

SIX-YEAR IMPACT REPORT



**Building a Strong
Oral Health Foundation**



NORTH CAROLINA
DENTAL SOCIETY®
FOUNDATION

Reflections From Our President



Dr. Ruma Simhan
President

Dear Colleagues,

I am proud to present the North Carolina Dental Society Foundation's six-year impact report, which details the organization's significant role in removing economic and physical barriers to dental care faced by North Carolinians. The Foundation has been working towards ensuring that oral health is given the priority it deserves and that equitable access is granted to all without hindrances. The Foundation could not be successful in its endeavors without the strong commitment of the North Carolina dental community. Over the past six years, with your help, the Foundation has provided timely dental treatment at the value of \$38.5 million to more than 72,000 North Carolinians through the Missions of Mercy program.

As a qualified workforce shortage continues to significantly affect dental offices, the Foundation is helping build the pipeline of auxiliary team members. The Foundation is working to strengthen the dental workforce by providing more than \$85,000 in scholarships to more than 60 students in dental assisting and hygiene programs at community colleges.

We are grateful that the State of North Carolina has entrusted the Foundation with \$400,000 to support the NC Missions of Mercy clinics for another two years through June 2025. Previously, we received \$200,000 for the period between June 2021 and May 2023, which allowed us to bring a 45-chair clinic to Elkin this year that served 460 patients and provided more than \$292,000 in dental care. The state grant also allowed us to invest in equipment to establish Mini MOM clinics at NC community colleges. We held our first Mini MOM at Central Piedmont Community College in April, treating 85 patients and providing more than \$57,500 in complimentary dental care.

The Foundation thanks each of you who volunteers in the Missions of Mercy and Give Kids A Smile programs as well as our donors. We are truly your Foundation – our success and programmatic impact would not be possible without you! Together, we will continue to improve oral health for all.

Dr. Ruma Simhan

Learn About Your Foundation!

Established in 2017, The North Carolina Dental Society Foundation (NCDSF) is the charitable arm of the North Carolina Dental Society, with a vision of providing a better quality of life for all North Carolinians through improved oral health. The Foundation's programs are designed to address oral health needs through interventions at the preventive, curative, and promotive levels. Its work ranges from creating dental homes for underserved children through school-based programs to pain mitigation interventions at the Missions of Mercy free adult dental clinics. Additionally, the Foundation is working to address the dental workforce shortage through scholarships for dental assistants and hygienists at community colleges.



OUR VISION

A better quality of life for North Carolinians through improved oral health.



MISSION STATEMENT

"Helping dentists help patients."

We help dentists help patients through education, coaching, and communication.

We provide education, prevention, and treatment of adults and children in need through free clinic settings and the support of local community clinics.



OUR VALUES

We value collaborating with others to achieve the common goal of improving the oral health of North Carolinians.

We embody qualities of justness, fairness, and impartiality.

We appreciate and celebrate the respective needs of each individual or group we serve.



2022 Scholarship Recipient Megan Taylor

“RIGHT NOW, ONE OF THE BATTLES WE FACE AS A PROFESSION IS THE DENTAL AUXILIARY SHORTAGE. THROUGH THESE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS, WE CAN HELP STUDENTS IN THESE PROGRAMS COVER ANY ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL COST WHICH IN TURN SUPPORTS THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR DENTAL PROFESSION.”

— Dr. Madison Crumley, Asheville

Strengthening the Dental Teams Pipeline

Scholarships for Dental Hygiene and Assisting Students

The COVID-19 pandemic caused massive disruptions in the dental workforce across the United States. The effects are still felt three years later as dentists continue to struggle to find dental hygienists and assistants, according to the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute. The Foundation is working alongside dentists in North Carolina to address the adverse impact the pandemic has had on practices since 2020 — initially by organizing webinars on burnout for dentists and eventually by focusing on long-term solutions, like investing in the dental workforce pipeline. Efforts include scholarships for dental assisting and hygiene students and creating awareness among high school students about career paths in the dental auxiliary field.

Through a grant from the Dogwood Health Trust, The Foundation awarded \$1,500 and \$3,000 scholarships to students at Western Piedmont, AB Tech, and Isothermal Community Colleges. A total of 43 scholarships have been distributed since 2021. Further, 20 students and dental assistants interested in taking the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam were offered scholarships of \$450 each to cover the examination fee. The scholarship checks are made directly to the college to be applied to the student's final semester and are awarded in the semester right before as an incentive to encourage course completion. Applicants are screened for financial need and merit and are given the flexibility to use the award to cover childcare needs while attending classes, internships, and other course-related expenses.

Taylor Austin, a Western Piedmont Community College DA scholarship recipient expressed sincere gratitude for her gift, *“Thank you so much for the scholarship! I plan to utilize it in many ways! This scholarship will provide*



Christmas comes early for Isothermal dental assisting students

By Mike Davis
Published December 16, 2022
Christmas comes early for Isothermal dental assisting students.
ISOthermal (Dec. 16, 2022) — The two newest classes in the Dental Assisting Program of Isothermal Community College were given a generous holiday surprise Wednesday. Dr. Amanda Strub, president of the North Carolina Dental Society Foundation, presented the students, Taylor Davis and Jazminia Whitard, with checks for \$1,500 to cover the cost of the remainder of the training program, which they will complete in July 2023.
“Thanks to a generous grant from Dogwood Health Trust, we are able to provide these scholarships to these students,” said



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Isothermal Community College
Marketing & Community Relations
800-949-1234 ext. 1234
404-833-1234





“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP! ...THIS SCHOLARSHIP WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SCRUB ATTIRE FOR CLINICAL ROTATIONS, AND TRAVEL, ALONG WITH BOOKS AND SUPPLIES FOR CLASS.”

- Taylor Austin



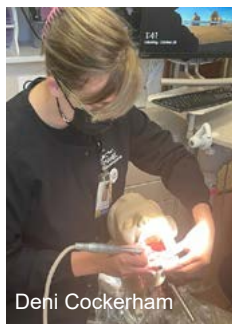
“AFTER LEARNING OF MY SELECTION FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP, I AM RELIEVED KNOWING THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE. I HOPE THAT THIS SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FUTURE STUDENTS.”

- Starlit Ernst

additional scrub attire for clinical rotations, and travel, along with books and supplies for class.”

The Foundation has made this a statewide priority and is currently working with Central Piedmont and Cape Fear Community Colleges to award another 24 scholarships before the new year. The scholarships have a profound impact on mitigating hardships faced by students while navigating their programs. LaQueisha Anderson, an AB Tech Community College DA scholarship recipient said, ***“Receiving the scholarship has helped me worry less about finances while in school and focus on the program a lot more. I wasn’t working at the time, so it put stress on me, and I wasn’t sure how I would even pay to take my national boards. When I heard about being selected to be chosen to receive this scholarship it lifted a weight off my shoulders. I am so thankful that I was chosen to receive this scholarship and I hope that it will continue because there is always someone in need.”***

Completing the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam which is a certification provided by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) is considered one of the highest credibility for dental assistants. On receiving a scholarship to take the exam, Starlit Ernst said, ***“I am beyond thankful to have received this scholarship. The DANB is an expensive exam to take, and since the exam is required to become a CDA the financial burden is unavoidable. After learning of my selection for the scholarship, I am relieved knowing the financial hardship is no longer an issue. I hope that this scholarship continues to provide financial assistance to future students.”***



Deni Cockerham from Isothermal Community College was thrilled to receive the gift to cover her CDA examination fees and expressed, ***“The scholarship that was given to me by NCDSF to take the DANB was so helpful. I was able to pass the exam and now I am a Certified Dental Assistant, and I could not be prouder!”***

Tammy Glover, Western Piedmont Community College’s DA Coordinator shared, ***“I would like to thank the North Carolina Dental Society Foundation for awarding scholarships to our Dental Assisting students. The Foundation’s commitment to improving the oral health of North Carolinians is essential. Formally educated dental assistants are a fundamental part of the dental team and provide treatment, support, and education to their patients. Thanks for your investment in the dental community and the Dental Assisting Students at Western Piedmont Community College.”***

Stacey Jenkins, Isothermal Community College’s DA Program Director said, ***“The North Carolina Dental Society Foundation has been a huge blessing to the dental assisting program at Isothermal Community College. This extra push is what some students need to continue their progress and goal of completing the dental assisting program and starting a great career in dentistry. I want to thank the NCDSF for their support and encouragement of our program!”***

“BEING ABLE TO HAVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM IS HUGE FOR ME. THERE IS NO WAY I COULD HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM SCHOLARSHIPS.” – Isothermal CC Scholarship Recipient

North Carolina Missions of Mercy

Embracing the spirit of Volunteerism and Community Service for Accessible Dental care

The North Carolina Dental Society worked toward providing dental care to the uninsured and underserved communities long before the establishment of the NC Dental Society Foundation. Since 2009, and under the aegis of the NC Dental Health Fund, the Dental Society leveraged the support of its generous and driven member dentists to successfully host North Carolina Missions of Mercy (NC MOM) clinics across the state. To date, **NC MOM has provided \$38.7 million in free dental care to more than 72,000 patients.**

The NC MOM program is now the Foundation's flagship initiative and its free dental clinics continue to serve adults who face economic or geographic barriers to receiving dental care, many of whom suffer from acute pain or are in immediate need of dental care. **A typical 45-chair clinic is held over two days and serves approximately 600 patients.** The clinics are held in local host communities around the state, utilizing portable dental equipment and instruments. Dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, lab techs, medical health professionals, and community members all volunteer their time to staff the clinics. In addition to receiving treatment, patients receive education on proper oral hygiene, as well as supplies to take home. This model of access to care through volunteerism is the hallmark of the Foundation's MOM clinic outreach program. The clinics are a turning point, not just for the patients but also for the volunteers who come together in the spirit of service and community advancement.

The program has evolved, and the Foundation is piloting Mini MOM clinics where patients are seen at community colleges with dental assisting clinic facilities. The Foundation purchased the dental equipment for these one-day Mini MOMs and also helps the host location in raising funds to invest in the supplies required for each clinic. This model helps the respective college in strengthening its curriculum while enabling an increased opportunity for charitable dental care. The first Mini MOM clinic was held at the Central Piedmont Community College in April 2023. Eighty-five patients were treated in just nine hours, amounting to more than \$57,500 in complimentary dental care. More than 150 volunteers helped with this effort.



Wilmington MOM Clinic

Two 45-chair clinics were also organized that same year. An Elkin clinic served 460 patients and brought together 400 volunteers to provide dental care totaling more than \$292,000 in value. Wilmington's MOM clinic served more than 872 patients with the help of nearly 600 volunteers, totaling care of more than \$585,984.



Mini-MOM Clinic at CPCC

2023 NC MOM Clinics



ELKIN MOM CLINIC



WILMINGTON MOM CLINIC



Starting Young

Promoting Dental Care Among School Children

In North Carolina, almost 50 percent of schoolchildren have tooth decay, according to the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Oral Health Section. Further, disparities in oral health status between socioeconomic groups are also widespread. According to an analysis by NC Child, "children from poor, rural counties in North Carolina tend to have the highest rates of decay."



NCDSF has been working to address these disparities and make oral health care available to all children by actively promoting and coordinating the ADA's Give Kids a Smile initiative as well as incentivizing dentists to launch school-based programs in Title 1 schools across the State. Since 2017, NC Dental Society members have provided 75,341 children with oral health support through screenings, treatments, toothbrush distribution drives, and oral health education. More than \$3.9 million worth of dental treatment has been provided to low-income and underinsured kids in the state.

The goal of the school-based program is to provide all children with access to a dental home irrespective of their economic status and geographic location, thus establishing healthy dental care at a young age. A school-based dental program is not intended to replace the dental home model; rather it is a complement and vital point of access for preventive care and referrals, as needed. To help dentists, establish on-site pediatric dental services at Title 1 middle schools, the North Carolina Dental Society Foundation will provide four selected dentists with \$5,000 to support the process. The ideal dentist/dental office, and will be open to getting in front of school boards, working with the local health department, identifying patients, and delivering care in their respective communities. The feedback from this pilot will drive best practices to improve oral health across the state.

Here below are the eligibility criteria for dentists/dental offices interested in this program:

- Must have a practice or work at a clinic within North Carolina
- Willing to identify and work with Title 1 schools in North Carolina
- Willing to provide services without any out-of-pocket charge to the patients and open to billing Medicaid/Health Choice or the patient's commercial insurance when appropriate.

Use the QR Code for a direct link to the program eligibility criteria and application form:

\$5,000 grants available to launch school-based programs in Title 1 middle schools across NC. Contact Sharon D'costa at sdcosta@ncdental.org to learn more.



SCAN ME



Endowment Grants and Public Health Award

Since 2018, The Foundation has awarded more than \$100,000 to organizations working to increase access to dental care.

There are three counties in North Carolina without any practicing dentists. **Nearly 13% of kindergarten-aged children have untreated tooth decay, and 21% of adults 65+ have lost all their natural teeth.** Given the dire need for access to dental care in our state, the Foundation realizes it can only meet this need, especially in rural communities, by strengthening the efforts of previously established peer organizations that are caring for underserved populations.

The Foundation's annual Dental Public Health Award recognizes one deserving organization each year with \$1,500, typically the North Carolina Public Health Association's fall conference. Additionally, the Foundation gives \$5,000 in grants through its endowment fund each year. To date, five organizations have been recognized for exceptional endeavors through awards, and 19 have received endowment grants.

The Veterans Smile Clinic, an organization that provides education and financial services to veterans in North Carolina, received the 2023 Dental Public Health Award. The following entities were awarded grants:

- **Moore Free and Charitable Clinic** is the sole outpatient safety-net health provider for Moore County and as part of its holistic efforts to reduce health disparities in outcomes and access, MFCC provides dental services to its patients. The organization will use the Foundation's endowment grant to integrate oral health into its current medical services. Priority will be given to its current patients, particularly those in treatment for type 2 diabetes. MFCC will create a cohort of approximately 150 patients receiving routine diabetes care who also have periodontal disease.
- **NC Caring Dental Professionals** assists members of the dental profession and their families who suffer from alcohol or drug addiction, stress, professional burnout, or other impairments.
- **UNC's Serving through Mobile dentistry to Inspire, Lift, and Empower (SMILE) clinic** is the first mobile dentistry clinic at the UNC Adams School of Dentistry and brings dental care to those who are unable to seek care at a dental clinic. At each clinic, 10 dental students volunteer to serve as operators and assistants and are supervised by a faculty member.





THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN GIVING GRANTS OF **\$5,000** EACH THROUGH ITS ENDOWMENT FUNDS **EVERY YEAR**. TO DATE, **5** ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL ENDEAVORS THROUGH THE AWARD AND **19** HAVE RECEIVED ENDOWMENT GRANTS.

- **Mountain Community Health Partnership (MCHP)** is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving low-income, uninsured, and underinsured residents of Mitchell and Yancey Counties in rural western North Carolina. Through the endowment grant, MCHP aims to expand a program that provides financial assistance to low-income, uninsured patients with extensive dental treatment plans.

We are proud of how our previous grant and award recipients have used both recognition and funds to strengthen their work in making dental care accessible to all.

East Carolina University's School of Dental Medicine's Sonrie clinic, a 2022 endowment grant recipient, serves the Hispanic/Latinx populations in and around Pitt County. The endowment grant was used to host a clinic in March 2023 whereby twenty-four patients received treatment through almost 185 procedures including fillings, cleanings, extractions, a root canal, and other services, totaling nearly \$8,600 in care.

FirstHealth Dental Care, a Dental Public Health Award winner, has provided care to more than 30,000 underserved children (0-21) who receive Medicaid, Health Choice, or are uninsured and qualify by income level in Moore and Montgomery counties. Dr. Sharon Harrell, Director of FirstHealth Dental Care said, "We have been providing dental care to underserved children for nearly 25 years, and this award is a testament to the commitment from our entire team. They all work so hard to care for our patients, and I'm proud of their efforts."



Endowment Grant Recipient: East Carolina University's School of Dental Medicine's Sonrie clinic.



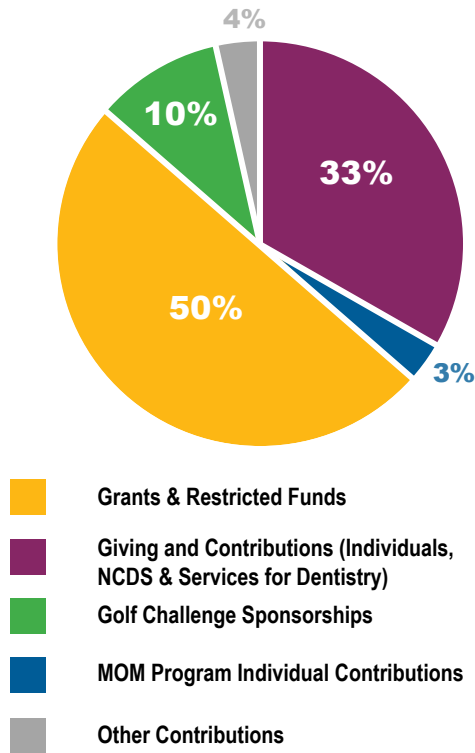
"WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING DENTAL CARE TO UNDERSERVED CHILDREN FOR NEARLY 25 YEARS, AND THIS AWARD IS A TESTAMENT TO THE COMMITMENT FROM OUR ENTIRE TEAM."

– Dr. Sharon Harrell

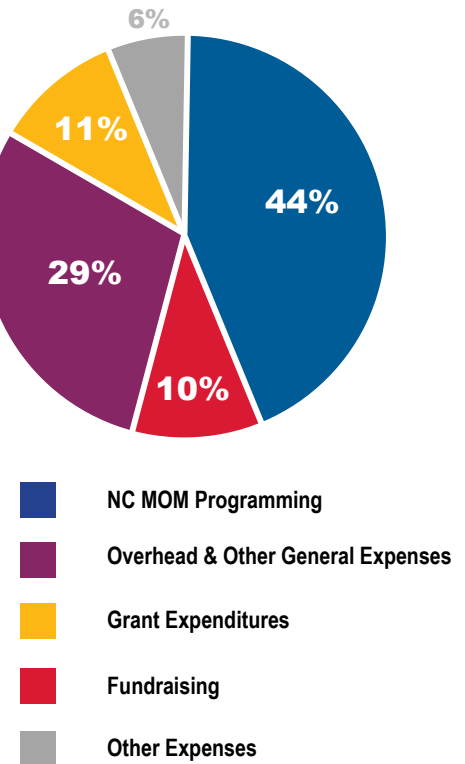


Financial Report FY 2022-23

NCDSF Revenue: \$702,243



NCDSF Expenditure: \$552,797



We are grateful to our dedicated board members



President
Dr. Ruma Simhan



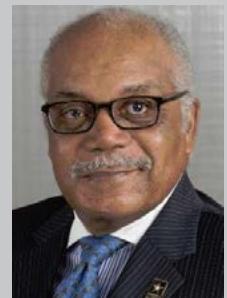
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Ms. Sharon D'costa

We are grateful for our generous donors!

Your support fuels our passion and determination to expand oral healthcare!

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(\$3,000 and above)

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We asked some of our donors about why they give to the Foundation and here is what they said:

"I support the NCDS Foundation because I want to help level the playing ground for those who have not had the same access to dental care that I have had."

— **Dr. Sharon Harrell**
(Southern Pines)

"The privilege of practicing dentistry has many benefits, but it also carries many responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is giving back to the community. For me, donating to the NCDS Foundation is a great way to give back."

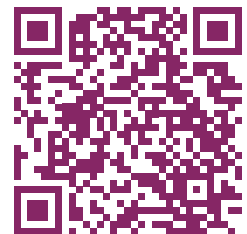
— **Dr. Ron Venezie** (Apex)

"Giving to the NCDS Foundation allows me to help in so many areas within our state, such as dental education for patients and students, research support, and treatment needs that may not otherwise be met. The NCDS Foundation allows me to have 'hands in more than mouths'...it allows me to have a hand in changing our state's oral health future."

— **Dr. Amanda Stroud** (Boone)

Donate Today

You can support our work through an online donation, gift of stock, or qualified charitable contributions from your IRA. Fund advisors can make a grant from your donor-advised fund by contacting Sharon D'costa at sdcosta@ncdental.org



SCAN ME

"LEGACY: it's only what you do for others that will last. Giving is laying the groundwork for the future."

— **Dr. Roslyn Crisp** (Burlington)



ncdentalfoundation.org

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