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Healthy Teeth
Pinellas

ADDRESSING THE DENTAL NEEDS OF LOW INCOME ADULTS IN PINELLAS COUNTY THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM.

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." -Winston Churchill

Where did Healthy Teeth Pinellas start?

Multiple discussions with the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas, community partners and coalition groups continually lead to the same issue, there is a serious deficiency in dental care for low income adults. When using the words "dental care" it was clearly noted that there was a need for preventative and comprehensive treatment as well as relief of pain. Offering all three of these components was key to making a difference for this population of people we wanted to serve.

With a very limited amount of funding the Health Department turned to the experience of those already running successful programs in the community. Programs such as the Saint Petersburg Free Clinic and Gulf Coast Dental Outreach. These programs utilize volunteers and paid staff to serve the needs of their patients. Additionally, both have a track record of success within the community.

Through discussion and support from county commissioners and community partners it was decided that the Health Department would build on what these other programs were doing to increase services available to Pinellas County residents.

All that was needed to get started was volunteer dentists, the backbone of the program.





Ready. Set. Go.

From planning to kick off in roughly a month and a half, the program rolled out quickly. It was with the help of groups such as the Pinellas County Dental Association and Upper Pinellas County Dental Association, as well as dedicated private practice dentists like Dr. Johnny Johnson and Dr. Oscar Menendez that helped make it reality. Without the efforts of the partners above the Healthy Teeth Pinellas project would not have been possible. Our first clinic was held in March, 2013 and since then we have successfully held at least one clinic a month.



Healthy Teeth Progress

Patients: 55

Dental Encounters: 87 Services Provided: 300

Services Offered:

- Comprehensive Exams
- Cleanings Regular and Periodontal
- Restorative Fillings
- Extractions

Volunteers Needed!

One Day - Once a Year
That's all it takes to make a tremendous
difference to those in need.

"The best way to find

yourself is to lose your-

self in the service of

others."

MAHANDES GANDHI

With a state of the art facility and experienced staff to assist you, volunteering with us is simple. All you have to do is pick a date that's convenient and show up. We'll take care of the rest. Our volun-

teers complete a small enrollment form to allow sovereign immunity and identify what services

they would like to provide. We schedule the patients according to the dentists preference and have trained clinical staff including Dental Hygienists on hand to assist every step of the way. It's really just that easy. We are able to schedule clinics on evenings as well as weekends making the volunteering process convenient for everyone.

The clinic is centrally located in

Largo for easy access. We offer state of the art equipment such as electronic progress notes and digital x-rays and use high

quality materials standard in the industry.

All that's missing is you, a dedicated professional willing to contribute to a great cause.



- Approximately 73 million is spent annually on dental emergency room costs.
- ⇒ In 2007, 17.3% of adults in Pinellas could not see a dentist due to cost.
- ⇒ In 2010, 70.9% of adults in Pinellas had not visited a dentist within a year.
- ⇒ The percentage of adults in Pinellas who had permanent teeth removed because of decay or gum disease was 52.6%.

Signing Up... It's Easy as One, Two, Three.

- Email or Call for a Volunteer Packet
- 2. Pick a Date
- 3. Volunteer and Make a Difference

How to Contact Us:

Email: Christina_Vongsyprasom@doh.state.fl.us

Phone: 727-824-6966

Clinic Address: 8751 Ulmerton Rd, Largo 33771



Straight from the Volunteers

My experience was wonderful. The staff was very friendly and helpful, and the patients were very grateful. It made waking up early and driving an hour on a Saturday well worth it. I plan on going again.

- Dr. Sanji Jackson

Very clean and modern clinic with digital x-rays. Knowledgeable dental assistants made my day easy...I just had to do the dentistry on extremely grateful patients!

-Maggie Davis, Pediatric Dentist

This facility is modern, beautiful and state of the art. The concept is fantastic! What do our dentists and hygienists have to do? SHOW UP, that's it. The rest is taken care of by the Health Department staff.

- Dr. Johnny Johnson

Volunteering at the Healthy Teeth clinic of Pinellas County Dept of Health is a very satisfying and rewarding experience. The new Mid-County clinic is magnificent and staffed with a great team. The clinic has all the latest technology and equipment available. It really is a pleasure to provide care to the needy in such a great clinical environment with the support of a team of professionals. The patients are all cleared through the Dept. of Health and are very appreciative of the treatment provided. You'll not be disappointed in your experience! I would recommend that everyone should participate in this great program and experience working in the new facility.

- Dr. Oscar Menendez DDS, FAGD

"Giving back to the Community is a rewarding blessing and a privilege.
The Healthy Teeth clinic at the Health Department was an incredible opportunity to share our time and skills with an professional, compassionate, and cohesive team focused on optimal client care in a truly state-of-the-art facility. Each team member went out of their way to facilitate a truly positive experience. Thank you.

- Dr. Pamela Adams