



The Smile Report

Highlighting Our Impact on Arizonan's Health and Wellbeing

Edition 4, 2024



Expert Voices

On Wednesday, October 2, we launched Expert Voices, a new series of discussions designed to bring together executives from a variety of health and wellness disciplines to examine issues and potential solutions to improve our communities. The inaugural event featured a dynamic conversation with chief nursing officers from local hospitals and deans from nursing education programs across Arizona focusing on existing medical-dental integration programs and exploring opportunities for future partnerships. To learn more, contact Barb Kozuh, executive director of the Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation, at bkozuh@deltadentalaz.com.



2025 GRANT APPLICATIONS
submit by 10/31 at 5 p.m.

2025 Grant Applications

The 2025 grant cycle is open! We are accepting applications for programs that benefit underserved, uninsured populations (all ages) and applicants must be an Arizona-based 501(c)3 non-profit, government agency, school or charitable program with a fiscal agent. All applications must be submitted by October 31 at 5 p.m. to be considered. Late applications are not accepted. Only one proposal per organization will be accepted in this grants cycle.

[Apply Now](#)



Grantee Spotlight

In September, our first cohort of community health center dentists in Arizona attended the New York University (NYU) Oral Health Center for People with Disabilities training, on scholarships from Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation. Travel stipends were provided to students by BHHS Legacy Foundation, Arizona Department of Health and the Burton Family Foundation. The three-day intensive training provided the cohort with the knowledge and skills to provide appropriate oral health care for patients with special health care needs. Barbara Vartanian, director of oral health and policy initiatives for NYU Dental School, had this to say about the first Delta Dental cohort, "What an incredible group! We fell in love with each and every one of them. They all were so engaged, enthusiastic and eager to learn."

[Learn More](#)



Volunteer Spotlight

On October 3, more than 40 Delta Dental of Arizona employees came together to support the critical work of St. Vincent de Paul at the annual CEO Serve event. Throughout the afternoon volunteers prepared and served meals to St. Vincent de Paul clients, participated in games and activities and handed out fresh to-go food bags they assembled. Dentists from the Delta Dental board also volunteered their time to the Delta Dental of Arizona Oral Health Center at the Virginia G. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul, providing screenings and fluoride varnish to nearly 100 local children.



Board Member Spotlight

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](#)

POP QUIZ!


TRUE or FALSE? You should pull a baby tooth as soon as it starts to wiggle.

Answer: False. Try not to pull a baby tooth too early. If you have to work hard to wiggle the tooth, it's not quite ready.

[Learn More](#)



Dive into a healthy smile with *Grin! for Kids*.
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Grin! for Kids

Check out our activity books filled with fun and games to teach kids that it's cool to have healthy smiles!

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DELTA DENTAL OF ARIZONA FOUNDATION

Our mission is to create a path to better health and wellness.
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