

# Children's Dental Health Services



# TOOTH TIMES

SPRING 2024, VOLUME 4



## Inside:

Why We're Smiling • P1

Sarah's Story • P2

CDHS News • P2

Oral Health Facts • P3

Donor Spotlight • P3

Patient Activity • P4



## Why We're Smiling

BY SARAH HAYES ANDERSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are thrilled to announce the return of our newsletter, and we can't help but smile about it! It has been a while since the last newsletter was published, during that time, CDHS has been very busy. We are proud to report that CDHS has continued our essential work at over 70 school sites and our two office locations, providing over 3,500 underserved children with the dental care they need for a healthy mouth and body.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of our mission. We believe that every child deserves quality dental care and oral health education to promote a lifetime of happy, healthy smiles. Happy Spring!

# Sarah's Story



Children's Dental Health Services received a phone call from a single mom, Sarah. Sarah shared that she had been struggling to find a dentist to treat her 5 children, ranging in age from 3 to 14 years old. CDHS staff was able to help Sarah register her school-age children to receive preventative care at their school's dental clinic, and her younger children were seen at a public health clinic. At the time of their preventative care visits, 4 of the 5 children were found to have extensive treatment needs and referred to our dentist. As a single mother, Sarah faces several barriers to finding time for dentist appointments.

Our staff worked with her to schedule appointments for multiple children each day. Additionally, our dentist provided as many treatment procedures as possible per appointment in an effort to assist Sarah's busy schedule and transportation needs. After a few restorative appointments, all 5 of Sarah's children have happy, healthy mouths because of our programs reducing barriers and improving access to dental care for their family. Sarah's school-age children will no longer contribute to the over 51 million hours of school that are lost each year to dental disease.

Unfortunately, stories like this one are far too common and just further reinforce the need to have such an important school based preventative and restorative dental program available to provide access and eliminate barriers for underserved children. In this case, it was a success; however, if we were unable to see Sarah's children as quickly as we did, this story may not have turned out to be so positive.



## CDHS News

We are thrilled to announce that we have relocated our Austin office to the Community Action Building in Austin, MN!

This building serves as a hub for multiple non-profit organizations working in collaboration to provide essential services that enhance the quality of life for community members in need.

Call to schedule an appointment today!

# Oral Health Facts

## YOUR SMILE IS IMPORTANT

### Tooth decay is the #1 chronic illness in America

Untreated infections from tooth decay can spread to other parts of the body and have serious, possibly life-threatening results.

1. **Dental disease is caused by bacteria** that dissolves tooth enamel and infect tooth pulp and other soft tissue.
2. **1 in 5 U.S. children lack routine dental care.** It is the most common unmet healthcare need for children with disabilities.
3. **Dental Emergencies cost** 34 million hours of missed school
4. **The annual cost** of dental visits to the Emergency Dept is \$2 billion.
5. **More than 40% of Children have cavities by the time they reach kindergarten**
6. **Children with poor oral health are 3 times** more likely to miss school because of dental pain.
7. **30% of young adults** surveyed said the appearance of thier mouth has negatively affected job interviews.
8. **47% of adults** over the age of 30 have some form of gum disease.

## Donor Spotlight

We are incredibly grateful to our community donors and corporate grantors for their generous support, without which we would not be able to carry out our work.

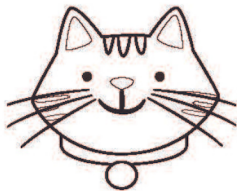
We are particularly excited to announce that this quarter, we are honoring the United Way of Olmsted County for their significant contribution to our cause. In 2023, they awarded us a multi-year grant, which has helped us provide essential care to thousands of children in need at our school-based clinics and office locations, all free of cost to their families. We value the support of our partners and are proud to work together towards a healthier future for all.

A big **THANK YOU** to the United Way of Olmsted County!



# CDHS Patient Activity

Color the animals that have teeth.



cat



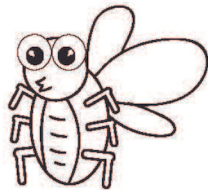
bear



snail



crab



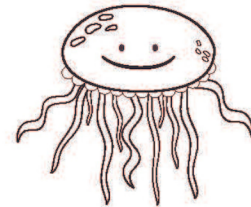
fly



dog



dinosaur



jellyfish



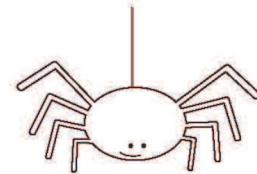
alligator



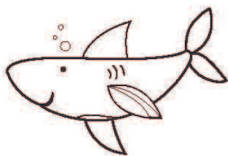
starfish



bird



spider



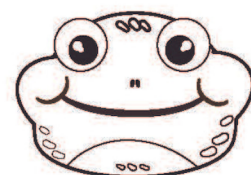
shark



worm



tiger



frog



Find more oral health resources at [AmericasToothFairy.org](http://AmericasToothFairy.org)