

Community Dental Clinic *Word of Mouth*

Summer 2020

Fighting Dental Decay & COVID-19

This pandemic has challenged health care providers to set the bar for safety. Dental providers, including the Community Dental Clinic, have integrated new infection control standards and requirements to maintain their practices and protect the safety of their staff and patients.

With a strong and well-established commitment to safe and hygienic practices, our clinic is committed to upholding these standards and closely following all CDC requirements in order to safely treat our patients - the low income uninsured adults of Pinellas. We want to assure all our patients and our community supporters that we are going above and beyond to ensure the well-being of all who enter our clinic.

Specifically, we maintain the following practices:

- Wear critical protective gear including surgical masks, shields, gowns and gloves
- Disinfect all surfaces and items between all patients
- Stagger patient appointments to keep patients apart
- Screen patients for COVID symptoms on the phone, upon arrival and following their visit
- Take temperature of all patients
- Ask patients to wait outside until we are ready for them



April 2019 to March 2020:

>3,200 appointments

10,485 procedures

+ \$1.5 million in dental services

Since COVID: May 11 - June 30

72 new patients (2397 total)

>300 appointments | 835 procedures

> \$146,000 in dental services

We are proud of our clinic and proud to serve the community. During these unprecedented times, we are more than willing to do all we can to continue to serve those in need with compassion and care.

Want to help? Call us! 727-216-6155

Stylin' and safe for patient care

(left to right) Tessa, Sarah, Dr. Tran and Sumita

Our Patients' Perspectives

"My boyfriend had a very bad cavity that had reached his nerves and was causing him a lot of pain, no one would help because he didn't have any insurance. So I looked around and found this place that helps people without insurance. We came in on Friday to enroll and by Wednesday morning they extracted the tooth for him. Without this place I don't know what we would have done, thank you guys so much for having a program like this." Catti

"I served 16 years active duty, was honorably discharged with no dental benefits. The clinic saved me from severe tooth pain on several teeth. Your facility is life changing." Michel

"Super nice people.
Thank you so much for your help.
I would be very sick right now if you guys didn't help me. Thank you." Kris

In this issue: New Board Members • Urgent Dental Care • Carol's Corner • New Pano X-Ray
Community Support • Reds, Whites & Bites Update • and more!



1008 Woodlawn Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-216-6155
www.communitydentalclinic.net

Our Mission

To provide the low income, uninsured adults of Pinellas County access to urgent dental care for improved health and quality of life.

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*Founding members

Welcome New Board Members



Dr. Rod Anthony

Dr. Anthony ranks as one of Tampa Bay's top endodontists. He brings 30 years of excellence in endodontics, microsurgery & business to our Board - along with a keen insight into community dentistry & nonprofits. He has always graciously supported our clinic, and has provided expert help and referrals for our patients.



James R. Harper

Jim Harper means business! His extensive experience in building & managing highly successful enterprises, and his expertise in risk management, make him a valuable asset to our Board. A proud alumnus of Clearwater High and UF, Jim has deep roots in our area and a great heart for our community.



Dr. Dilshad Sumar-Lakhani

Dr. Sumar-Lakhani comes to us from, literally, around the globe. A renowned pediatric dentist, she volunteers and lectures internationally with clinics, hospitals, and universities. As president of the Sumar-Lakhani Foundation, she does philanthropic work in developing countries. In the US, she serves as an adjunct professor at Temple University and she volunteers at our clinic.

Armed and Ready!



Bob Bentz

Armed with drills, saws, tools and real muscle, these talented volunteers literally keep our clinic up and running! When all the cabinets fell off the wall, **Bob Bentz & Bruce Livingston** came to the rescue. When our front sign fell apart, **Mark Iusi** fixed it. When we needed a partition in hygiene, Bob secured it. Install a mirror? Mark's on it! Boxes moved? No problem! Need a doorbell? You've got it. These great guys are always willing to wield a power tool and lend a hand.



Mark Iusi

We truly appreciate all their help!

Paying It Forward

Because the word "community" is right in our name, we realize & respect the importance of community, especially during these challenging times.



When the COVID-19 Pandemic temporarily closed our doors, we used that time to collect the personal protective equipment needed to keep our staff and patients safe. Gloves were not an issue, thanks to a previous, generous donation of exam gloves from **Sempermed**.

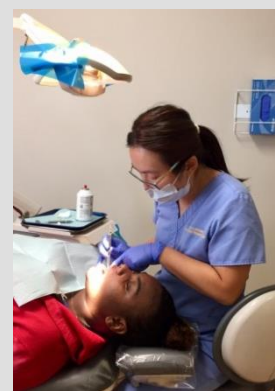
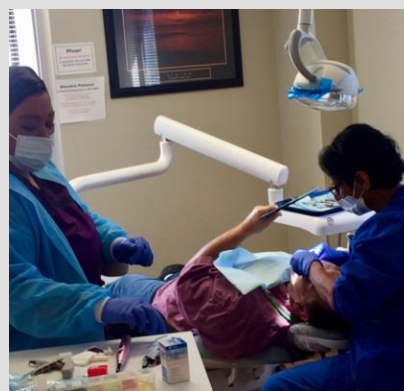
In fact, we had more XS gloves than we could use - so we donated over 88,000 gloves to Pinellas Emergency Preparedness, a local preschool, and the RCS Food Pantry, to help keep their people safe while they provide aid to the community.

Meeting the Need for Urgent Dental Care

The Pinellas County 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment found that 24.5% of the people in our demographic do not receive the dental care they need due to a lack of dental insurance or ability to pay. In addition to the infection and pain in their mouths, a majority of our patients live with related health concerns such as high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, anxiety, and depression--conditions that are exacerbated by dental issues. The people who come to us truly suffer with acute dental pain and the real fear of losing their health and the few resources they possess.

We are the last stop before the Emergency Room for over 80% of our urgent care patients who live with pain and infection from broken and rotting teeth, diseased gums, and serious oral decay. The other 20% of our urgent care patients already visited the ER and received antibiotics, but not long-term resolution, for their dental problems. At our clinic, we can treat the underlying dental conditions that cause inflammation and peril, then we can provide the appropriate dental care to take away the pain and fear so patients can get back to work, and back to their normal lives.

Thanks to new partnerships with **Morton Plant Hospital, Mease Countryside Hospital & Mease Dunedin Hospital**, as well as compassionate grants from the **Florida Association of Free & Charitable Clinics, Delta Dental, Florida Blue, Patterson Dental, Pinellas Community Foundation, and the Sun Coast Osteopathic Foundation**, we are able to provide this critical dental care more than four days a week, and rescue the low income uninsured adults in our community from the acute pain and peril of dental distress. Since January, we have treated 267 acute patients who would have otherwise gone to the ER or urgent care to escape their pain.



No Teeth? No Problem in Carol's Corner!

Carol's Corner was created by kind & thoughtful volunteer, Carol Lowrey, who wanted to help the many patients who are unable to chew due to tooth pain or extractions. She created a pantry of soft foods, which we offer to patients who must follow a liquid/soft diet for 1 to 3 days following an extraction or other major procedure. Previously, these patients didn't have the ability to get the proper foods after treatment & either suffered without or ate something they shouldn't.

Now Carol's Corner supplies them with essential food to stay healthy & heal. We can always use more! **Interested in contributing?** We can use:

- Ensure
- Instant Breakfast
- Jello
- pudding
- refried beans
- broth
- instant mashed potatoes
- smooth soups (e.g., squash, cheese, tomato)
- other foods that you don't have to chew.



Honoring the Great Work of Fred Fisher



The **Builder's Insurance Group** graciously donated **\$5,000** to the Community Dental Clinic in honor of **Fred Fisher** for his many years of dedication and excellence on their Board of Directors.

We are grateful for this wonderful honorarium and for Fred's continued commitment to our clinic. He has been an integral part of our growth and success, and continues to be a positive force as he serves on our Clinic Advisory Board.



Pinellas Community Foundation Provides Several Generous Grants



- \$30,000 in **Senior Citizens ACT II** funding to focused services for seniors
- \$10,000 grant to maintain and expand clinic operations
- \$7,991 **Capital Grant** to replace our inadequate vacuum system
- \$7,954 **Resiliency Grant** to retrofit the clinic with added safety devices, UV filters, bio monitors, and x-ray sensor to minimize cross contamination of patients

X-Ray Vision!

Thanks to an **amazing anonymous donor**, we received a **3D panoramic x-ray** to better examine our patients' mouths, teeth and jaws. This advanced technology enables us to x-ray 180° views of our patients' mouths to clearly see the "roots" of their problems - so we can do more to help them. Now we can more effectively screen for infections, cancers, and other pathologies that we could not see on regular x-rays.

Since it was installed March 6, this unit has helped us to identify a bone abscess, and to extract several complex wisdom teeth that would have previously been referred to an oral surgeon (at a substantial cost to our patients).

In addition, this device can provide a 3D image of our patient's teeth, gums, jaw bones and nerves to document the extent of damage and treatment needed.



Dr. Tran Dao and Dental Assistant Sumita show off our OP3D x-ray

6th Anniversary Celebration: Tours & Tapas



We celebrated our 6th year of service on September 26, 2019, with an open house for our supporters and friends. More than 60 people sampled delicious tapas, learned more about the clinic, and enjoyed tours by our dedicated staff and volunteers. Many thanks to **Molly & Clark Lee, Flo & Rev. Hugh Bell, Allen Kynes, Dr. & Mrs. Guillermo Cosma, Don & Ginger Newman, Mary & Jim Roble, Gwen Smith and Lil Cromer** for their generous gifts and support!

During the evening, **Barb Sheil** from the **Greater Belleair Young Women's Society** dropped off a new microwave to help our clinical staff heat their lunches during their busy days.

Volunteers **Terri Carmody and Tama Malinski**, hosted the event through an action grant from **Thrivent** and donations from **Friends of the Clinic**.

Terri Carmody and Pauline Deal welcome guests



THRIVENT®

Supported by Our Community for Our Community

Many thanks to the wonderful foundations and businesses that help our clinic serve our community.

Heartfelt thanks to the **Florida Assoc. of Free & Charitable Clinics** provided \$57,571 to sustain our operations and – making it possible for us to provide urgent care during the week when care was urgently needed.



Deep appreciation to the **Delta Dental Community Care Foundation** for a \$25,000 grant to enable us to continue urgent dental care during the ongoing pandemic. This thoughtful gift is in addition to two previous grants of \$10,000 received in 2019.



We can succeed thanks to the wonderful, thoughtful support of **Pinellas County** through the **Florida Dept of Health Pinellas**. They provide critical dental and hygiene support as well as \$20,000 in dental supplies through the year.



Sun Coast Osteopathic Foundation
Creating a Healthier Community



J. CRAYTON PRUITT FOUNDATION

Sincere thanks for important grants from these caring foundations:

Florida Blue Building Healthy Communities, **Patterson Dental Foundation**, and **Sun Coast Osteopathic Foundation** provided an additional dental assistant time to help us see more patients each day. The **Sumar Lakhani Foundation**, **Guardian Trust**, and the **J Crayton Pruitt Foundation** provided crucial funding for supplies and equipment. **Allegany Franciscan Ministries** funded our strategic plan and computer upgrade.

Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Clearwater who funded 20 nonprofits – including our clinic! Their gracious grant will enable us to install a new security access system to enhance our intake process.



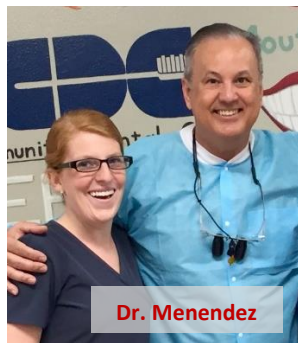
LEVITT & PRASATTHONG, D.D.S., P.A.
DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN & TEENAGERS
MYLES H. LEVITT, D.D.S.
DAN PRASATTHONG, D.D.S.

So grateful for their wonderful support in sponsoring a dentist one day each month!

Incredibly Kind In-Kind Donors Help Us Daily



Crown & Company
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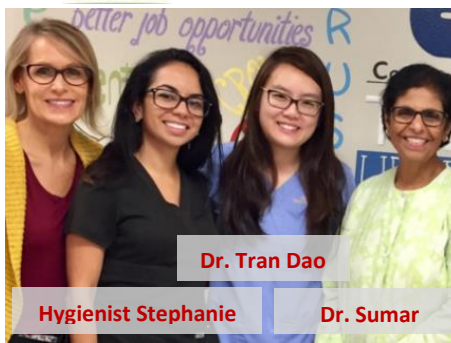
Dr. Menendez



Hygienist Katie



Dr. Gonzalez



Hygienist Stephanie

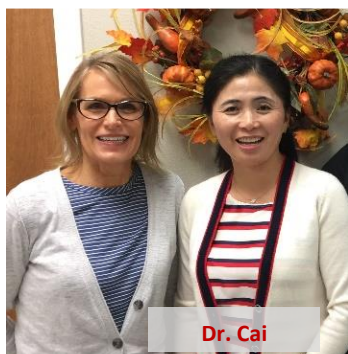
Dr. Tran Dao

Dr. Sumar



Dr. Bindeman

Expert Care by Compassionate Volunteers & Dedicated Staff



Dr. Cai



Dr. Kostakis



Hygienist Carol



Dr. Krueger

Not pictured: Dr. Eifert, Karen Sirmans

Sincere thanks to our gracious & generous 2020 sponsors

Sovereign Sponsor \$15,000

Achieva Credit Union



Balthazar \$10,000

Nicole & Dan Doyle Jr.

Roz & Dan Doyle

Andrea & Dr. William Layman

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Rehoboam \$5,000

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Food & Beverages



2020 Reds Whites & Bites Update



On March 13, we were expecting almost 400 guests for our 2020 Reds, Whites & Bites Fundraiser. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic, the uncertainty of the future, and our genuine concern for the welfare of our guests forced us to cancel just days before our event. We truly appreciate the flexibility and commitment to safety of all involved.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, patrons and guests for your generous contributions, which are hard at work at the Community Dental Clinic providing care to a patient population in desperate need. These good works continue because of your generosity. Your support is critical to our success!

Sincere appreciation for Roz & Dan Doyle

who were to serve as Honorary Chairs for our 2020 event. Through their leadership and generosity, Roz & Dan continue to improve the quality of life for so many in our community.



Thanks to our 2020 Reds, Whites & Bites Committee

Linda Turley, 2020 Chair

Laura Bentz, Terri Carmody, Terry Ciociola, Bette Crown, Mark Douglas, Tracy, Paul & Kara Eads, Beth Harvard, Leah Hayslett, Pamela Iusi, Andrea & Dr. William Layman, Paula Nall, Danene Rice, Jim Roble, Adam Shapiro, Lisa Smith, Helen & Paul Umberg, Sarah Valentine, Craig West

Thank you to our Wine Event donors:

More than 40 gracious wine connoisseurs donated delightful and respected wines that will be carefully cellared then featured in our 2021 Wine Event – along with generous gift certificates and opportunities for wonderful dining and wine tasting experiences.

Linda & Frank Alfano
Jean & Don Alli
Annemarie & Elliot Andrews
Dr. Michael Andriola
Lee Arnold
Anonymous Donors
Valerie Ayers
Liz & Tom Barrett
Chef Doug Bebell –
Mystic Fish Restaurant
Belleair Country Club

Bob Boos
John Connelly
Tracy Eads
Ray Ferrara
Fred Fisher
Renee & Shon Flaharty
Daneen & Chris Gurney
Jennifer Haller
Cindy & Paul Hanlon
Russ Kimball
Dr. George Kostakis

Kim & Tom Kurey
Gay & Ron Lancaster
Dr. Bill & Andrea Layman
Deidra & Bruce Livingston
Dr. Bill Maistrellis
Charlane & Jim Martin
Kathy & Rowland Milam
Dr. Jonathan & Margaret Morgan
Dr. Paul Phillips
Dr. Michael & Kristina Piazza
Honorable Frank & Suzann Quesada

Russo's New York Pizzeria
Dr. Andrew & Patti Rackstein
Dr. David & Jeannie Shapiro
Myra & Harry Sload
Dr. Jeff & Janet Sourbeer
Dr. Bill & Connie Stafford
Kathy & Chuck Strong
Wendy & John Thomas
Linda & Stew Turley
Helen & Paul Umberg
Craig West

We hope you will support our future and vision by joining us for our
2021 Reds Whites & Bites Event on March 6, 2021!

Forget Waldo! Where in the World is my PPE?

Hospitals & clinics everywhere are scrambling to protect their caregivers and patients with approved Personal Protective Equipment. PPE is scarce; prices are up. We have no problem wearing the gear; we have problems finding & affording it!

We can use your help. Please consider donating to our mission during this difficult time. Or volunteer. Volunteers are welcome to work from home!



Artwork by Mark Roble

Equity or Equality?

While these words look alike **Equality** means to distribute support equally to everyone. **Equity** means to distribute support proportionally to everyone based on need. Imagine a pie. **Equality** cuts the pie into 8 equal pieces – 1 per person. **Equity** cuts the pie into 8 different sized pieces based on the need of each person. A starving person would get a larger slice of pie than a well-fed person. In the end, everyone gets the right amount of pie to be healthy.

In the US, not everyone needs the same amount of dental pie. Blacks (non-Hispanics) and Mexican Americans aged 35–44 yrs have 2X as much **untreated tooth decay** as non-Hispanic whites. Adults aged 35–44 yrs with less than a high school education have 3X the untreated tooth decay and/or destructive periodontal disease as adults with a least some college education. And 42% of all U.S. adults have some form of periodontitis - 59.8% for adults aged 65+.

At the Community Dental Clinic, we provide equitable dental care - doing all we can to relieve dental distress for all Pinellas adults without dental insurance or the resources to seek treatment.

Rather see us in your inbox?

Sign up for emailed newsletters at www.communitydentalclinic.net or email pamela@communitydentalclinic.net

Please provide your first & last name as well as your email!