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The Smile Report

Highlighting Our Impact on Arizonans' Health & Well-being

2023, Edition 1



2023 Grants Include Access to Nutrition Programs

Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation awarded grants to 33 non-profit organizations working to increase access to oral health services and provide nutritional programs for underserved populations across Arizona. \$743,536 was awarded to support projects and services increasing access to dental care and nutritional food among underserved children, pregnant women, seniors and – for the first time – adults.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Grantee Spotlight

A New Leaf

A New Leaf is a nonprofit organization in Phoenix that provides programs to help families recover from homelessness and escape domestic violence and abuse. The Healthy Smiles for Life program at A New Leaf provides dental hygiene education and supplies to adults and school-age children. In 2023, this program will impact approximately 570 children and youth and 550 adults served by A New Leaf's after-school, homeless and family shelter, supportive and affordable housing, and early childhood education programs. DDAZ Foundation provided a \$20,000 grant to support this program in 2023 and \$10,000 in 2022. In addition, in 2022 the DDAZ associates voted to present A New Leaf with a \$5,000 surprise grant to commemorate DDAZ's 50th Anniversary.



[WATCH THE SURPRISE!](#) 🎁

Maureen Pisano Receives NAzOHC's Oral Health Hero Award

Congratulations to Maureen Pisano, director of dental services at Sid Davis Memorial Dental Clinic, for being awarded the 2023 Oral Health Hero Award from the Northern Arizona Oral Health Coalition (NAzOHC)! Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation was honored to present this award to Maureen, who has dedicated her career to helping change lives throughout northern Arizona with countless volunteer hours addressing oral health needs.



[Learn more](#)



Children's Dental Health Month Celebration Successful!

For 15 consecutive years, Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation celebrated National Children's Dental Month at the Children's Museum of Phoenix. Each February we partner to celebrate all things oral health! This year the museum educated nearly 20,000 children and their caregivers with kid-friendly sessions about tooth health, brushing and flossing through a variety of activities such as story time, crafts, puppets and magic shows. After a busy day of learning, all guests received an age-appropriate toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and education card to practice what they learned at home.

[View more photos >](#)



Board Member Spotlight

Dr. Shaharyar Ashraf

Shaharyar Ashraf, DDS joined the Delta Dental of Arizona (DDAZ) board in 2021 and was elected to the DDAZ Foundation board in 2022 due to his interest in making a difference in the community. A Tucson, AZ native, Dr. Ashraf is the owner of Tangerine Dental Group in Oro Valley, AZ. Some of his many volunteer activities include We Serve Foundation, Free Dentistry Day and Arizona Dental Mission of Mercy.

[Learn more >](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

Keisher Strickland, Sr. Professional Relations Representative

Keisher Strickland has always been one of the first employees at Delta Dental to volunteer for community activities. She's been at Team Smile events, Back-to-School Clothing Drive events, CEO Serve Day at St. Vincent de Paul and many others. In 2022 she volunteered 32.5 hours to the community through DDAZ activities. In addition, she volunteers at her local senior center on weekends. For her dedication to the community, Keisher received the first Social Responsibility Award at the annual holiday luncheon from President/CEO Michael Jones. Congratulations, Keisher!



POP QUIZ!

TRUE or FALSE? Cavities are caused by sweets.

Answer: False. Although sweets are typically the most common cavity-causing culprit, tooth decay can occur from eating any carbohydrate, like fruit, bread, or crackers. When you eat carbohydrates, the bacteria in your mouth produce acid to help break down the food; however, this acid also begins to dissolve your tooth enamel, which can lead to a cavity.

[LEARN MORE!](#)



DELTA DENTAL OF ARIZONA
FOUNDATION

Our mission is to improve lives by promoting optimal oral health.
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