

cura<sup>®</sup> smiles



2022  
Impact  
Report

# ABOUT CURA SMILES



Cura Smiles is a San Diego based non-profit organization dedicated to providing sustainable dental care to people in need. Through partnerships with local universities, Cura Smiles' dental professionals educate and train pre-dental students to assist in the operations of the dental clinic while instilling the importance of serving the underprivileged members of society who in many cases have never received any dental care.

[www.curasmiles.org](http://www.curasmiles.org)

## THE CITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY

The Cura Smiles Dental Clinic is located in the vibrant community of City Heights, San Diego, CA.

Known as the Refugee Capital in the United States, City Heights is home to 65,000 residents many of whom are immigrants and refugees from Vietnam, Somalia, Cambodia, Laos and Latin America. City Heights is predominantly low-income with a median household income of \$29,000 and experiences high rates of poverty, unemployment, child obesity, and asthma. Many families and individuals in this community lack access to essential medical and dental services.

Through the support of generous donors, Cura Smiles is able to provide dental care free of charge which in many cases is life changing for the individuals.



Pictured: Kathleen Nordland giving oral healthcare instruction to a patient at the Cura Smiles Dental Clinic



Thomas Fitzpatrick, DDS  
Executive Director



Janet Simpson, RDA, CDA  
Clinic Director



Darlene McCarthy, RDAEF  
Clinic Coordinator

# 2022 PATIENT STATISTICS

# 170

One hundred and seventy patients were treated at the Cura Smiles Clinic.



# 970

A total of nine hundred and seventy procedures were performed for the patient population.

# \$193K

The Cura Smiles dental professionals performed over \$193,000 in procedures free of charge.



# 56%

increase in number of patients served from 2021 - 2022.

# 170%

increase in number of procedures provided from 2021 - 2022.

*\* Statistics reflect data collected from December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022*

# 2022 VOLUNTEER STATISTICS



**11**

## Student Volunteers

Eleven pre-dental students from local universities volunteered throughout 2022 at the Cura Smiles Dental Clinic.



**27**

## Dental Professional Volunteers

Dentists, dental hygienists, oral surgeons and dental lab technicians volunteered at the Cura Smiles Dental Clinic in 2022.



**908**

## Total Volunteer Hours

A total of nine hundred and eight hours of service were completed by caring community members at the Clinic this year.

**50%**

increase in number of dental professional volunteers from 2021 - 2022.

**107%**

increase in number of volunteer hours served from 2021 - 2022.



*\*Statistics reflect data collected from December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022.*

# PATIENT STORY

## Meet Amparo

Amparo is from Mexico. She is a mother, a sister, a friend. Amparo grew up without access to dental care. She first visited the dentist at the age of 25 years old.

Over the years, Amparo has endured a continuous cycle of painful sensitivity, abscesses, swelling, visits to the ER for infection resulting in tooth extractions. She was in chronic pain for over 10 years. Unable to afford the cost of dental care, she had no hope of restoring her teeth.

Burdened with shame and pain she finally came to Cura Smiles. At that time, she only had 12 teeth remaining and most were beyond saving. We removed the teeth and made her a full upper denture and partial lower denture.

When we asked her how her life has changed, she said...



*I love my smile! When I go to the store or talk with my friends I am smiling more and laughing more. My friends say "Amparo look at you!" Thank you! You changed my life. I am no longer in pain. I can eat without pain and can eat healthy food. I feel healthy and have more energy. When my daughter saw my new smile, she said "Mommy you are so beautiful!" My life is great.*

## AWARDED GRANTS

Through the support of generous donors and foundations, Cura Smiles is able to continue its mission of providing free dental care to the underserved. The following reflects all of the grants that were awarded to Cura Smiles in 2022 to continue our mission and expand our capacity to serve.

- Lucky Duck Foundation ..... \$25,000
- Conrad Prebys Foundation ..... \$25,000
- Price Philanthropies Foundation ..... \$10,000
- MDBSD Foundation ..... \$10,000
- Samuel I & John Henry Fox Foundation ..... \$4,000
- San Diego CECO ..... \$1,532
- TOTAL ..... \$75,532

## A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



We hope this impact report gives you a glimpse into the lives that are changed through the dental services provided by Cura Smiles. It is a blessing to hear stories and see smiles improved by the hard work of the Cura Smiles Team. Many have not seen a dentist for many years due to various circumstances. Many have avoided going to the dentist due to major fear and shame.

Janet and Darlene have created a safe and welcoming environment where individuals know they are cared for and loved. We have seen tremendous growth in the number of patients seen, procedures provided, along with dental professional volunteers and student training. The addition of a denture lab on site has been a game changer. Wolf Lange owned a dental lab many years before retirement. He has joined the Cura Smiles team and volunteers his time and skills to create beautiful dentures and partial dentures to restore smiles. We could not make such a tremendous impact without the generous support of our volunteers and donors like you.

On behalf of the Cura Smiles team, I want to thank you. Your contributions are truly changing lives in ways far greater than imagined. Please join us in making 2023 an even better year as you continue to help restore smiles and change lives through Cura Smiles.

**Thomas Fitzpatrick, DDS**  
Executive Director

**Bill Bramley**  
Board President

[\*\*Donate Today\*\*](#)