

Community Dental Clinic *Word of Mouth*

Summer 2022



People face so many challenges . . .



Average Social Security Check = \$1,657/month

Average Rent in Pinellas = \$1,627/month

Food prices up 10.8% as of April 2022

Gas prices climb to \$4.72/gal in Florida

**The 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment ranked
Access to Health & Social Services**

the #1 issue for low-income adults in Pinellas.

We offer so much relief . . .

4,575 dental procedures since January 2022

Data from The Washington Post, 4/21/22, US New & World Report, 12/20/21, US Bureau of Labor Statistic, 5/17/22, AAA 6/23/22



In this issue:

**New Trustees ▶ New Equipment ▶ Adventures in Dentures ▶ Tribute to Our Heroes
2022 Reds, Whites & Bites ▶ Patient Testimonials and more!**



Community Dental Clinic

1008 Woodlawn Street

Clearwater, FL 33756

727-216-6155

www.communitydentalclinic.net

OUR MISSION

To provide access to quality urgent dental care at no cost for the low-income, uninsured adults of Pinellas County to improve their overall health and quality of life.

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Welcome Our Outstanding New Trustees

2021

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2022



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Attorney
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David P. Rankin P.A.

Find out more at our website www.communitydentalclinic.net/about_us

★★★★★ 5-Star Review

This place was absolutely amazing. I am 32 years old and haven't seen a dentist since I was 14. I had a traumatizing experience back then and I made the staff aware of this when I came in. They were absolutely supportive and wonderful. They took their time walking me through everything that was going to be done before proceeding and double checking with me each time to make sure I was comfortable and ready to go. I really was a big baby about this and they were not frustrated or annoyed, but only showed complete compassion and care to make sure I was able to complete the tooth extraction. I would highly recommend this office to any and every one, they are seriously the most professional medical staff I've ever experienced in anything. I am so thankful I found them. I will be returning and committing to getting the rest of my mouth fixed up with little to no fear.

By Ryan on Google

A Word from our Executive Director:



Pamela Lusi

Grateful

*The Community Dental Clinic, our staff and our Board of Trustees sincerely appreciate those who make our mission possible - the **true heroes** who place the needs of others above their own and give their time, talents and resources to make sure our neighbors who face great physical, financial and socio-economic challenges do not have to suffer with dental distress.*

Through the caring participation of these heroes, the Community Dental Clinic is honored to provide quality urgent dental care for thousands of disadvantaged adults in Pinellas County.

Dentists & Dental Professionals

Samah Akram
Dr. Rod Anthony, DMD
Dr. John Bindeman, DDS
Dr. Todd Britten, DMD
Dr. Guigang Cai, DMD
Dr. John Eifert, DMD
Gulf Coast Dental Outreach
Dr. James Hayslett, DDS
Dr. Linda Johnson, DDS
Dr. George Kostakis, DDS
Dr. Nicholas Letteri, DMD
Dr. Oscar Menendez
Mosaic Maxillofacial Surgical Arts
Dr. Patrick Noble, DMD
Dr. Dilshad Sumar-Lakhani, DMD

Kind In-Kind Support from Business Professionals

The City of Clearwater
Crown & Company CPAs
Pauline Deal
Fisher & Associates
Fox and Fox, PA
Bill & Carolyn Glasgow
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Gary Julien – A Premier Pest Control
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North Pinellas Women's Club
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Helen Umberg
Todd Waite, Waite Technologies

Office Operations Volunteers

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Pat Christy
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Eric Hearn
Mark Lusi
Carol Lowrey
Tama Malinski
Beth & Randy Moore
Lenore Noble
Georgia Ofenloch
Mary Roble
Kara Sherman
Miriam Wahba
Susan Weinstock

Front desk to dentist – our volunteers add the energy and skill that helps us succeed! Thank You!



Patient Feedback on their Clinic Experience



Rosalind

"Thank you for getting me back on the right track. I have no more pain or bad breath, and my physical and emotional well-being have improved dramatically."

Katrina

"I was greeted with just an amazing atmosphere. I needed fillings in my front teeth and was so terrified I had tears in my eyes. Dr. Tran gave me a plush heart to hold and it was comforting. There is no place better to go when you are uninsured than the Community Dental Clinic."

Jazmine

"I was in pain and it was causing disfunction - making every day just a little harder. I had one tooth pulled, then routine dental care. Several dentists treated me and they were all able to help. The clinic has been very professional and very caring in the best way possible."

Lynette

"I truly would like to say I feel blessed for this service. I might not be rich but I donate what I can every visit. Tooth pain is the worst, and taking that from me and giving me a healthier mouth ... life changer and saver!"

Dean

"Every visit has been an improvement in my dental health. Dr. Letteri is hands down the best dentist I have ever seen. No pain on every visit and very kind. Just want to say to everyone at the clinic – you all are the best!!"

Changing the Future for Our Patients

Domestic violence survivor, Pamela (not her real name), moved to Clearwater for a fresh start with her two young children. That's when she decided that dental health was a key factor in finding success in her new life. If she was going to turn things around, it would have to start with a confident, pain free smile.

The trouble was, Pamela couldn't afford to support her children and pay for the dental care she needed.

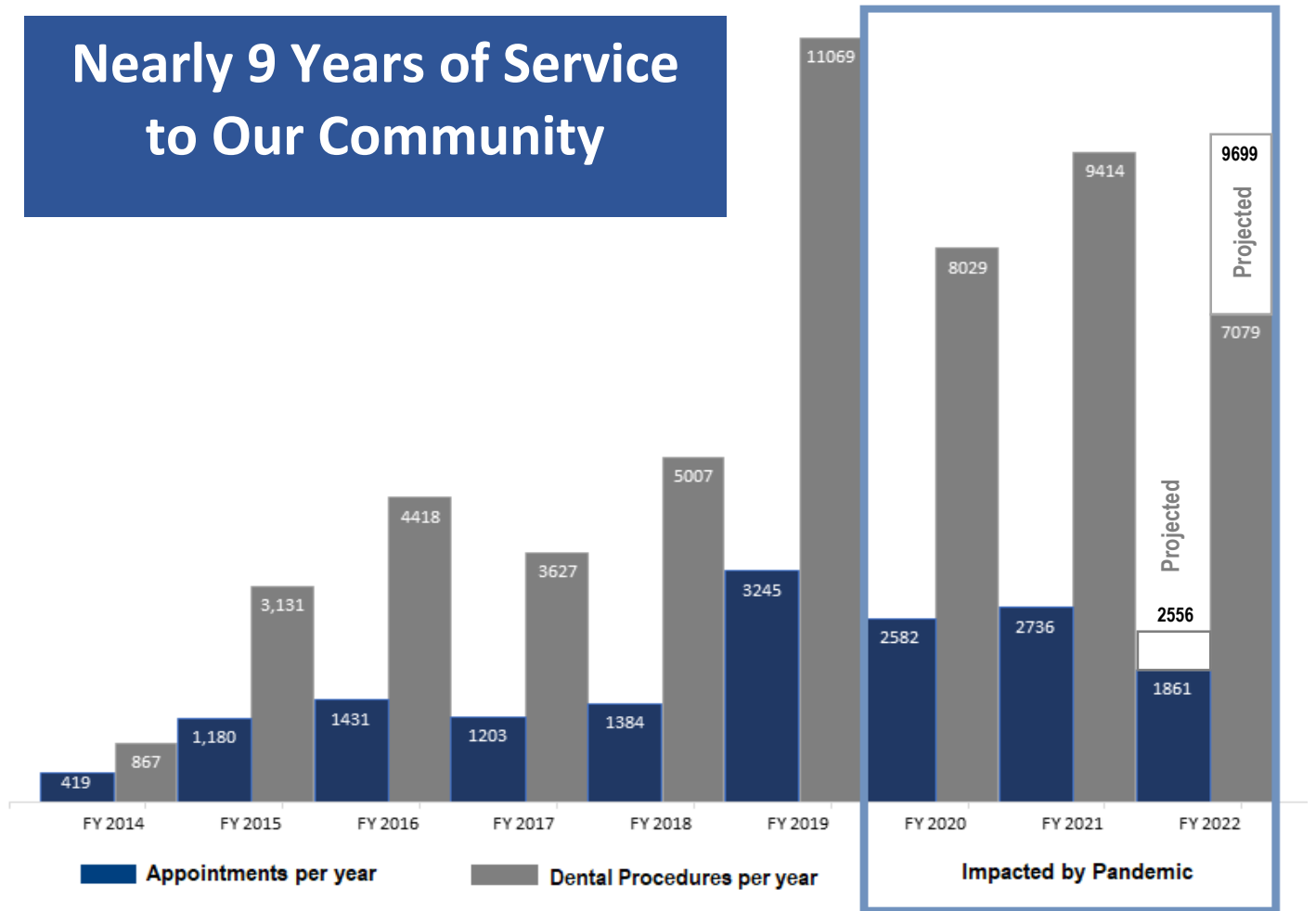
"A friend of mine told me about the CDC. I've been going to them for two years, and they're amazing."

Pamela knows how much the CDC can do to help her achieve her personal goals. She works in the hospitality industry, so having a healthy smile is important to her employability as well as her self-esteem. "If my dental work is not where it needs to be I'm not going to have the confidence to look for jobs," she said.

One of the things Pamela appreciates most about the clinic is how the staff considers her overall well-being. Following a recent dental procedure she left the clinic with a prescription for antibiotics that kept her from missing work as well as a certificate for a holiday turkey (courtesy of The Salvation Army)—something she's been worried about due to hard times and a loss of food stamps and other benefits.

Pamela says there is simply nothing like the CDC where she grew up. "You wouldn't have a dental clinic like this that did this for me. I am so thankful that the clinic was able to help me."

Nearly 9 Years of Service to Our Community



Our Emphasis on Productivity

Since September 2013, the Community Dental Clinic has served those in our community who do not have the resources to access dental care when they desperately need it.

In 2020 we expanded our service area to include all of Pinellas County from Tierra Verde to Tarpon Springs. Almost 50% of our patients live between 6 and 26 miles from our location.

Getting to dental appointments can be a challenge for many of our patients. They have to take time off from work with no pay, arrange for child care and physically get to the clinic on time. Since all our patients have household incomes less than 200% of the Federal poverty level, many do not own cars or they share cars with others. Some ride the bus, ride their bikes, walk, arrange for rides with friends, or pay for transportation.

In the best interest of our patients, we do as much as we can for them at every visit – providing approximately 4 procedures per appointment including x-rays, exams, fillings, extractions, critical cleanings and more. We enroll, examine and treat our acute patients (patients in pain) within 48 hours of their call so they can sleep, eat, work and care for their families.

It takes an average of 4 visits to return our patients to good oral health. We provide training in good oral hygiene to help them maintain their oral health, and we provide them a dental home for future dental needs.

Relief + Training + Peace of Mind = Priceless!

Mouth Guards

Make the Difference for Seniors

Thanks to an Act II grant from Pinellas Community Foundation and a grant from Senior Citizen Services we have provided critical mouth guards and senior-specific hygiene products to help over 200 economically disadvantaged seniors save their teeth, sleep better, and avoid painful jaw problems.



ADVENTURES in DENTURES!



With a 2021 grant from the Prince of Peace Church Endowment Fund, we piloted a program to provide dentures to select patients whose paths to dental health resulted in extensive tooth loss. We provided 4 patients with the reconstruction services they needed to eat and speak properly, preserve their oral structure and smile without hesitation.

Now in 2022, a Social Action Grant from Pinellas County Human Services funds dentures for 4 fortunate patients per month to help them face their harsh physical and socio-economic challenges with a smile.

In our clinic, 4 patients per month is less than 1.5% of the people who receive care - so patients must meet stringent program guidelines to be eligible to receive dentures through this program. Only existing patients who successfully complete their dental plans and demonstrate compliance with appointments and hygiene practices will qualify.

Still, we are able to create smiles and create changes for 4 people per month, and that is truly something to smile about!

Dental Health Means Better Overall Health

"It's amazing," he said. "I can't believe it. It's made a big difference in my life."

David considers himself a true fan as well as a longtime patient of the Community Dental Clinic. The dentists and staff at the CDC have worked hard to maintain David's oral health and keep him on a recovery track to combat chronic issues.

The impact on his life has been more than physical. "Self-esteem," David says. "When you are able to look at yourself in the mirror and when you are not afraid to laugh -- it's life changing."

In one sense, it has been possibly lifesaving. At one of David's appointments, the CDC staff became concerned about his blood pressure level and immediately referred him to the Clearwater Free Clinic for treatment. Now, his blood pressure is under control with medication.

At the CDC, the mission is about helping the whole person lead a healthy life, starting with good dental care and hygiene. "I'm forever grateful," David says.

Gracious Grants

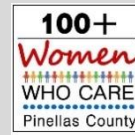
Enhanced Quality of Care

3 New Dental Chairs!

Eternal thanks to

- Delta Dental Community Care Foundation
- Pinellas Community Foundation
- 100 Women Who Care Pinellas with the Richard M. Schulze Foundation

The new chairs provide an open seating design with ergonomic positioning for our disabled patients, fingertip controls for the dentists, LED lights, fiber optics and much more to enhance dental visits.



Improved X-Ray Sensors

When someone has a toothache, you need to take clear x-rays to diagnose the trouble and fix it – and you don't want to torture the patient with retakes!

Thanks to Pinellas Community Foundation and BayCare, our new sensors collect great digital x-rays for better diagnosis and treatment.



Mease Countryside Hospital
Mease Dunedin Hospital
Morton Plant Hospital

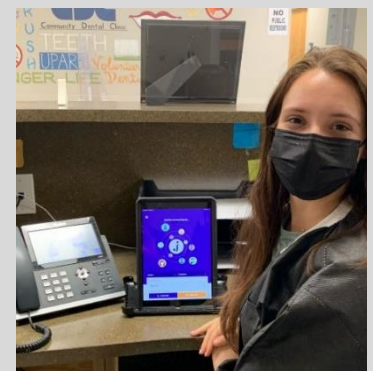


Video Interpretation System

A thoughtful grant from Allegany Franciscan Ministries enables us to communicate over the phone or in person in over 100 languages – even American Sign Language!

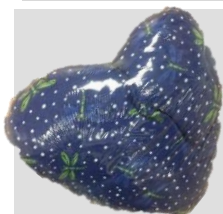
We open the Jeenie application on our new tablets and HIPAA qualified interpreters connect with us in 30 seconds or less.

In addition, we have interpreted all of our forms and releases into Spanish and Arabic so our patients can understand what they are signing.



New Desktop Computer

We are so grateful to National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics for the donation of a new HP workstation to support our Administrative tasks.



Comfort through PILLOWS!! Our friends at Charity Works keep us stocked with handmade individually wrapped heart-shaped pillows that our patients can squeeze as tightly as they'd like. These pillows help ease the stress of drilling and extractions.

2022 Reds, Whites & Bites



Heartfelt thanks

to Honorary Chairs, Kristina & Michael Piazza for graciously hosting this wonderful evening of socializing with friends in the beautifully decorated Achieva Headquarters. Throughout the evening guests sipped delicious wine provided by Bella Vino and Boutz Cellars. They sampled delicious bites from ClearSky, BayStar, Pisces, Sekushi, Nothing Bundt Cakes, and Belleair Coffee. Finally, everyone enjoyed our exciting wine lottery with over 79 wines graciously donated by local connoisseurs.

More than 340 people attended this marvelous event to support our clinic.



Fare Extraordinaire

Guests enjoyed delicious "Bites" from favorite local restaurants, along with complimentary wines from Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market and Boutz Cellars.



Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market



Piscus Sushi & Global Bistro



ClearSky Restaurants



Nothing Bundt Cakes



BayStar Catering
Island Way Grill



Sekushi at the Plaza



Belleair Coffee Company



Wonderful Wines

Generous collectors donated over 79 bottles of valuable and interesting wines - including these from the Caldwell Society of Smugglers donated by Lead Sponsors Garry & Paige Simpson



Outstanding Volunteers

These wonderful supporters worked throughout the year to make Reds, Whites & Bites the best event!



2022 Reds, Whites & Bites Committee

Front: Sarah Valentine, Linda & Stew Turley, Danene Rice, Tracy Eads, Paula Nall
Back: Paul & Helen Umberg, Terry Ciociola, Pamela Iusi, Terri Carmody, Mark Douglas



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Belleair Country Club

Dr. George Kostakis

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Bob Boos

Tom & Kim Kurey

Michael Piazza





Community Dental Clinic
1008 Woodlawn Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Address here



AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FROM
THE RUTH & JO STONE FOUNDATION!
Assuring a Lasting Future for Our Important Mission



JO & Ruth Stone

Ruth & JO Stone came to Pinellas to build a dream - and they did. While JO built a strong business, Ruth nurtured our community, supporting many social service groups that helped people live better lives.

In an incredible act of philanthropy, and with a clear vision for the future of our community, the Ruth & JO Stone Foundation is creating a path to double our space and double our impact. Their commitment to match the funds needed to provide a larger home for our clinic will foster a future of more dentists, more services, and more help for thousands of people who need quality dental care in Pinellas County.

DOUBLE OUR SPACE – DOUBLE OUR IMPACT

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