this scholarship fund are still being finalized, and more information about this program will be available in the future.

We had a robust year of charitable and fundraising programs. Fall 2024 school screening identified 113 kids with access to care problems and enrolled them in the Smiles of Kids Day event on February 1, 2025. Six dental offices and 80 volunteers

provided nearly \$100,000 in pro bono care for the kids that showed up. SFK day is a very positive event for the community and provides significant goodwill towards dentistry and the Dental Society. Thank you for the generosity of making your office available and the time that volunteers provided to treat this segment of our community.

Sofia Gutierrez, the SDDS staff member who oversees the Foundation projects, was awarded the 2025 Oral Health Hero Award from the Center for Oral Health for her dedication to the management of the Foundation outreach programs. Thank you, Sofia and the rest of the SDDS staff who manage SFK Day and the Smile for Big Kids program.

Smiles for Big Kids (SFBK) is an ongoing Foundation program dedicated to helping disadvantaged adults receive appropriate care. In this issue of *the Nugget*, you can read about several SFBK patients and the care they received. We extend our sincere thanks to our members who have provided care for these patients.

In May, Justine Intemann-Milligan, a dental student currently attending school in Michigan received the SDDF Scholarship. The Herb & Inez Yee Family Scholarship was awarded to Danylo Tomyev, a student who was very active in the CSUS Pre-Dental Association. Additionally, the SDDS and Foundation awarded two dental hygiene scholarship to graduating students from Carrington College.

The annual Foundation golf tournament, Swing for Smiles, was a huge success. Held at Teal Bend Golf Club, the event welcomed 132 golfers and amazing support from 53

sponsors. It was a beautiful day, and the event raised more than \$32,000 for the Foundation. We look forward to seeing everyone at Teal Bend again this year!

Our Dentists Do Broadway series is also popular with the members and frequently sells out. The September Shred event had a good turnout, with 357 banker boxes of documents shredded and 978 pounds of e-waste repurposed. Donations were accepted. Crowns for Kids generated \$23,000 in donations. Thank you to those who gave up their extracted crowns.

Our final fundraising event for the year was Silent Auction during the annual Holiday Party. The event was held at the Sutter Club in Sacramento and was attended by 100 SDDS members and guests. Incoming SDDS and SDDF Board members were installed that evening, and the Silent Auction raised more than \$25,000 for the Foundation.

I am very proud of the work our Foundation does for the community and the growth we have achieved during my time as President. We have the strongest Foundation of any component in California, and the more we grow as a Foundation, the more significant our future programs can become. Thank you all for your generosity and support of the Foundation. Enjoy reading this issue of *the Nugget*. ■

Carl M. Hillendahl, DDS
SDDF President

2025 FOUNDATION FINANCIALS - LOOK AT HOW WE'VE GROWN!

CURRENT ASSETS

CHECKING / SAVINGS

	2001	2008	2013	2019	2021	2024	2025
Charitable Fund	\$26,399	\$117,878	\$181,110	\$0 (closed)	\$0 (closed)	\$0 (closed)	\$0 (closed)
General Fund <i>Includes SFK/SFBK beginning in 2016</i>	\$15,244	\$173,921	\$484,774	\$963,000	\$1,127,252	\$1,428,108	\$1,512,364
Helen Hamilton Fund <i>Operating, program and grants monies</i>	\$93,776	\$73,668	\$151,128	\$273,102	\$343,525	\$401,488	\$452,650
Perpetual Fund	\$123,680	\$182,672	\$619,182	\$1,230,890	\$1,522,523	\$1,840,094	\$2,193,324
TOTAL CHECKING / SAVINGS:	\$259,099	\$554,287	\$1,460,013	\$2,466,991	\$2,993,300	\$3,669,690	\$4,158,338
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE:		\$1,750	\$4,031	\$11,204	\$46,565	\$24,847	\$38,595
PREPAID EXPENSES:		\$5,174	\$19,788	\$8,459	\$77,659	\$10,175	\$13,195
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$259,099	\$561,211	\$1,460,013	\$2,486,654	\$3,117,524	\$3,704,712	\$4,210,128

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

	2001	2008	2013	2019	2021	2024	2025
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$304	\$17,522	\$0	\$2,832	-\$1,856	\$5,480
Deferred Revenue <i>(Other Current Liabilities)</i>	\$0	\$4,119	\$10,301	\$11,438	\$10,770	\$17,815	\$11,867
TOTAL LIABILITIES:	\$0	\$4,424	\$27,832	\$11,438	\$13,602	\$15,959	\$17,347

EQUITY

	2001	2008	2013	2019	2021	2024	2025
Retained Earnings	\$260,550	\$560,339	\$1,052,822	\$2,157,908	\$2,676,839	\$3,283,104	\$3,688,753
Net Income	-\$1,451	-\$3,551	\$379,359	\$317,309	\$427,083	\$405,649	\$504,028
TOTAL EQUITY:	\$259,099	\$556,787	\$1,432,181	\$2,475,216	\$3,103,922	\$3,688,753	\$4,192,781
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY:	\$259,099	\$561,211	\$1,460,013	\$2,486,654	\$3,117,524	\$3,704,712	\$4,210,128

ACTIVITY

REVENUE

Fundraisers (net)	\$82,270
Donations & Contributions	\$264,022
Foundation Dues	\$39,221
Program Grants / Contributions	\$43,110
Investments	\$320,684
TOTAL NET REVENUE:	\$749,307

EXPENDITURES

Fundraiser Expenses	\$45,772
Programs / Outreach	\$72,308
Scholarships	\$6,756
General / Administrative	\$120,443
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$245,279
EXCESS EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUE:	\$504,028



Goals of the *Foundation*

The Foundation was established in 1969 and is the 501(c)3 not-for-profit charity arm of the Dental Society. Funds raised are used to aid and promote the oral and general health of the public through education, care coordination, service and dental treatment in the fields of preventative and curative dentistry. Our Foundation programs, Smiles for Kids and Smiles for Big Kids, focus especially on children, the elderly and to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. The Foundation also provides scholarships to (1) students who are entering and currently enrolled in dental school; (2) auxiliary dental team members of SDDS members who want to further their skills and education; and (3) other dental-related scholarship opportunities.

The Sacramento District Dental Foundation is funded solely through contributions, bequests, fundraising events, donation of services, planned giving and grants. For more information on ways to support the Foundation, please visit sdds.org/foundation.

Thank you for being a member of the SDDS Foundation, your support makes our projects possible and we truly appreciate your continued support. Please remember to renew for 2026.

2025 Foundation Board of Directors

Carl Hillendahl, DDS
President

Paul Binon, DDS, MSD
Vice President

Kevin Keating, DDS, MS
Treasurer

Lisa Dobak, DDS
Assistant Treasurer

Craig Alpha, DDS
Secretary

Margaret Delmore, MD, DDS

Volki Felahy, DDS

Greg Heise, DDS

Bryan Judd, DDS

Michael O'Brien, DDS

H. Wesley Yee, DDS

Karen Harris, Associate Member



*Are you a
member of our
Foundation?*

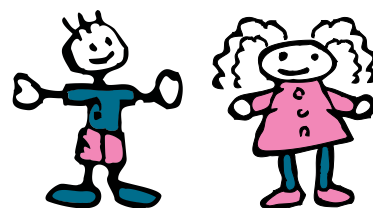
It only costs \$75 a year to be a member of our Foundation. The Foundation funds our Smiles for Kids and Smiles for Big Kids programs!

Will you join? Email us at sdds@sdds.org to become a member and make a difference.

Thank you for supporting the Foundation!



OUR FOUNDATION OVER THE YEARS



442 Members in 2025

**Has continued to support
our community programs**

- Smiles for Kids
- Oral Health Education
Puppet Shows
- Smiles for Big Kids
- Dental student scholarships
for first year students
- Dental hygiene scholarships
- Since 2014, we've given \$122K
in scholarships to dental
students and auxiliary staff

Thank you for volunteering,
donating and supporting our
wonderful Foundation!

**Has succeeded in fundraising
to benefit and fund programs...**

GOLF TOURNAMENTS have
raised **\$393K** since 2008

Four Galas have
raised
\$311K SINCE 2011

Broadway shows have
raised **\$83K** since 2002

**HOLIDAY PARTY
Silent Auctions** have
RAISED \$185K

**CROWNS FOR KIDS
(FOR SFK) HAS RAISED
\$468K** SINCE 2006



Thank you 2025 Foundation Members

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Foundation Members (2025)

Dentist Members

Dr. Guy Acheson
Dr. Gary Ackerman
Dr. Gregory Adams
Dr. Nima Afshari
Dr. Nahid Afshari
Dr. Arash Aghakhani
Dr. Dean Ahmad
Dr. Mohamed Ahmed
Dr. Samer Alsaad
Dr. Ashkan Alizadeh
Dr. Marwa Alkordy
Dr. Craig Alpha
Dr. Jessica Alt
Dr. Rina Ambaram
Dr. Russell Anders
Dr. Jay Anderson
Dr. Todd Andrews
Dr. Jenny Apekian
Dr. Nancy Archibald
Dr. Brad Archibald
Dr. Guillermo Arellano
Dr. Jerhet Ask
Dr. Ron Ask
Dr. Mark Backhus
Dr. Laila Baker
Dr. Debra Baker Parachou
Dr. Aneet Bal
Dr. Daisuke Bannai
Dr. Paul Barkin
Dr. Sarwandeep Bath
Dr. Stuart Beach
Dr. Jill Beams
Dr. Wallace Bellamy
Dr. Charles Benavidez
Dr. Kim Benton
Dr. Paul Bianchi
Dr. Paul Binon
Dr. John Birch
Dr. Donald Boatman
Dr. Thais Booms
Dr. Forrest Boozer
Dr. Michelle Borg
Dr. Greg Borrowdale
Dr. Michael Boyce
Dr. Damon Boyd
Dr. Richard Brown

Dr. Rodney Bughao
Dr. Arthur Burbridge
Dr. Lydia Cam
Dr. Michael Carrington
Dr. Erin Carson
Dr. John Carson
Dr. Michael Casagrande
Dr. Robert Catron
Dr. Steve Cavagnolo
Dr. Pamela Caviness
Dr. Andrea Cervantes
Dr. Jayson Chalmers
Dr. Jonathan Chan
Dr. Wai Ming Chan
Dr. Kevin Chang
Dr. Richard Chang
Dr. Shareen Char-Fat
Dr. Kevin Chen
Dr. Amanda Chen
Dr. Florence Chiang
Dr. Chuen Chie Chiang
Dr. Chuen Chie Chiang
Dr. James Childress
Dr. Cameron Cho
Dr. Brandon Christensen
Dr. Michael Chu
Dr. Darrell Chun
Dr. Camilia Cifor
Dr. Tracey Cook
Dr. Benjamin Cope
Dr. Fredrick Correa
Dr. Brian Crawford
Dr. Paul Cripe
Dr. David Crippen
Dr. Gina Crippen
Dr. Curtis Croft
Dr. Monica Crooks
Dr. Mary Cuevas
Dr. Jerome Daby
Dr. Robert Daby
Dr. Kent Daft
Dr. Shannon Dang
Dr. Vincent D'Ascoli
Dr. David Datwyler
Dr. Randy Davey
Dr. Teresa De Guzman
Dr. Jacqueline Delaney
Dr. Jeff Delgadillo
Dr. Margaret Delmore
Dr. Paul Denzler

Dr. Friz Diaz
Dr. Justin Diederichs
Dr. Julianne Digiorno
Dr. Shaina DiMariano
Dr. Lisa Dobak
Dr. Gordon Douglass
Dr. Xuan Duong
Dr. Herlin Dyal
Dr. Mark Engel
Dr. Kenekukwu Eze
Dr. Kent Farnsworth
Dr. Diana Fat
Dr. John Fat
Dr. Ken Fat
Dr. David Feder
Dr. Volkmar Felahy
Dr. Debra Finney
Dr. Stephen Fisher
Dr. Cindy Fondren
Dr. Brian Fong
Dr. Thomas Fong
Dr. Michael Forde
Dr. Lora Foster-Rode
Dr. Sandra Fouladi
Dr. Ethan Fox
Dr. Kasi Franck
Dr. Dean Funada
Dr. Beatriz Galofre
Dr. Calvin Garland
Dr. Douglas Gedestad
Dr. Richard Gere
Dr. Eman Ghoneim
Dr. Kelly Giannetti
Dr. Frank Godfrey
Dr. Jennifer Goldman
Dr. Mitchell Goodis
Dr. Eric Grove
Dr. Michael Guess
Dr. Monica Gugale
Dr. Edi Guidi
Dr. Dan Haberman
Dr. Laurie Hanschu
Dr. Kerry Hanson
Dr. Dan Harlan
Dr. Elizabeth Harmon
Dr. Sherif Hassan
Dr. David Hatcher
Dr. Victor Hawkins
Dr. Heather Hawkins
Dr. Randall Hayashi

Dr. Robert Hays
Dr. Jag Heir
Dr. Gregory Heise
Dr. Poje Her
Dr. Tim Herman
Dr. Ryan Higgins
Dr. Carl Hillendahl
Dr. Michael Holm
Dr. Mark Holt
Dr. Brandon Homer
Dr. Richard Huang
Dr. Stephen Huppert
Dr. Elizabeth Huynh
Dr. Horia Ionescu
Dr. Carolyn Ishii
Dr. Richard Jackson
Dr. Nichi Jain
Dr. Chad Jensen
Dr. Herb Jensen
Dr. Paul A Johnson
Dr. Elizabeth Johnson
Dr. Dagon Jones
Dr. Dan Jones
Dr. Russell Jones
Dr. Terrence Jones
Dr. Jose Juarez
Dr. Bryan Judd
Dr. Keith Judd
Dr. Yan Kalika
Dr. Ramouna Karvar
Dr. David Keating
Dr. Kevin Keating
Dr. Richard Keelson
Dr. Richard Kennedy
Dr. Fady Khalil
Dr. Neelofar Khan
Dr. Shahrar Khodai
Dr. Sean Khodai
Dr. Shahryar Khodai
Dr. Jin Kim
Dr. Katherine Kim
Dr. Craig Kinzer
Dr. Richard Knight
Dr. Rob Koch
Dr. Matthew Korn
Dr. Michelle Kucera
Dr. Mark Kujiroaka
Dr. Kevin Kurio
Dr. Leigh Kurio
Dr. Arden Kwong
Dr. Jeff Kwong
Dr. Laurie LaDow
Dr. Lisa Laptalo
Dr. Larry Larsen
Dr. Hung Le
Dr. Grace Lee
Dr. Leland Lee
Dr. Gordon Lee
Dr. Alan Leider
Dr. Diane Liberty
Dr. Donald Liberty
Dr. Yen Lieu
Dr. Pieter Linssen
Dr. Steve Longoria
Dr. Donald Lovett
Dr. Devon Lowry

Dr. Steve Lynch
Dr. Jeffrey Ma
Dr. Janine Ma-Golding
Dr. Madeline Majer
Dr. Craig Makishima
Dr. Holly Malchow
Dr. Ian Marion
Dr. David Markham
Dr. Luminita Markham
Dr. Brandon Martin
Dr. Daniel Martin
Dr. Marlene Masuoka
Dr. Jennifer McCarthy
Dr. Candy McComb
Dr. Jeff McComb
Dr. Warren McWilliams
Dr. Rob Meaglia
Dr. James Meinert
Dr. Tim Mickiewicz
Dr. Glenn Middleton
Dr. Marina Milstein
Dr. Michael Miyasaki
Dr. Matthew Molitor
Dr. Edward Montalbo
Dr. Rhonda Montalbo
Dr. Kathryn Ann Moore
Dr. Kenneth Moore
Dr. Sydney Moore
Dr. Megan Moyneur
Dr. James Musser
Dr. Christopher Myers
Dr. Cliff Nakatani
Dr. Pouva Namirianian
Dr. Aneel Nath
Dr. Michael Nguyen
Dr. ThanhTruc Nguyen
Dr. Michell Nguyen
Dr. Minh Nguyen
Dr. John Noe
Dr. Bryan Nokelby
Dr. Gloria Nollie
Dr. Kevin O'Brien
Dr. Michael O'Brien
Dr. Jeanette Okazaki
Dr. Siamak Okhovat
Dr. Gregory Olsen
Dr. Sherry Oshetski
Dr. Darcy Owen
Dr. Deborah Owyang
Dr. Gregory Owyang
Dr. Alan Pan
Dr. Purvak Parikh
Dr. Viren Patel
Dr. Michael Payne
Dr. James Peck
Dr. Lance Peery
Dr. Patrick Penney
Dr. Iroshini Perera
Dr. Michael Perich
Dr. Josh Perisho
Dr. Stacey Peters-Nelson
Dr. Dennis Peterson
Dr. Gayle Peterson
Dr. David Pettey
Dr. Quynh Pham
Dr. Paul Phillips

Dr. Robert Phillips
Dr. Jerome Pielago
Dr. Paolo Poidmore
Dr. Mark Porco
Dr. Jordan Priestley
Dr. Scott Pyo
Dr. Alan Rabe
Dr. Mojtaba Radi
Dr. Eva Radisay
Dr. Karthik Raghuraman
Dr. Brian Ralli
Dr. Ling Ralli
Dr. Khalid Rasheed
Dr. Hana Rashid
Dr. Ibtisam Rashid
Dr. Gabrielle Rasi
Dr. Joseph Rawlins
Dr. Mark Redford
Dr. Aaron Reeves
Dr. Justin Reich
Dr. Sean Rhee
Dr. John Riach
Dr. Lindsey Robinson
Dr. Leon Roda III
Dr. Don Rollofson
Dr. Christy Rollofson-Porrino
Dr. Jeffrey Rosa
Dr. Nicholas Rotas
Dr. Sean Roth
Dr. Ronald Rott
Dr. David Rule
Dr. Cynthia Russell
Dr. Matthew Ryan
Dr. Navneet Sahota
Dr. Stephanie Sandretti
Dr. John Santamaria
Dr. Cherag Sarkari
Dr. Christopher Schiappa
Dr. Pam Schmidt
Dr. Nicholas Scordakis
Dr. Timothy Scott
Dr. Shahryar Sefidpour
Dr. Samuel Seiden
Dr. David Seman
Dr. Amir Shad
Dr. Sherry Shapiro
Dr. Richard Shipp
Dr. Stefanie Shore
Dr. Dwight Simpson
Dr. Ed Sims
Dr. Walter Skinner
Dr. William Sloan
Dr. Colby Smith
Dr. In Hee Song
Dr. Andrea Sosa
Dr. Norman Spalding
Dr. David Spector
Dr. Joelle Speed
Dr. Terri Speed
Dr. Anna Sri
Dr. Jack Stansfield
Dr. Tate Stimpson
Dr. Visse Storm
Dr. Jeffrey Sue
Dr. Tiffanie Sun

Are you a member of our Foundation?

It only costs \$75 a year to be a member of our Foundation. Email us at sdds@sdds.org to become a member and make a difference.

Thank you for supporting the Foundation!



What We Do Together Makes a Difference



Caring for normal souls doing extraordinary feats
to serve our country in combat. Treating these
soldiers is an honor and a lifelong commitment.

- Dr. Matthew Comfort



I truly have a smile
I can be proud of.

- Suzanna, treated by Dr. Bryan Judd

Scan here to
Donate to the
Foundation



Dr. Kimberly Sunahara
Dr. Damon Szymanowski
Dr. Jonathan Szymanowski
Dr. Art Tanimoto
Dr. Kevin Tanner
Dr. Gaetan Tchamba
Dr. Larry Templin
Dr. H. Scott Thompson
Dr. Robert Tilly
Dr. Alex Tomaich
Dr. Diane Tomlinson
Dr. Pedram Towfighi
Dr. Leo Townsend
Dr. Jimmy Tran
Dr. Kelvin Tse
Dr. Glen Tueller
Dr. Arjang Vahidnia
Dr. Ashima Vaid
Dr. Chirag Vaid
Dr. Lucy Valencia
Dr. Tanya Varimezova
Dr. Asvin Vasanthan
Dr. Gary Vedenoff

Dr. Jonathan Vongschanphen
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Dr. Tom Wagner
Dr. Kim Wallace
Dr. Wayne Walters
Dr. Wen-Li Wang
Dr. Ramsen Warda
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Dr. Ernest Watson
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Dr. Richard Whitaker
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Dr. Joel Whiteman
Dr. Kristy Whiteman
Dr. Jill Whitney
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Dr. Ryan Wilgus
Dr. Michael Wilson
Dr. Tim Wing

Dr. Boyoung Won
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Dr. Eric Wong
Dr. Gerald Wong
Dr. Ian Wong
Dr. Kenneth Wong
Dr. Timothy Wong
Dr. Amy Woo
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Dr. Rosemary Wu
Dr. Pinelopi Xenoudi
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Dr. Thomas Yamamoto
Dr. Farah Yasmeen
Dr. Bradley Yee
Dr. Wesley Yee
Dr. Amy Yu
Dr. Agnes Yumiaco
Dr. James Zimmerman
Dr. Ryan Zleik

Associate Members

Cornel Ahmad
Paula Bravo
Julie Cisneros
Brittney Crary
Tahna Cruz
Peggy Daft
Betty Dobak
Donna Drury-Klein
Tashina Elgin
Adam Harris
Alex Harris
Allen Harris
Annabelle Harris
Craig Harris
Christie Harris
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Tamara Harris
Margaret Jackson
Carrie James
Kathie Jones

Marion Jones
Cookie Lawrence
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Teresa Lua
Marcella Oster
Cher Paydar
Valerie Phillips
Elizabeth Reynoso
Tammy Roach
Brendon Schmitt
Kim Stiles
Sherry Sue
Annette Tomaich
Kim Warganich-Stiles
Dr. Ruby Yu



The Program that Started it All

Our largest and most far-reaching project, **Smiles for Kids®** (SFK) (originally founded in 1991 by Dr. Gerard Ortner and Dr. Don Rollofson) was adopted and expanded by the Foundation in 2003. It partners member dentists with local schools to screen and provide dental education to thousands of children each year. From the screenings, underinsured and underserved children are treated by member dentists and their teams on SFK Day each February. Children are then “adopted” for further pro bono treatment – including specialty and orthodontic treatment. Each year, thousands of dollars in pro bono treatment is provided to children in the five county SDDS area. Smiles for Kids is making great strides toward reversing the disheartening statistics that plague the children of our community.

SMILES FOR KIDS TO DATE BY THE NUMBERS

655,784

Kids served since 1991

4249

School
screenings
by SDDS
Members



\$16.6 million

in Dental Treatment

109,727

Kids reached with Puppet Shows

THOUSANDS

HAVE VOLUNTEERED



1,300

Kids received orthodontic treatment since 1996



17,854 KIDS TREATED SINCE 1991

Smiles for Kids 2025

Our Cups Runneth Over with Smiles!

Thank you to all volunteers for our SFK program. We did our best to make sure kids were screened, referred, taken care of, transitioned to existing dental offices and funneled into our program. Thank you to all the dentists who continue to say “yes” to adopting kids each year.



SFK Screenings - Dentists & Teams

Dr. Ana Maria Antoniu
Dr. Robin Berrin
Dr. Matthew Bonzell
Dr. Erin Carson
Dr. Juan Chavez
Dr. Wendell Clove
Dr. Tracey Cook
Dr. Paul Denzler
Dr. Julianne Digiorno
Dr. Melissa Fong
Dr. Matthew Gustafsson
Dr. Paul Johnson
Dr. Sean Khodai
Dr. John Noe
Dr. Jordan Priestly
Dr. Dexter Quiggle
Dr. Lindsey Robinson
Dr. Jennifer Ryan
Dr. Nico Scordakis
Dr. Dina Wasileski
Debbie Blanchard, RDH
Dawn De La Vega, RDH
Angela Delfino, RDH
Deborah Delfino, RDH
Leslie Giovannoni, RDH
Maria Simpson, RDH
Saira West, RDH
Placer County Oral Health

SFK Day - Dentists

Dr. Corey Bafford
Dr. Miriam Behpour
Dr. Thais Booms
Dr. Michelle Borg
Dr. Erin Carson
Dr. Andrea Cervantes

Dr. Kenechukwu Eze
Dr. Lora Foster Rode
Dr. Carl Hillendahl
Dr. Paul Johnson
Dr. Jose Juarez
Dr. Darcy Owens
Dr. Purvak Parikh
Dr. Nilesh Patel
Dr. Krishna Priya Upadrasta
Dr. Rajbir Sanghvi
Dr. Colleen Buehler Steinberg

SFK Day - Sites

Ascot Family Dental
Bubbles Dental
Kids Care Dental & Orthodontics
Pediatric Dentistry of Sacramento
Sheldon Grove Family Dental
Smile Kingdom Dental

SFK Day - RDAs

Casey Alexander
Kymberly Allen
Sofia Bernabe-Vargas
Dalea Burghar
Aylin Carrasco
Katie Foster
Yasanny Gonzalez
Romey Ingram
Alex Knott
Bobbi Kurtz
Anna Lopez
Karley McCrary
Kelley Miller

Maria Myers
Eduarda Pagsinuhin
Karina Ruiz
Melody Sanchez
Danny Sandoval
Ashley Shafor
Jocelyne Valdez
Elizabeth Villa-Magana
Tegian Wagner

SFK Day - RDAEFs

Jen Pilgram

SFK Day - DAs

Sandy Bouhma
Kayla Camper
Karley Carranza
Zaira Enciso
Ashley Hopkins
Chayanne Jusuf
Itzel Mano
Maria Mendoza
Lindsey Osorio
Prayaog Parikh
Latalia Rivera

SFK Day - RDHs

Angie Bout
Jessica Cabillaro
Trina Cervantes
Esmeralda Wilson
Elizabeth Wong

SFK Day - Volunteers

Brenda Barajas
Adriana Canby
Yesenia Cervantes
Bethany Cheng
Alessandra Devitt
Yanelly Gasca-Reyes
Sofia Gutierrez
Adel Henry
Ian Henry
Raquel Henry Juarez
Jennifer Hernandez
Cassidy Owens
Priya Panchal
Yalda Rahmatee
Ligia Rojas
Alan Senior
Lorna Senior
Jasleen Sethi
Nicole Waters
Madison Weatherford
Della Yee

Adopt-a-Kid 2025

General Dentists

Dr. Kenechukwu Eze
Dr. Jose Juarez
Dr. Brian Orcutt
Dr. Kristy Whiteman
Dr. Joel Whiteman
Dr. Raj Zanzi

Oral Surgeons

Dr. Craig Alpha
Dr. Nanlin Chiang
Dr. Jeffrey Delgadillo
Dr. Kenneth Wong

Orthodontists

Dr. Gregory Adams
Dr. Steve Anderson
Dr. Thais Booms
Dr. Brian Crawford
Dr. Jason Dorminey
Dr. Gregory Evrigenis
Dr. Kelly Giannetti
Dr. Michael Guess
Dr. Daniel Haberman
Dr. Mark Holt
Dr. Robert Kelleher
Dr. Christopher Myers
Dr. Michael Payne
Dr. Ryan Plewe
Dr. Paolo Poidmore
Dr. Matthew Sanders
Dr. Damon Szymanowski
Dr. Alan Tan

Pediatric Dentists

Dr. Paul Johnson
Dr. Jeffrey Sue

Endodontists

Dr. Andrey Antonenko
Dr. Fernando Solano
Dr. Clifford Wong

MD Anesthesiologist

Dr. Samuel Seiden

Prosthodontists

Dr. Paul Binon

It was an incredible opportunity to serve along all the great doctors here at Pediatric Dentistry of Sacramento. **Dr. Johnson's office was warm, welcoming and I would love to collaborate more moving forward.** Great job by all the dentists and I look up to all of them and will try to be as good as them in the future :)

PRIYA UPADRASTA

UOP STUDENT, SMILES FOR KIDS DAY 2025





Giving Back Through Dentistry: A Team Effort

When Service Gives Back



By **Jeffrey Sue, DDS**
SDDS Member

As a pediatric dentist, one of the most rewarding parts of my profession is the opportunity to give back to the community by donating dental services to those who might otherwise go without care. SDDS's Smiles for Kids program highlights that very theme. Dentistry is about far more than restoring teeth—it's about restoring confidence, comfort, and overall health. When we open our doors to provide care for patients in need, we are reminded why we chose this profession in the first place.

Providing donated dental treatment has a powerful impact not only on the patients we serve, but on our entire dental team. From our front office staff who warmly welcome patients, to the assistants who help deliver

compassionate care, everyone becomes part of something meaningful. There is a special energy in the office on those days—an understanding that we are making a real difference in someone's life.

Giving back through dentistry doesn't just change the life of the person receiving care; it transforms the spirit of the entire dental team.

Recently, my team and I were able to provide full mouth rehabilitation on a young child who was unable to be seen in a regular office. Our services were donated to the Smiles for Kids program. Also, our affiliated member, Dr. Sam Seiden, also donated his anesthesia services.

For our team, these experiences strengthen our sense of purpose and unity. Working together to help someone in need reinforces the values that brought us into healthcare: compassion, service, and community. Seeing a patient leave with a healthier smile—and often a renewed sense of confidence—reminds us that even small acts of generosity can have a lasting impact.

Giving back through dentistry doesn't just change the life of the person receiving care; it transforms the spirit of the entire dental team. It brings us closer together, reminds us of our mission, and reinforces the idea that a healthy smile can truly change a life.

I am proud to have a dental society where its members participate in giving the gift of health, hope, and smiles! ■



Finding Comfort and Compassion

Words From a Grateful Mother

By Yasmine Khader
Mother of a SFK Patient

When my daughter needed dental work, I was overwhelmed with fear because of her oral sensitivity and worried about how she would handle the experience and how we might be perceived. Luckily, someone recommended Weideman Pediatric Dentistry. I decided to give it a chance, and from the moment we walked in, their kindness and patience immediately put me at ease. I dreaded the visit to the dentist for so long, and to my surprise, it was one of the most stress-free moments of my experience as a mom. The team treated both my daughter and me with so much compassion, understanding, and clear knowledge of how to treat an autistic child. They sang to her, followed her pace, and made sure we were both comfortable. Being pregnant, they even made sure I was safe while they took the X-rays. Although our insurance wasn't covered, the care we received was so exceptional that we couldn't imagine going anywhere else. I went home that day and told my husband, "We need to do whatever it takes to make sure we continue treatment with them!" I was adamant about finding the funds to get treatment through

them and them only. In an incredibly generous act, they informed us that they chose to adopt her as a patient and cover the cost of her treatment. I will never forget that moment. I breathed a sigh of relief knowing she would get the best possible care. It still brings tears to my eyes!

The day of surgery, Dr. Jeff carefully explained everything and made me feel confident she was in the best hands. Talking to him, it was clear my daughter's dental and overall health came before anything else, and he wanted to make sure I knew what we were getting into. It was a lot of dental work, but I was confident he would be the right doctor for us. I was surprised how easy and smoothly the day went, she woke up from anesthesia and within a few hours was back to her normal self —no pain, no complications.

Throughout the entire experience, Ally, the office manager, was an incredible emotional support who truly treated us like family. From the first day we met her, she played alongside my daughter while I spoke to

the doctor about the X-ray findings. A seemingly small act that any mom raising a neurodivergent child knows how meaningful it is when your child is comfortable enough with a stranger to sit and play alongside.

What could have been a frightening experience became a reminder of how life-changing genuine compassion in healthcare can be and one of the most meaningful acts of kindness our family has experienced. We are eternally grateful for their kindness and generosity, and for giving my child the greatest gift, a pain-free smile! ■

Thank you to Sofia Gutierrez and Sacramento District Dental Society for all your great help and **for connecting me to Dr. Gregory Adams, who got my braces done. I am so happy with my new smile, and I appreciate him and his team at Laguna Orthodontics.** They are doing a fantastic job, and I am very thankful to them.

KIMBERLEY VELASQUEZ
SMILES FOR KIDS ORTHO PATIENT





Building Confidence Since 2009



The Smiles for BIG Kids® (SFBK) program kicked off in 2009 to provide necessary dental services to uninsured and low-income adults. While SFK addresses the dental needs of children, SFBK promotes oral health to adults, provides donated dental treatment for uninsured, low-income adults age 18+ who are in need of urgent dental care, as well as education on maintaining proper oral health. This program is available to all area adults who meet the program's eligibility requirements, and especially targets the needs of our community's low-income elderly population, as well as the parents of children served by the SFK program. Since the program's inception, over \$2 million in services has been provided.

SMILES FOR BIG KIDS BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 2009

696 PATIENTS COMPLETED
854 PATIENTS PLACED



60
AVERAGE AGE
OF PATIENTS

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FOUR
OVER THE AGE OF SIXTY

\$3160 Average cost per
patient in 2025

PARTNERS WHO REFER

Clara's House | Women's Empowerment
Everyone for Veterans | St. John's Shelter
Project Safe Haven | Refugee Services
Dentists/Specialists Private Referrals | WEAVE



\$2.040 million
in Dental Treatment

SEVEN
LABS PARTICIPATING

17 Patients completed
treatment in 2025

Smiles for Big Kids 2025

Participating Dentists

Dr. Nima Aflatooni
Dr. Ashkan Alizadeh
Dr. Craig Alpha
Dr. Paul Binon
Dr. Kirsten Chang
Dr. Jeffrey Delgadillo

Dr. Ken Fat
Dr. Volki Felahy
Dr. Erica Hsiao
Dr. Bryan Judd
Dr. Alexander Kaplan
Dr. Mark Kujiraoka
Dr. Siamak Okhovat
Dr. Gregory Olsen

Dr. Sean Roth
Dr. Chhama Sarawagi
Dr. Stefanie Shore
Dr. Joel Whiteman
Dr. Clifford Wong
Dr. Ken Wong
California Northstate University

Participating Labs

Dandy Dental Lab
Dental Creations
Fusion Dental Arts
Lucent Dentistry Lab
Nelson Dental Designs
Polaris Dental Lab Group

Changing Lives with Smiles for Big Kids



By **Stefanie Shore, DDS**
SDDS Member



When SDDS reached out to me in the new year to see if I was ready to take on a new “Smiles for Big Kids” patient, I immediately said “yes.” It had been several years since my last SFBK patient, and I was ready to help someone in need.

I first met Yvette in mid-January. She was immediately warm and engaging and expressed so much gratitude for being seen in my office. She had completed the program with Women’s Empowerment and wanted to be able to smile for her public speaking opportunities. As a victim of domestic violence, Yvette has had difficulties in her life, but she was so positive and happy from her first visit. She was hoping to have full dentures made, so

that was what we treatment-planned that day! Yvette had to have many appointments over the course of six months, but she was a wonderful patient—always on time, understanding about long appointments, and always grateful. She was a trooper and did well with her extractions and multiple denture appointments.

I found a great lab partner in Mike Nelson, from Nelson Dental Designs in Diamond Springs, to make her full upper and lower dentures. Despite some tricky bite issues, we were able to give Yvette a beautiful set of new teeth. Seeing her new smile made all the hard work worth it! As dentists, we are able to help and serve people uniquely, and I feel it is so important to give back and share our skills with those in need. ■

PUPPET SHOWS BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 2014

109,727

Kids reached with Puppet Shows

1,283 SHOWS



DENTAL EDUCATION IN 950 SCHOOLS

Three educational puppet shows travel to local area schools informing and entertaining our community’s children. We hope the message will make its way back home and impact the entire family.

Sir Enamel fights the Sugar Bugs... always a crowd pleaser in our elementary schools.

- SCUSD School Nurse



Turning Scrap Metal into Smiles

In 2005, the Foundation partnered with Star Dental Refining, a metal refinery and began **Crowns for Kids®** (CFK) to benefit Smiles for Kids. In this program, member dentists collect scrap metal from their patients' dental treatment in CFK jars, the jars are collected and sent to the metal refinery, and the refinery sends a check to the Foundation each month. Since 2006, CFK has raised \$468,036 – and it all goes to benefit SFK!

Powered by  **STAR DENTAL
REFINING**



The dental office that raised the most for Crowns for Kids in 2025 was Sun Oaks Dental,

Drs. Kirsten Chang and Richard Chang (retired). Their office contributed an impressive total of \$2,950. This recognition is especially meaningful, as Crowns for Kids was originally founded by Dr. Richard Chang in 2006, making this achievement a continuation of his vision and a true family legacy of giving.

Participation in Crowns for Kids helps fund the Foundation's Smiles for Kids programs, including oral health educational puppet shows in elementary schools, children's oral health screenings, and many other initiatives that support healthier smiles throughout the community.

CROWNS FOR KIDS HAS RAISED TO DATE...

2006 **\$9,351**

2007 **\$15,126**

2008 **\$9,054**

2009 **\$30,645**

2010 **\$26,031**

2011 **\$24,449**

2012 **\$38,009**

2013 **\$27,782**

2014 **\$22,628**

2015 **\$20,292**

2016 **\$17,415**

2017 **\$28,857**

2018 **\$19,365**

2019 **\$25,220**

2020 **\$22,060**

2021 **\$28,926**

2022 **\$33,033**

2023 **\$25,529**

2024 **\$20,454**

2025 **\$23,810**

**GRAND TOTAL
\$468,036**

Ways You Can Support the Foundation

The Sacramento District Dental Foundation is funded solely through contributions, bequests, fundraising events, donation of services, planned giving and grants. Funds raised are used to aid and promote the oral and general health of the public through education, service and treatment in the fields of preventative and curative dentistry. How fortunate we are!

Foundation Members

Raised \$39,222 in 2025

Being a member of the Foundation is the easiest way to help support the Foundation. It's only \$75 a year.

Donors/Contributors

Raised \$264,022 in 2025

There are so many ways to donate to the Foundation. You can make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one, attend or participate in one of the events listed on this page, you can send a check, call in with a credit card or visit the website to make a donation to the Foundation! Visit www.sdds.org/foundation/donate-become-a-member/ learn more and donate.



Swing for Smiles Golf Tournament

Raised \$32,980 in 2025

There are multiple ways to get yourself involved in this awesome annual event! You can sign up yourself as a single golfer and get placed with a team, or grab three of your friends and sign up as a foursome! There are also lots of great sponsorship opportunities: sponsor anything from a tee or green all the way up to lunch for the day!

The Swing for Smiles Golf Tournament is a great day of golf, fun with friends and vendors all in support of our wonderful Foundation!

Other Ways to Give

- ✓ Adopt
- ✓ Volunteer

Crowns for Kids

Raised \$23,810 in 2025

Get one of our Crowns for Kids (CFK) jars to collect scrap metal from patients' dental treatment! The jars are collected and sent to the metal refinery (Star Dental Refining), and the refinery sends a check to the Foundation each month. When you have a few crowns collected (jar does not need to be full!), call SDDS at 916-446-1227 for a pick up! Over the years, there's been over 1,600 pick ups, with a total of \$468,036 raised.

Dentists Do Broadway and Music Circus

Raised \$2,120 net in 2025

If you enjoy theater and Broadway shows, consider buying tickets through us! When you buy your Broadway/Music Circus tickets through SDDS the proceeds benefit our Foundation!

Holiday Party Silent Auction

Raised \$25,640 in 2025

Gift items to be used in our Holiday Party Silent Auction or as raffle prizes are always appreciated.

Shred Day

Raised \$1,740 in 2025

The shred event is free to SDDS Foundation members who have less than 10 boxes to shred. If they have 10 or more boxes, we ask that a \$100 donation be made to the Foundation. For SDDS members who are not members of the Foundation, it is \$100 for 1-9 boxes and an additional \$100 for 10 or more boxes. A great member benefit!



Big Day of Giving/Giving Tuesday/Spirit of Giving

Raised \$1,015 in 2025

These are specific days that happen annually to help non-profits reach out to the community for donations.

In lieu of sending holiday treats or thank you gifts to colleagues, make a donation in their honor to the SDDS Foundation. The SDDS staff will send a note on your behalf notifying them of your contribution.



Scan here to
Donate to the
Foundation



A New Scholarship Was Established

In 2025, following the retirement of longtime Executive Director Cathy Levering, the Sacramento District Dental Society community came together in a meaningful way to honor her legacy. Through the generosity of many dedicated members and supporters, funds were contributed to establish The Cathy Levering Leadership Scholarship.

While the details of the scholarship program are still being finalized, it stands as a testament to the deep respect and appreciation held for Cathy's years of

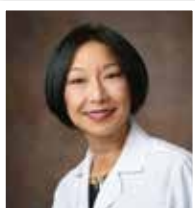
leadership, commitment, and unwavering dedication to this organization. Once the program details are complete, we look forward to sharing more information.

SDDS is sincerely grateful to all who contributed to this effort. It is both an honor and a privilege to celebrate Cathy's remarkable impact and to ensure her legacy continues to inspire future generations. ■



\$217,000 (2013)
Robert & Lolita Oates
Charitable Trust

Given to the Foundation by the parents of Past President Dr. James Oates and his brother, Edward Oates; given to the Perpetual Fund and the largest gift the Foundation has ever received. This donation will continue helping to provide opportunities for our Foundation's goals and purposes now and in the future. ■



\$75,600 (2018)
The Dr. Beverly Kodama/Delta Dental
Foundation Scholarship for Allied Education

Dr. Kodama (who served on the Delta Board of Directors) partnered with Delta Dental Foundation to establish a scholarship to help defray the educational costs for dental assistants and other allied team members. Dr. Kodama always felt that allied team members were the heart of a dentist's practice and wanted to give back to that cause so that other dentists will benefit from wonderfully trained staff. Geared specifically toward the dental assistants and also the EF curriculum, the SDDS Foundation is in partnership with FADE (the Foundation for Allied Dental Education) to help defray costs for those applicants who qualify.

While Dr. Kodama is no longer with us, her legacy and passion for allied team members carries her memory on. ■



\$208,000 (since 2022)
Dr. Wai Chan & Dr. Ruby Yu
Dental Student Scholarship

The Foundation was honored in 2022 that Dr. Chan and Dr. Yu pledged to the perpetual fund a wonderful opportunity for CNU Dental Students! They have committed to the perpetual fund a \$600,000 donation, paid yearly through 2030. In 2031, a scholarship will be awarded to one CNU dental student each year in the amount of \$5,000 per year for four years, totaling \$20,000 for each student awarded. This scholarship recognizes the Society's and Foundation's commitment and partnership to California Northstate University's School of Dental Medicine and their wonderful students. Thank you, Dr. Chan and Dr. Yu! ■

Thank you to those who have donated to the Cathy Levering Leadership Scholarship Fund

Dr. Craig Alpha
Dr. Brad Archibald
Dr. Paul Binon
Dr. Steve Cagnolo
Dr. Kent Daft
Dr. Margaret Delmore
Dr. Lisa Dobak
Dr. Kent Farnsworth
Dr. Debra Finney
Karen Harris
Dr. Jagdev Heir
Dr. Gregory Heise
Dr. Carl Hillendahl
Dr. Kendall Homer
Dr. Richard Jackson
Dr. Terrence Jones
Dr. Kevin Keating
Bruce and Cathy Levering
Dr. James Musser
Dr. Michael O'Brien
Dr. Michael Payne
Dr. James Peck
Dr. Kart Raghuraman
Dr. Cherag Sarkari
Dr. Glen Tueller
Dr. Ash Vasanthan
Dr. Rosemary Wu
Dr. Wesley and Nancy Yee

GRANTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH THE YEARS—SINCE 2001

Year Received Program Amount Awarded

Access Dental Plan

2023..... SFK \$10,000

ADA Foundation

2014..... SFK \$10,000

2003..... SFK \$15,000

ADA Foundation - Harris Grant

2010..... 1T1B \$5,000

California Endowment

2010..... SFK \$25,000

California Wellness Foundation

2015..... SFBK \$150,000

Cathy Levering Leadership Scholarship Fund

(funded by multiple donors)

2025..... Contributions \$72,500

CDA Foundation

2011..... SFBK \$10,000

2010..... SFK \$10,000

2008..... SFBK \$10,000

2007..... SFK \$9,250

Center for Oral Health

2025..... SFK/SFBK \$7,500

2023..... SFK/SFBK \$7,500

Dr. Wai Chan and Dr. Ruby Yu Scholarship Fund

2022-2025..... Scholarship \$208,000

CPS Community Action Network

2004..... SFK \$2,500

Del Webb Foundation

2016..... SFK \$20,000

2014..... SFBK \$25,000

Delta Dental

2018..... Kodama Scholarship \$75,000

2011..... SFBK \$20,000

2004..... SFK \$10,000

DentaQuest

2023..... SFK \$5,000

Dignity Community (CHW) Grants

2023..... SFK (Yolo) \$53,485

2012..... SFK/BK \$50,000

2011..... SFK \$40,000

2010..... SFK \$25,000

2009..... SFK \$25,000

2008..... SFK \$20,000

Foundation of Allied Dental Education EF Students

2025..... Kodama Scholarship \$600

2023..... Kodama Scholarship \$1,908

First 5 Children's Coalition/ Cover the Kids

2006..... SFK \$22,500

Health Net

2021..... SFK \$10,000

Henry Schein Foundation (Supplies)

2025..... SFK/SFBK \$25,000

2023..... SFK/SFBK \$25,000

Henry Schein Supplies Grant/CDA Foundation

2014..... SFK/SFBK \$50,000

2013..... SFK/SFBK \$50,000

2012..... SFK/SFBK \$50,000

2010..... SFK/SFBK \$50,000

2008..... SFK \$50,000

Year Received Program Amount Awarded

LIBERTY Dental Plan

2023..... Puppet Show \$30,000

2021..... SFK \$10,000

Kaiser Community Benefit

2012..... SFK \$20,000

Oates Charitable Trust

2013..... Perpetual Fund \$217,000

Oral Health Fndn of the Pierre Fauchard Academy

2024..... SFBK \$5,000

2020..... SFK \$5,000

2020..... SFBK \$7,500

2018..... SFK \$5,000

Patterson Foundation

2016..... SFK \$10,000

2014..... SFK \$13,400

Ronald McDonald House Charities

2014..... SFK \$2,500

2009..... SFK \$10,000

2004..... SFK \$6,667

Rotary Club of Sacramento/ Bids for Kids (BFK)

2005..... SFK \$65,725

Rumsey Community Fund

2004..... SFK \$2,500

Sacramento District Dental Society

2025..... Contribution \$25,000

2024..... Contribution \$25,000

2023..... Contribution \$25,000

2021..... Contribution \$40,000

2016..... Contribution \$15,000

2015..... Contribution \$10,000

2014..... Contribution \$10,000

Sacramento Region Community Foundation/

Give Something Back Fund

2006..... SFK \$1,054

2005..... SFK \$1,216

Sacramento Region Community Foundation/

Knapp Fund

2021..... SFK \$7,000

2019..... SFK \$5,000

2018..... SFK \$5,000

2017..... SFK \$5,000

2016..... SFK \$5,000

2015..... SFK \$5,000

2014..... SFK \$1,000

2013..... SFK \$5,000

2012..... SFK \$1,000

2011..... SFK \$1,000

2010..... SFK \$1,000

2009..... SFK \$1,000

2008..... SFK \$1,000

2007..... SFK \$1,000

2005..... SFK \$1,000

2004..... SFK \$1,000

Sacramento Region Community Foundation/

Luchetti Fund

2004..... SFK \$3,333

Year Received Program Amount Awarded

Sierra Health Foundation

2007-2009..... SFK \$122,000

2005..... SFK \$32,863

2004..... SFK \$10,000

2003..... SFK \$10,000

Sutter Health Sac Sierra Region

(sponsorship, not grant)

2023..... Puppet Show \$3,000

2021..... Puppet Show \$1,500

2020..... Puppet Show \$2,500

2019..... SFK/Puppet Show \$2,500

2018..... SFK/Puppet Show \$2,500

2017..... SFK/Puppet Show \$2,500

2016..... SFK \$2,500

2015..... SFK/1T1B \$2,500

2014..... Gala \$2,500

2014..... SFK \$2,500

2012..... SFK/1T1B \$40,000

Teichert Foundation

2009..... SFBK \$5,000

Umpqua Healthcare Banking/Columbia Bank

2025..... SFK \$10,000

2024..... SFK \$10,000

2023..... SFK \$10,000

United Concordia

2025..... SFK \$3,500

2024..... SFK \$3,500

2023..... SFK \$3,500

2020..... SFK \$3,500

2019..... SFK \$3,500

2018..... SFK \$3,000

2017..... SFK \$2,500

2016..... SFK \$2,500

2015..... SFK \$2,500

2014..... SFK \$3,500

2013..... SFK \$3,500

2012..... SFK \$2,500

2011..... SFK \$2,500

2010..... SFK \$2,000

Wells Fargo

2013..... SFK/SFBK \$5,000

West Rotary Foundation

2025..... SFK \$5,000

Dr. Herbert and Inez Yee Family Fund

2014-2025..... Scholarship \$94,000

Scholarship Grants	\$452,008
Pledges/Contributions	\$1,111,678
Programs: Grants and Contributions	\$1,924,597

Total \$3,488,283

Scan here to Donate
to the Foundation





WHAT THEY'RE DOING NOW

UPDATES FROM A FEW
OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP
& AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Dr. Herbert and Inez Yee Family Dental Student Scholarship



This dental scholarship began in 2014 to assist our new dental students matriculating from CSUS. The Yee Family has a heart for higher education, and recognize the costs of dental school for future dentists. In honor of the partnership SDDS has

with the CSUS Pre-Dental Club, the Dr. Herbert and Inez Yee Family Scholarship wants to pay it forward, since more than 15 members of the Yee Family are dentists! The Yee family continues to donate funds to this scholarship. ■

Danylo Tomyev

UNLV School of Dental Medicine

My name is Danylo Tomyev, and I had the privilege of receiving the Dr. Herbert and Inez Yee Family Scholarship. I am currently finishing my second semester at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine. So far, dental school has been everything I expected. It has been hard, and the amount of studying was not exaggerated, but we have a very unified class that helps each other out a lot. I thank God that I am able to be in a career path that I truly enjoy. Currently, we are in the middle of learning operative restorative work like amalgam and composite fillings. We are also in the middle of scaling teeth for periodontal maintenance. I would say that drilling has been the biggest learning curve for me because of the precision needed, but I am definitely getting better day by day. One of my favorite things we did so far in dental school is going to different elementary schools and giving presentations about oral health. Interacting with children and answering their interesting questions has definitely been a highlight so far. Once again, very grateful for the Dr. Herbert and Inez Yee Family Scholarship and their continuing support.



Dr. Herbert and Inez Yee Family SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2025	Danylo Tomyev UNLV School of Dental Medicine	2021	Ashley Velasquez Tufts University	2017	Allicia Lucich UNLV School of Dental Medicine
2024	Billal Anwary UNLV School of Dental Medicine	2021	Sam Morrar University of Southern California	2016	Paul Dubinetsky Roseman University of Health Sciences, College of Dental Medicine
2024	Osbaldo Albarran Montoya UC San Francisco	2020	Marc Toma Western University College of Dental Medicine	2015	Soniya Patidar Western University Health Sciences
2023	Nicholas Her UCLA School of Dentistry	2019	Kylee Homecillo Western University College of Dental Medicine	2015	Yana Gerhardt (Shcherbanyuk) Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH)
2023	Tala Sawaged Temple University School of Dentistry	2018	Kevin O'Brien (Kenji) University of the Pacific	2014	Svetlana Guevara-Lara UCSF Dental School Currently practicing in Sacramento
2022	Jordan Swindle University of Southern California	2018	Anthony Luong Western University Health Sciences		
2022	Alejandro Albarran Montoyo University of the Pacific	2018	Andy Dinh UCLA School of Dentistry		

The SDDS Foundation
Dental School Scholarship

The SDDS Foundation Dental School Scholarship, introduced in 2024, supports the next generation of dentists with a \$3,000 award for undergraduate students who are graduating (or have recently graduated) and have been accepted into dental school for the upcoming cycle. Open to students from any university, this scholarship expands the Foundation’s commitment to educational access and mentorship. SDDS members are encouraged to recommend deserving applicants, including students, mentees, friends, or family members. This opportunity is offered in addition to the Yee Family Scholarship, which remains exclusive to Sacramento State graduates. ■



Justine Intemann-Milligan
University of Michigan School of Dentistry

This is Justine checking in from the University of Michigan. I wanted to thank you for your continued support while I pursue my dental degree! I’m enjoying everything that Michigan has to offer, except the cold! Missing my Sacramento sunshine and team at the SDDS!

Sacramento District
Dental Foundation
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- 2025 Justine Intemann-Milligan
University of Michigan
School of Dentistry
- 2024 Sarah Jundi
Oregon Health Science
School of Dentistry
- 2024 Dalia Lopez-Pelayo
California Northstate University

Carrington College Hygiene Award

The Carrington College Hygiene Scholarship recognizes an outstanding dental hygiene student at the completion of each cohort, approximately every nine months. Selected by DDS faculty who are SDDS members in collaboration with the program director, this award honors excellence in both academic achievement and clinical performance. The recipient receives a \$500 scholarship and a personal plaque, while their name is also engraved on a perpetual plaque displayed at Carrington College, celebrating their accomplishment for years to come. ■

Carrington College Hygiene AWARD RECIPIENTS

2006 Jennifer Hutchinson	2013 Lisa Campbell	2018 Meaghan Alvarez
2007 Jennifer Helgeson	2013 Samantha Curtin	2019 Melanie Tuttle
2008 Diana Neff	2014 Irina Borsuk	2020 Karen Bruce
2008 Rachel Cavalli	2015 Laura Neiss	2023 Arnulfo Arias Guzman
2009 Melissa Pina	2015 Kimberly Morales	2023 Danielle Suttles
2010 Amanda Briggs	2016 Rupinder Kaur	2024 Arnulfo Arias Guzman
2010 Amanda Spear	2017 Nina Townsend	2024 Elizabeth Rice
2011 Ruth Redd	2017 Casie Eaddy	2025 Deveri Woody
2012 Erika Mae Cesario	2018 Trinidad Esparza	2025 Tiffany Rose McIntyre

Tiffany McIntyre, RDH
Carrington College Hygiene Award

Hello, my name is Tiffany, and I am a recent dental hygiene graduate from Carrington College in Sacramento, California. Throughout my time at Carrington, I was always a very hardworking student, and I enjoyed exceeding my own expectations in education and in clinical care. I believe this is what made me stand out to my patients, peers, and professors, and ultimately made me a candidate and winner of the SDDS Carrington College Graduating Dental Hygienist Award. As I’ve embarked on my journey as an RDH, I continue to have a passion for education and connecting with my patients in order to give them the best care. Immediately after school, I started working in a corporate office where I am the only dental hygienist in the practice. At first, that was quite intimidating because having mentorship can be a very important aspect of this career; it has allowed me to think critically on my own, and I know that my professors set me up for success. I have since built a relationship with every patient that has walked into my operatory, and I have received many compliments on my thoroughness and explanation of their oral health. While in school, I enjoyed teaching my classmates on the subjects we needed to learn because not only did it help them learn, but it also allowed me to get a firm grasp on the material. I have now expanded my audience and begun posting educational content on TikTok to encourage student dental hygienists and help quiz their knowledge for their national board exam. The growth of my account has allowed me to interact with many dental hygienists from California as well as other states, and I have been able to learn from them in many different ways. I have now been building my page in hopes of working with brands and promoting myself in other ways outside of the operatory. Winning this award allowed me to really open my eyes and see that I am capable of doing so much more and that my opportunities in this life are limitless!





Celebration of Foundation Donors

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Program Grants and Contributions

Smiles for Kids Grants \$12,500

Center for Oral Health
Point West Rotary Foundation

Smiles for Kids Contributions \$10,700

Kim Gusman
Karen Harris
Cookie Lawrence
in memory of...
Dr. Skip Lawrence
in honor of Todd Andrews
Dr. Minh Nguyen
United Concordia

Crowns for Kids (for Smiles for Kids) \$23,010

Dr. Gary Ackerman
Dr. Elizabeth Bingham
Dr. Damon Boyd
Capitol Peridental Group
Dr. Kirsten Chang
Dr. Richard Chang
Chapa-De Indian Health
Dr. Nanlin Chiang
Dr. Lisa Dobak
Dr. Sandra Fouladi
Dr. Kasi Franck
Dr. Edi Guidi
Dr. Dan Gustavson
Dr. Laurie Hanschu
Dr. Erica Hsiao
Dr. Dick Huang
Dr. Richard Kennedy
Dr. Matthew Korn
Dr. Merlin Lai
Dr. Grace Lee
Dr. Vincent Locascio
Dr. Steve Longoria
Dr. Janine Ma-Golding
Dr. Lauren Marr
Dr. Edward Montalbo
Dr. Kenneth Moore
Dr. Richard Moorehouse
Dr. Peter Ngai
Dr. Charles Newens
Dr. Michael O'Brien
Dr. Siamak Okhovat
Dr. Viren Patel
Dr. Stacey Peters-Nelson
Dr. Penny Phipps
Dr. Moji Radi
Dr. Amanda Robinson
Dr. Sam Rockwell
Dr. David Roholt
Dr. Christy Rollofson Porrino
Dr. Purvi Shah
Dr. Richard Shipp
Dr. Stefanie Shore

Dr. Loc Tran
Dr. Carl Trubschenck
Dr. Hoang Truong
Dr. Ash Vasanthan
Dr. Alex Vilderman
Dr. Ian Wong
Dr. Farah Yasmeen

Member Contributions and Pledges

\$74,582

Perpetual Fund Endow- ment, Annual Pledge Fund, General Fund and Scholarships

Dr. Greg Adams
Dr. Nima Aflatooni
Dr. Dean Ahmad
Dr. Craig Alpha
Dr. Brad Archibald
Dr. Nancy Archibald
Dr. Daisuke Bannai
Dr. Charles Benavidez
Dr. Paul Binon
California Dental Association
Dr. Andrea Cervantes
Dr. Wai Ming Chan
Dr. Darrell Chun
Dr. Kent Daft
Dr. Jeff Delgadillo
Dr. Margaret Delmore
Dr. Paul Denzler
Betty Dobak
Dr. Lisa Dobak
LaDonna Drury-Klein
Dr. David Feder
Dr. Volkmar Felahy
Dr. Debra Finney
Dr. Dan Harlan
Karen Harris
Dr. Gregory Heise
Dr. Marsha Henry
Dr. Carl Hillendahl
Dr. Michael Holm
Dr. Bryan Judd
Dr. Robert Katibah
Dr. Kevin Keating
Dr. Angeline Lam
Dr. Lisa Laptalo
Dr. Leland Lee
Dr. Donald Liberty
Dr. Michael Nguyen
Dr. Michael O'Brien
Dr. Deborah Owyang
Dr. Viren Patel
Dr. Michael Payne
Dr. Michael Perich
Dr. Robert Phillips
Dr. Jerome Pielago
Dr. Rola Rabah
Dr. Alan Rabe
Dr. Mojtaba Radi

Dr. Karthik Raghuraman
Dr. Hana Rashid
Dr. John Riach
Dr. Ron Riesner
Dr. David Rule
Dr. Nicholas Scordakis
Sacramento District
Dental Society
Dr. I-Tien Shaw
Dr. Norman Spalding
Dr. Anna Sri
Dr. Jeffrey Sue
Dr. Gaetan Tchamba
Dr. Chirag Vaid
Dr. Ash Vasanthan
Dr. Tom Wagner
Dr. Dina Wasileski
Dr. Kenneth Wong
Dr. Peter Worth
Dr. Rosemary Wu
Dr. Wesley Yee

Other Contributions

\$35,170

Hannah Fox
Columbia Bank
Bruce & Cathy Levering
Sacramento District
Dental Society

Memorials

\$850

Dr. Steve Cavagnolo
in memory of
Dr. Matt Campbell
Cathy Levering
in memory of
Dr. Matt Campbell
Dr. James Peck
Sacramento District
Dental Society
in memory of...
Dr. Bobby Boozer
Dr. Sonney Chong
Dr. Matt Campbell
Dr. Robert Church
Dr. Walter Griffin
Dr. Robert Shimada
Dr. Paul Simon
Dr. Roger Kingston
Dr. Michael L. Mullen
Dr. James Peck
Dr. Glen Tueller
in memory of
Dr. Matt Campbell
Dr. Bobby Boozer
Dr. Wesley Yee
in memory of
Dr. Sonney Chong
Dr. Matt Campbell

Scholarship Funds

\$133,100

Dr. Craig Alpha
Dr. Brad Archibald
Dr. Paul Binon
Dr. Steve Cavagnolo
Dr. Wai Chan & Dr. Ruby Yu
Dr. Kent Daft
Dr. Margaret Delmore
Dr. Lisa Dobak
LaDonna Drury-Klein
Dr. Kent Farnsworth
Dr. Debra Finney
Dr. Karen Harris
Dr. Jagdev Heir
Dr. Gregory Heise
Dr. Carl Hillendahl
Dr. Kendall Homer
Dr. Richard Jackson
Dr. Terrence Jones
Dr. Kevin Keating
Bruce & Cathy Levering
Dr. James Musser
Dr. Michael O'Brien
Dr. Michael Payne
Dr. James Peck
Dr. Kart Raghuraman
Dr. Cherag Sarkari
Dr. Glen Tueller
Dr. Ash Vasanthan
Dr. Rosemary Wu
Dr. Wesley & Nancy Yee

Fundraisers

Big Day of Giving \$1,015

Carol Badgley
Cathy Levering
Sacramento Region
Community Foundation
Della Yee

Shred Day

\$1,740

Dr. Jenny Apekian
Dr. Tom Arostegui
Dr. Ron Blanchette
Denise Canacari
Dr. Andrea Cervantes
Dr. Jordan Gaddis
Dr. Gary Griffin
Dr. Edi Guidi
Dr. Richard Kennedy
Dr. Felix Onuegbu
Dr. Paul Raskin
Dr. Christopher Schiappa
Dr. April Skinner
Dr. Fernando Solano
Dr. Gary Vedenoff
Dr. Peter Worth

Broadway Series Supporters

\$2,120 net

Dr. Nima Aflatooni
Dr. Jessica Alt
Carol Badgley
Michael Barks
Alexandra Barsotti
Dr. Jill Beams
Dr. Thais Booms
Dr. Sonney Chong
Dr. Tracey Cook
Dr. James Cope
Dr. Philip Hankins
Nancy Harvey
Dr. Thomas Holloway
Dr. Kendall Homer
Dr. David Jolkovsky
Dr. Jacob Kelly
Cheryl Klippenstein
Dr. Richard Knight
Dr. Merlin Lai
Dr. Hung Le
Theresa Lua
Dr. Walter Lucio
Jack McKinney
Dr. Megan Moynour
Dr. John Oshetski
Dr. Rohini Rattu
Dr. Dina Scordakis
Dr. Stefanie Shore
Cindy Singer
Dr. J. Alex Tomaich
Dr. Kenneth True
Christine Walker
Dr. Herbert Wanier
Dr. David Westerhaus

Golf Tournament \$32,980 net

Players

Dr. Toni Accettura
Dr. Craig Alpha
Randy Amyx
Julian Andrade
Ricardo Andrade
Ron Andres
Dr. Todd Andrews
James Bailey
Dr. Michele Bailey
Dr. Daisuke Bannai
Dennis Barnes
Malonn Barnes
Dr. Charles "Stu" Beach
Tim Beach
Dr. Wallace Bellamy
Beau Biller
Dr. Don Boatman
Matt Bolman
Dr. Gary Borge
Parker Boulter
Matt Brune
Brandon Burkinshaw
Dr. Chris Cantrell
Javier Cates



A Closer Look

The CSUS Pre-Dental Advisory Committee



By **Shannon Chris, DDS**
Co-Chair, CSUS Pre-Dental Advisory Committee



The CSUS Pre-Dental Advisory Committee is a panel of doctors who have united to help the next generation of dental practitioners (currently known as pre-dental students). The goal of the committee is to provide support and guidance to any current or prospective dental student, but most importantly to the pre-dental students at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). Thus, adequately preparing them so that they have a clearer concept of what the field of dentistry entails and how to prepare well for the application process of getting into dental school. The committee meets one or two times every 4 months to get an update from the pre-dental students of their activities and plan out activities for the rest of the semester that is supporting and benefiting the students.

Currently, the Committee has sent panel members to speak at the biweekly meeting that are held at CSUS, provided some shadowing and internship opportunities, hosted pre-dental training camps at their offices and provided

ideas on how to obtain volunteer hours, and fundraising funds for the CSUS Pre-dental students. At the pre-dental camps, the students get an opportunity to provide anesthesia to oranges or sausages, learning basic suturing, impression taking and carving their names on dental stones using a handpiece.

The pre-dental students are constantly fundraising and looking for donations. The funds garnered by the students are used to purchase backpacks for Smiles for Kids Day, an event hosted by SDDS, as well as pay for these students' tour of the seven dental schools located in California and University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dentistry.

The pre-dental students are actively working alongside SDDS by helping set up and clean up as well as serving as ushers, and greeters at the various events hosted by SDDS, which includes the MidWinter Convention, and Smiles for Kids day. These students also visit various schools and teach oral hygiene, nutrition

science, and dental health to children from ages kindergarten to third graders.

Members of SDDS can show their support to these students by providing them with internships, jobs as dental assistants or front desk, and/or allowing them to shadow at their office. The students would also benefit from having professionals in the field reviewing and providing feedback on their applications and personal statements. Donations in terms of funds, school supplies, and small scholarships for dental school applications are always appreciated by the students and provide much needed financial assistance.

Currently, the greatest struggle faced by these students are finding a job in the field that puts them in direct contact with the day-to-day grind of a dental office. SDDS members can provide jobs to these students who are hardworking, diligent, fast learners and would love a part time opportunity to work in an office to better prepare for a future in the dental field.

These students are the future of dentistry. The support and guidance we show them today will result in the progression and the growth of our field tomorrow. ■

2026 SDDS Committees Schedule

Leadership

Board of Directors

Jan 6 • Mar 3 • May 5 • Sept 1 • Nov 3

Executive Committee

Feb 13 • Apr 10 • Aug 7 • Oct 16 • Dec 4

Foundation

Foundation Board

Jan 27 • Sept 29

Standing Committees

Membership/Engagement

Jan 20 • Apr 21 • Sept 29

CPR Committee

Jan 20

Nominating/Leadership Development

Feb 24 • Oct 13

Advisory Committees

CSUS Pre-Dental Advisory

Feb 10

Continuing Education Advisory

Jan 6 • Apr 21 • Sept 15

Nugget Editorial Advisory

Feb 3 • Sept 22

Social Media Advisory

Feb 10 • Apr 21 • Sept 15

Strategic Plan Advisory

TBA

Budget and Finance Advisory

TBA

Bylaws Advisory

TBA

Legislative Advisory

TBA

GMC/Denti-Cal Workgroup Advisory

TBA

Other

CDA House of Delegates

Nov 13-14

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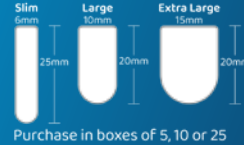
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Tendon Collagen



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1. Zhao R, Sarker A, Davies JE. Osteoblast-like cell behavior on calcium phosphate coatings with different Ca:P ratios. J Biomed Mater Res A. 2007;83(2):454-464.

2. Jones K, Williams C, Yuan T, et al. Comparative in vitro study of commercially available products for alveolar ridge preservation. J Periodontol. 2022;93(3):403-411



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and Tenant Improvements*



Mercado Dental Studio
Alex Mercado. DDS in Sacramento, CA



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42 Classes
29 Speakers



249 Dentists
484 Staff &
Team Members



By **Chirag Vaid, DDS**
2026 Secretary

Board Meeting Highlights

March 3, 2026, at the SDDS Office

President's Report

The SDDS Board of Directors met in March. President Dr. Jeff Sue opened the meeting with the approval of the January minutes, with no changes to the agenda or conflicts of interest reported. Updated 2026 scheduling includes the October General Meeting on October 6, the Leadership Reception on September 23, and the Holiday Party planned for December 11, pending confirmation.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report reflected stable membership with continued early-year growth, while renewal follow-up efforts remain ongoing.

- Total Membership: 2,022
- New Members YTD: 15
- Market Share: 77.7%

Board of Component Representatives (BCR) Update / CDA Update

The Board of Component Representatives report included discussion on a proposed change by CDA to hold the House of Delegates Reference Committee meetings virtually via Zoom the weekend before the HOD session. Concerns were raised regarding reduced in-person engagement and its potential impact on the deliberative process, and feedback will be shared through appropriate channels. CDA Board representation this year will also shift toward attending SDDS events and engaging directly with members.

Procedural Information

In new business, Dr. Sarhad Paydar was appointed to fill a Board vacancy, and Board and committee terms were reviewed to support leadership continuity. The Board also clarified its authority to grant case-by-case exceptions to the speaker membership requirement, approving exceptions to allow timely speaker confirmation while a broader policy review continues.

The Board revisited the policy requiring speakers to be ADA/SDDS members. Discussion clarified the distinction between a policy change and a Board-granted exception to policy (case-by-case). This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Committee Reports

Committee reports reflected ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement and programming. The Social Media Committee is focusing on streamlined platforms and increased event-based content. The Membership Committee continues to build engagement through focused continuing education, social events, and networking opportunities, with strong participation at recent mixers. The Continuing Education Committee is developing upcoming General Meeting topics, with an emphasis on balanced, practical, and well-vetted programming. The CPR Committee reported consistent training activity, a strong instructor base, and opportunities to expand awareness of in-office group training.

Prop 56 Funding - Budget Cuts Update

In old business, the Board received an update on proposed Medi-Cal funding changes and the potential impact on dental care access, with advocacy efforts underway. Impacts discussed: CA reimbursement potentially ranking 48–50 nationally, 50% of surveyed dentists indicate dropping Medi-Cal, 35% indicate reducing capacity, threat to anesthesia availability, FQHC implications, legislative process underway, Coalition: Save Our Dental Care, letters and member outreach ongoing.

Events and Activities Coming Up

The Executive Director's report included updates on MidWinter Convention participation, along with reminders of upcoming initiatives and events, including the Golf Tournament on May 8, the Salary Survey launch on April 7, and the CNU Job Fair on April 16.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2026.

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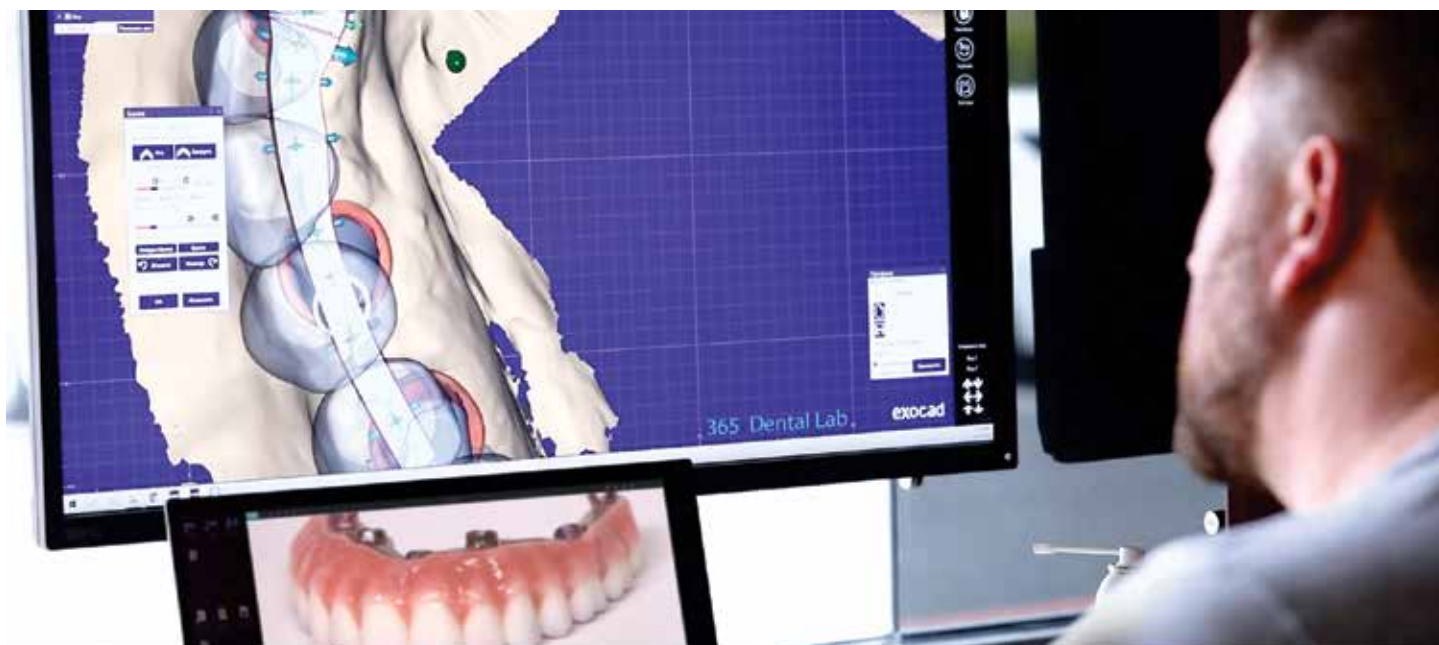
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YOU

THE DENTIST, THE EMPLOYER

Leading Your Team Using the T.R.U.S.T. Framework

By Eric Johnson, DDS

I took my 11-year-old son to the driving range yesterday. After watching me top, slice, and hook one ball after another, he looked at a nearby golfer and said, “Dad, that guy is way better than you. I wish I had his genes.” Ouch. Parenting requires thick skin.

He wasn’t wrong, except for the genetics part. I’m terrible at golf. I play just enough to reinforce bad habits. I even bought top-of-the-line clubs. I’m still terrible. New equipment doesn’t compensate for my lack of skill. The truth is, I haven’t made improvement a priority. I’m told my swing could improve with time, focus, practice, and coaching.

Leadership works the same way. As Vince Lombardi said, leaders are made, not born. We develop into them. In dentistry, we spend years refining clinical skills, yet very little time learning how to lead people. In my experience coaching dentists, many find leadership more difficult than performing complex procedures.

Why Leadership Feels So Hard

Let’s be honest. Leadership is one of the hardest parts of dentistry. It requires thick skin because we work with people, and people are messy. Humans are messy. I’m messy. Ask my wife. As leaders, we’re responsible for recruiting, onboarding, and developing individuals with different experiences, personalities, expectations, and motivations.

Then layer in the daily realities, employees calling in sick, patients getting upset, schedules falling apart, and it can quickly feel overwhelming. It’s no surprise that

50 to 60 percent of our peers struggle with burnout. The question isn’t whether challenges will happen. They will. The real question is: How do we lead ourselves and our teams through them?

From Overwhelmed to Intentional Leadership

The good news is that leadership, like clinical acumen, can be learned. You don’t have to fix everything at once. Instead, shift your focus on one thing at a time. Empowerment begins with clarity: knowing what truly matters and what you can control.

Here are a few key principles:

- Control what you can like your attitude, communication, and systems
- Build systems instead of solving the same problems repeatedly
- Focus on progress, not perfection
- Develop people, not just job roles
- Lead yourself first—like a thermostat, your mindset sets the tone

These principles build trust over time. As Simon Sinek puts it, you don’t build trust by talking about it. You build it through consistent action. But to lead consistently, it helps to have a clear structure. One effective model I’ve developed is the T.R.U.S.T. framework.

The T.R.U.S.T. Framework

T — Transparency (Be Clear and Honest)

People perform better when expectations are clear. Clarity reduces friction and builds alignment. Set expectations

early around behavior, scheduling, and performance. Strong onboarding and a clear office manual provide structure. Transparency also means sharing the realities of running a practice like staffing challenges, financial responsibilities, and scheduling pressures. When your team understands both expectations and challenges, trust grows. You’re human, and you need support. Transparency isn’t a weakness. It’s a strength.

R — Respect (Treat People Well)

Respect is one of the strongest drivers of engagement. It’s demonstrated through listening, recognizing effort, and valuing input. Respect must extend to everyone, both new hires and long-term team members. New employees need patience and guidance, while experienced team members need ongoing appreciation and opportunities to stay engaged. When people feel seen and valued, they become more motivated and invested in their work.

U — Understanding (Know Your People)

Every team member is different. Understanding them takes time and intentional effort. It often takes months to fully recognize someone’s strengths, challenges, and motivations. Leaders must also recognize different stages of growth. New employees need structure and clarity, while experienced team members often need purpose and new challenges. At times, difficult decisions are necessary. Keeping underperforming or misaligned team members too long can impact the entire team. Addressing these situations with clarity and care protects the culture.

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Alexander Malick, DMD, FAGD

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Is It Possible? Predictability, Limitations, and
Heroics in Tooth Preservation

Katherine Shi, DMD

NOVEMBER 10, 2026 3 CEU, Core

Diabetes and Oral Health

Kim Benton, DDS, MPH, FICD

JANUARY 12, 2027 3 CEU, Core

Stop the Bleed for Dental Professions

Eric Wong, DDS

FEBRUARY 9, 2027 3 CEU, Core

All-On-X Maintenance and Complications

Ivan Chicchon, DDS

APRIL 13, 2027 3 CEU, Core

Myofunctional Therapy: Partnering
with Myo Providers and

Speech-Language Pathologists

Shelley Freitas, MS, CCC-SLP, QOM

MAY 11, 2027 3 CEU, Core

Tissue is the Issue: A Biology-Driven Roadmap
for Implant & Soft Tissue Complications

Nabeel Cajee, DDS, MICOI

S — Support (Have Their Back)

Support creates confidence and stability. It includes providing reliable systems, the right tools, and ongoing coaching. It also means standing by your team during difficult moments, especially after challenging patient interactions. Even when things don't go perfectly, your team should know you're there for them. When people feel supported, they become more confident and resilient.

T — Training (Help Them Grow)

Competence builds confidence, but ownership builds commitment. Training turns potential into performance. Effective training should be simple, structured, and repeatable. Use clear systems, visuals, and step-by-step processes to make learning easier. But strong leadership goes beyond training. It focuses on development. Give team members opportunities to grow by expanding responsibilities and encouraging ownership. When people take ownership of their roles, they become more engaged and accountable. Competence builds confidence, but ownership builds commitment.

Final Thought

Leadership is learnable. With a clear framework like T.R.U.S.T., you can move from reacting to leading with intention. High-performing teams aren't defined by the absence of challenges, but by how they respond. Over time, you'll build a team that is engaged, resilient, and high-performing. And while others may admire your "leadership genes," you'll know the truth that it comes from practice, patience, commitment, and thick skin. ■

Dr. Eric Johnson, owner of San Clemente Dental Studio in Southern California, has extensive experience in building teams through acquiring multiple practices. He is the CEO of Leaders in Dentistry, a coaching cohort for dentist teams. Dr. Johnson earned his dental degree from the University of Southern California, a Masters of Divinity from Pepperdine University, and spent nine years working with at-risk students in Los Angeles. He served as a Captain in the USAF Dental Corps, awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal. He directed the California Center for Advanced Dentistry, is a key opinion leader for Glidewell Dental Laboratory, and received a doctorate in Organizational Leadership at the University of La Verne, focusing on occupational burnout among dentists. Dr. Johnson's focus of research is on burnout and job engagement in dentists. You can reach Dr. Johnson via email at hello@leadersindentistry.com





By Vinda Le
CNU Dental Student (D3)

Originally from Elk Grove, Vinda is now in her third year of dental school. Outside of dentistry, she fully commits to her other callings – spoiling her dog and mastering the art of crocheting and baking.

Transitioning to Reality

Stepping into the clinic as a third-year student at a newly CODA-accredited dental school evokes a mix of emotions from anything between exciting and nerve-wracking. While we feel a sense of accomplishment in advancing to the next stage of our careers, we can also feel overwhelmed when faced with the responsibility of treating patients. After two years of practicing on typodonts under ideal conditions, the transition to treating real patients highlights a gap that no simulation can fully bridge.

Learning to adapt in real time while striving for the most ideal outcomes is an important learning curve in dental education.

In preclinical training, everything feels controlled. Our “patients” arrive on time, open wide, have ideal anatomy, and most importantly, don’t have complex medical histories or dental anxiety. Isolation is perfect, anesthetic blocks are successful, and procedures proceed exactly as planned. These experiences are essential for building foundational skills; however, they do not fully prepare us for the complexity of conditions commonly presented by patients.

Clinic quickly reshaped that perspective. Real patients come with layered challenges such as limited opening, saliva control issues, financial constraints, time limitations, and even fear or mistrust. A class that I felt straightforward in simulation lab becomes significantly more nuanced when visibility is compromised or when a patient needs frequent breaks. Learning to adapt in real time while striving for the most ideal outcomes is an important learning curve in dental education.

Attending a newer program has an additional challenge: establishing a reliable patient pool. Unlike established schools with decades-long community relationships, we are actively building trust and visibility. Many of us face days with open chairs or last-minute cancellations, which can slow clinical progress and add pressure to meet requirements. This scarcity makes every patient encounter even more valuable.

As students, we’ve had to become proactive in ways we didn’t initially anticipate. Networking within the community, educating friends and family about the services we provide, and emphasizing the benefits of comprehensive dental care have all become part of our routine. Patient retention is just as important as patient recruitment. Taking time to communicate clearly, ensuring comfort, and building rapport can turn a single visit into a long-term relationship, not just for meeting requirements, but for fostering continuity of care. Despite adhering to best practices and clinical guidelines, there are instances in which patients do not return for a variety of reasons, which can be discouraging. However, faculty play a critical role in guiding us through both clinical decision-making and patient management, balancing ideal treatment planning with the realities and limitations of clinical practice.

Ultimately, bridging the gap between ideal and real patients is less about lowering standards and more about expanding our skill set. It requires flexibility, empathy, and resilience. We learn that mastery in dentistry is not defined solely by perfect margins or textbook outcomes, but by our ability to deliver thoughtful, patient-centered care under varying circumstances. Being part of a newly accredited program adds a unique dimension to our journey. While challenges exist, there is also a shared sense of purpose in building a lasting foundation. ■

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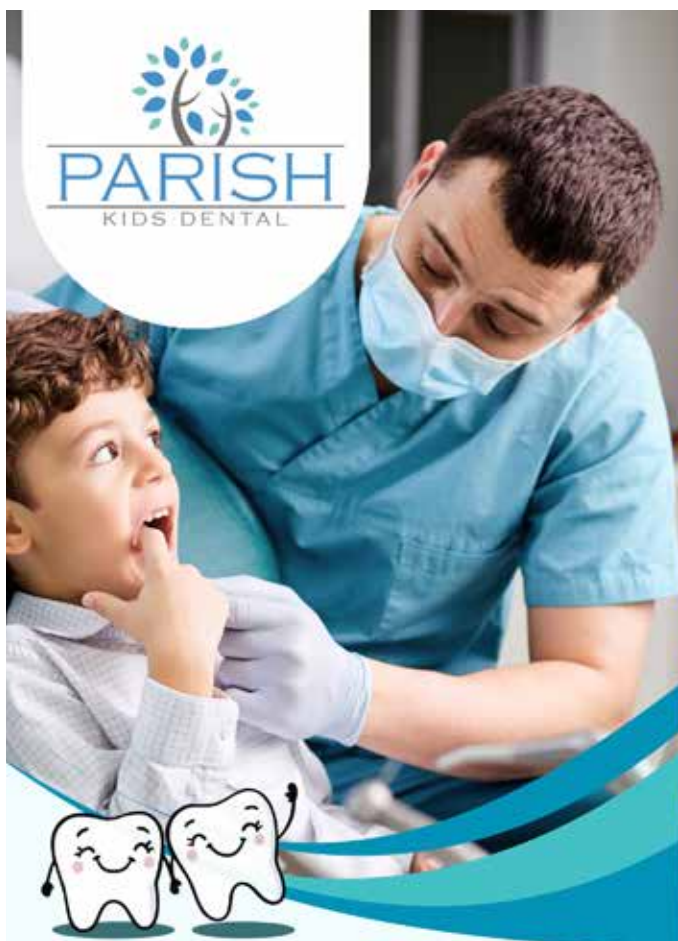
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California Dentist Rises to the Challenge of Being a New Practice Owner While Out of Network with Delta Dental

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Dentist discusses strategy, challenges and advantages of being out of network with the state's largest plan while negotiating a practice transition

Transitioning out of network with a dental benefit plan or from associate dentist to the new owner of a practice can be challenging enough as a single undertaking. Doing both successfully within a year requires a lot of planning and careful implementation to reassure patients and employees and minimize patient attrition.

Elias Almaz, DDS, successfully acquired a dental practice in 2022, but the planning began several years earlier. He shares that journey with CDA and his peers who are considering a similar transition.

A desire to reduce Delta Dental's impact on practice operations

While working as an associate dentist at a private practice in and in the early stage of negotiating to purchase, Dr. Almaz was already looking at the patient base and knew something needed to change.

With Delta Dental patients comprising approximately 65% of the practice at that time, he was concerned that Delta's policies and reimbursement would negatively affect practice operations after a transition.

Looking at the analytics before executing the purchase, Almaz identified the risk. "Given the already substantial difference between the practice owner's Premier fees and the PPO fees that I was receiving, if Delta Dental were to make any changes to reduce reimbursements

even further, I knew I'd be in major trouble because they are the majority of the patient base," he reflected. "I wanted to find a way to balance the patient demographics and ensure that I could provide the appropriate treatment for my patients."

Dr. Almaz and practice owner work together on exit strategy, hire consultant

Once he determined that moving forward with a Delta Dental PPO contract would not be sustainable as a new practice owner, Almaz began discussions with the selling dentist, who volunteered to assist with the plan exit process.

"We were very nervous because as the new dentist who's coming in, I'm making all these changes, and the patients may worry about even more unsettling changes in the future," Almaz said. "I could be their deciding factor to leave and start over somewhere else where they feel more secure."

While not always necessary for a dental plan exit, Almaz and the practice owner opted to hire a consultant who could offer analysis and recommendations to mitigate patient attrition based on the unique circumstance of an upcoming transition in practice ownership.

Largely for that reason, Almaz and the practice owner wanted to offset the contract termination by at least three months, but because they started strategizing much earlier, they had closer to a nine-month lead time before notifying the first patients about upcoming changes. The lead time allowed for strong patient tracking and strategic adjustments to address patients' concerns.

Almaz also credits the practice owner's close involvement in the process.

"He actually wanted to ensure that the drop happened under his watch," Almaz said. "He determined that if the patients experienced change during his ownership, the practice would be healthier and safer. When he brought me on board as an associate in 2017, he made clear he wanted to try and protect our flock with continuity of care. He's had a very patient-first mentality throughout his career."

The hygienists discussed the benefit plan changes with patients

The consultant recommended that the dentists have the necessary conversations about benefit changes with their Delta Dental patients, but they opted for a different approach.

"The hygienists are spending an hour with these patients every six months," Almaz said. "They're having a lot more conversations than we typically have during restorative appointments, so after we discussed it as a team, we all agreed to have the hygienists."

The practice had two hygienists who are still with Almaz today; one has more than 20 years at the practice and the other over 10 years. "Both are loved by our patients," Almaz added.

When patients had financial questions about benefit changes, the hygienists directed them to front-office employees who would go over the new payment structure with them, explaining that instead of leaving without paying a copay, Delta enrollees pay for treatment upfront and receive Delta reimbursement directly. Patients who were not on a regular recall schedule or

who called the practice only when they were having problems learned about changes from the front-office employees, but the entire team was working from the same script.

“Staff would comfort the patient as much as possible,” Almaz said. “On day one, we started running the numbers for patients who were on the fence and needed to know what their out-of-pocket costs would be. They were able to determine what their six-month recalls would cost — to the dollar, essentially.”

Almaz had also been studying the explanations of benefits for the few out-of-network patients he saw before the practice terminated its contract with Delta Dental, which he says greatly helped him understand the process and how to anticipate the typical reimbursements for out-of-network treatment.

“I also learned that in many cases, Delta Dental is just managing employer-funded plans and that while some employers use Delta’s recommended formulas, other employers override them and set their own maximums,” Almaz said. “Still, we were very careful to not over-promise to our patients.”

He also says that his UCR fees are on average quite a bit lower than other dentists in his area, which makes less of a hurdle for patients who might otherwise think they need to go find an in-network dentist instead.

Close tracking provided ‘a good estimate of how many patients would stay’

The team tracked and graded their conversations with every single patient to try to determine whether the patient was “on board” with the coming changes, Almaz said, but there were still surprises.

“We’d think a conversation went well, but the patient wouldn’t make it through one recall cycle. Conversely, we talked with patients who’d indicated they’d be out the door the minute we made a change, and some of those patients are still here. But with this close tracking, we were able to get a good estimate of how many patients would stay.”

The consultant’s patient attrition metric is based on the number of patients who leave after the practice goes out of network with a plan.

Almaz estimates the practice’s patient attrition at about 25%.

Of the approximately 1,200 Delta patients the practice had prior to dropping Delta Dental, 257 left the practice. Almaz said it took almost

two years to completely stop losing Delta patients. “I tracked the numbers every month to really understand when attrition was leveling out so I could start breathing,” he said.

Practice regained patients after they left through letter campaign

Almaz and his team diverged from the consultant’s advice in just one other way: They developed and implemented a plan to send letters to patients they learned had left the practice to see if they could regain some of them. Almaz called the effort a success and suggests other practices in this situation consider trying it.

“We wanted to allow these patients time to find and get established with a new dentist and feel good about their treatment, so we waited until about eight months to send those letters to every patient who fit that category,” he said. “Our letter stated that we hoped they’d found a good dental home, but that if at any point they were unsure, they were welcome to come by. We wouldn’t charge anything and only wanted to make sure the patient was in good hands.

“We did have patients who returned and indicated the letter came at the perfect time, that they were questioning the move, really liked us and wanted to come back.”

‘I have steady growth without needing to spend more’

Almaz’s practice does continue to bring on new Delta Dental patients despite being out of network with the plan.

“We have a retention rate of about 80% on that first call because my team is very good at explaining what it means to be out of network and what the patient can expect, so four out of five times, the patient will still book the first appointment and stay,” Almaz said. “Others, like new families who’ve moved here from the Bay Area and want to get established at a practice, tell us no problem because they are used to seeing dentists who are out of network.”

But the team still closely tracks the number of new patients and the patients who leave, and they continue to have regular check-ins on Delta Dental issues.

“In every meeting to this day, the team sits down together and asks, ‘Did anything new with Delta happen this time? Did we stub our toes in any situation?’ But we’re still at a net positive per month. Could I have more patients? Absolutely, but I have steady growth without needing to spend more.”

The practice focuses on internal marketing and relies on reviews and recommendations but has not spent more on external marketing. “People take advice from those they already know and trust,” Almaz said. “Someone you know saying, ‘you’re going to love my dentist,’ speaks way more than a paid ad.”

Going out of network with Delta Dental ‘has reduced a lot of stress’

When thinking back on the most difficult aspect of the two-part transition, Almaz cited the expense of buying a practice, including needed upgrades and replacement of equipment and second-guessing the practice location.

Uncertainty was another major worry. He called it “being in the dark with Delta Dental.” “And not knowing which patient is going to drop next was difficult,” he added. “That was eating me. It doesn’t feel good to lose patients ever, and I knew that some patients left because there’s attrition when a new dentist steps in, no matter what you do.”

But Almaz lights up when he speaks about the positive impacts and even the pleasant surprises of going out of network with Delta Dental.

“Going out of network with Delta Dental has reduced a lot of stress,” Almaz said. “We have fewer checks and payments to process and less to track with Eaglesoft, and that’s been nice.”

Almaz says the office continues to review outstanding claims to make sure they are processed correctly and patients are getting paid, but the overhead is considerably less than it would be if they were in network with the plan.

“I’m able to practice dentistry in a very clean and pure style, which is how I’ve always wanted to do it,” Almaz said. “I don’t want to have to play by somebody else’s rules, and now I have the freedom not to. I wanted to be a dentist to help people.”

“These changes have been good so far, and I hope I’m doing it the right way. Our patients have been very understanding of these changes, and I respect them because they took a leap of faith with me on this. I want to make sure that they still feel like they’re winning.” ■

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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

(as of 4/6/2026)

2,089

**RETENTION
RATE: 99.5%**

ENGAGEMENT RATE:

79% active

59% retired

MARKET SHARE: 77.3%

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS:
1,381

TOTAL RETIRED
MEMBERS: 386

TOTAL DUAL
MEMBERS: 10

TOTAL AFFILIATE
MEMBERS: 1

TOTAL STUDENT
MEMBERS: 250

TOTAL CURRENT
APPLICANTS: 0

TOTAL DHP
MEMBERS: 60

TOTAL NEW
MEMBERS FOR 2026: 26

May/June
2026

Member Update

Welcome to our newest members

Joshua Abraham, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from Tufts University in 2022.
- Currently practices at Western Health in Orangevale.

Elena Dmitrieva, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from an International School of Dentistry in 2023.

Julie Jacobs, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from University of Illinois at Chicago in 2006.
- Currently practices at Chapa-De Indian Health Clinic in Auburn.

Jaspreet Kaur, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from an International School of Dentistry in 2023.

Melanie Kim, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from Oregon Health Science University in 2016.
- Currently practices at Dentists of El Dorado Hills in El Dorado Hills.

Abel Lored, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from Loma Linda University in 1984.
- Currently practices at Blue Stone Health and Wellness in Weimar.

Yuleisy Ortiz Ardila, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from Mexico- Universidad De La Salle in 2025.

Sarah Rabah, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from UCSF School of Dentistry in 2021.

Chhama Sarawagi, DDS

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

- Graduated from Creighton University Boyne School of Dentistry in 2015 and went on to earn the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialty from Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

Nimrat Tung, DDS

General Practice

- Graduated from an International School of Dentistry in 2022.
- Currently practices at Mission Dental in Carmichael.

Jonathan Wang, DDS

Periodontics

- Graduated from New York College of Dentistry in 2022 and went on to earn the specialty of Periodontics from Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC in 2025.
- Currently practices at Innova Periodontics and Implant Dentistry in Roseville.

Congratulations to Our New Retired Members!

Rodney Bughao, DDS

Oscar Chen, DDS

Jerome Daby, DDS

Daniel Haberman, DDS

Carolyn Ishii, DMD

Michael O'Brien, DDS

Michael Wilson, DDS

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OCTOBER 22 - Folsom

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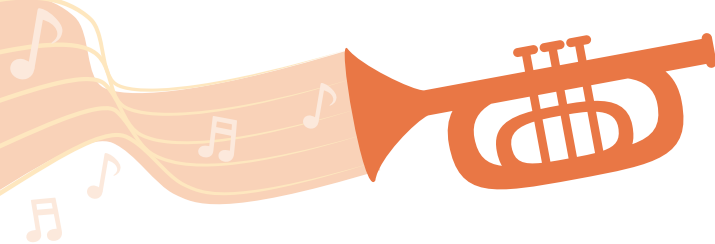
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Dr. Cliff Wong on being named the 2026 Asian Dentist of the Year at the Sacramento Asian Dental Social on March 12, 2026! Thanks for your dedication to patient care and leadership in the dental community. **(2)**

SDDS team member **Sofia Gutierrez** for a decade of dedication to SDDS! **(3)**



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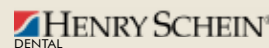
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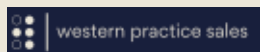
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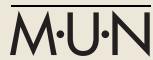


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businesspcsupport.com



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SD Dental Solutions

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President/Partner
916.367.4252
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Job Bank

The SDDS Job Bank is a service offered only to SDDS Members. It is for job seekers to reach other Society members who are looking for dentists to round out their practice, and vice versa. If you are a job seeker or associate seeker contact SDDS at (916) 446-1227 or by email at sdds@sdds.org, we can also provide contact information for the members listed below.

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 Ryan Plewe, DDS • Citrus Heights/Rocklin • PT • Pedo
 Jonathan Collins, DDS • Lincoln/Citrus Heights • FT • GP
 Guneeta Kalia, DDS • Carmichael • PT • GP
 Cindy Weideman, DDS • Citrus Heights/Rocklin • PT • Ortho
 Matthew Comfort, DDS • Roseville • PT • GP
 Sukhjeet Kaur, DDS • Jackson • FT/PT • GP
 Dan Gustavson, DDS • Auburn • PT • GP
 Gautam Dogra, DDS • Sacramento • PT/FT • GP
 Harkeet Sappal, DDS • Sacramento • PT • Endo
 Mugunth Nandagopal, DDS • Sacramento • FT/PT • GP
 Peter Kim, DDS • Sacramento • PT • GP
 Hossein Kazemi, DDS • Roseville • PT/FT • GP/Perio
 Arash Aghakhani, DDS • Sacramento • FT/PT • GP
 Darryl Azouz, DDS • Lake Tahoe • FT/PT • GP
 Oleg Oliferuk, DDS • Folsom • PT • GP
 Siamak Okhovat, DDS • Roseville • PT/FT • GP
 Monica Tavallaei, DDS • Sacramento • PT/FT • GP/PEDO
 Sabrina Jang, DDS • Sacramento • PT/FT • GP
 Albert Lee, DDS • Sacramento • PT • GP
 Amandeep Behniwal, DDS • Roseville • PT/FT • GP
 Elizabeth Johnson, DDS • Wellspace - various locations • FT/PT/Fill-In • GP
 Amy Woo, DDS • Sacramento • PT 1 Day • Endo
 David Park, DDS • several/multiple positions • FT/PT • GP

DOCS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Loredana Popa • Graduating June 2026 • UOP • PT/FT • GP
 Ranna Alrabadi, DMD • PT • GP
 Gassan Hawari, DDS • PT/ Tue-Thur • GP
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WELLSPACE HEALTH ORGANIZATION (an FQHC) is taking applications for fill-in/part-time/full-time dentists. Send your resume/CV to eljohnson@wellspacehealth.org. 1/15

SDDS member dentists can place one *Nugget* classified ad

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Kids Care Dental & Orthodontics seeks orthodontists to join our teams in the greater Sacramento and greater Stockton areas. We believe when kids grow up enjoying the dentist, healthy teeth and gums will follow. As the key drivers of our mission—to give every kid a healthy smile—our dentists, orthodontists and oral surgeons exhibit a genuine love of children and teeth. A good fit for our culture means you are also honest, playful, lighthearted, approachable, hardworking, and compassionate. Patients love us... come find out why! Send your CV to drtalent@kidscaredental.com. 6-7/17

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SDDS' weekly “This Week at SDDS” eblast reaches our entire membership every Sunday at 8:00am, with a circulation of 2,200 and an impressive open rate of 67% – contract due by noon on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday e-blast.

Guidelines for Online Classified Advertising:

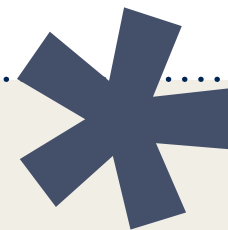
- Members must place and pay for the ad themselves
- Non-Vendor Member companies and representatives cannot be listed in the ad
- Contact info in the ad must be direct to member/member's office, non-member emails and phone numbers are prohibited

Visit www.sdds.org/publications-media/advertise/ to advertise

Selling your practice? Need an associate? Have office space to lease? SDDS member dentists get one complimentary, professionally related classified ad per year (30 word maximum). For more information on placing a classified ad, please call the SDDS office at 916.446.1227 or visit www.sdds.org/publications-media/advertise/

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SDDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MAY

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Navigating the Complex Root Canal System Lecture and Hands-on
<i>Peter Ham, DDS, MSD</i>
<i>Sponsored by Henry Schein Dental and EdgeEndo</i>
Friday • SDDS Classroom
Lecture and Hands-on
8:30am–2:30pm • 6 CEU, Core
Lecture Only
8:30–11:30am • 3 CEU, Core</p> <p>8 Swing for Smiles Golf Tournament
Friday • 7:00am • Teal Bend Golf Course</p> <p>12 GM: Drugs, Bugs and Dental Products, What to Prescribe!
<i>Peter Jacobsen, DDS</i>
<i>Sponsored by Capitol Periodontal Group</i></p> | <p>13 Dentists Do Broadway Back to the Future
Wednesday • 7:30pm show</p> <p>19 Preventing Dental Practice Embezzlement: Signals, Systems, and Solutions
<i>Clint Bedolido, CPA; MUN CPAs and Dave Nelson; US Bank (SDDS VMs)</i>
Tuesday • 6:30–8:30pm • 2 CEU, 20% SDDS Classroom</p> <p>21 SDDS Member Mixer - Roseville Zocalo
Thursday • 6–7:30pm • Zocalo Roseville
<i>Sponsored by BPE Law Group and Western Practice Sales</i></p> |
|---|---|

JUNE

- 10 Harassment Prevention Training**
California Employers Association
Wednesday • Webinar
Non-Supervisors • 11am–12pm • 1 CEU, Core
Supervisors • 11am–1pm • 2 CEU, Core
- 16 Responsibilities and Requirements of Prescribing Schedule II Opioids**
Ronni Brown, DDS, MPH, FADI
Tuesday • 5:30–7:30pm
2 CEU, Core • Webinar
- 25 Dental Day with the River Cats**
Thursday • 6:30pm



Dental Day with the River Cats

River Cats vs. Aviators | June 25, 2026 | Sutter Health Park

Upcoming GENERAL MEETING

MAY 12 Drugs, Bugs and Dental Products, What to Prescribe!

Tuesday • 3 CEU, Core • \$99 early price thru 5/9

Presented by Peter L. Jacobsen, PhD, DDS
Sponsored by Capitol Periodontal Group

Attendees will receive a copy of Dr. Jacobsen's Little Dental Drug Booklet

We all recommend, prescribe, and administer medications every day. Patients also use oral care products, hopefully, on a daily basis. How can we and the patients get the best care and benefit from our knowledge, as well as from the medications and products we and they use? This course will address the medications and products available to optimize benefits and minimize the risks associated with the procedures and products we use every day.

5:45–9:00pm: Hilton Sacramento Arden West
(2200 Harvard Street, Sac)

