Instilling Philanthropy in Dental Students
Service Learning Provides Inspiration

Service learning—it’s a concept that seems to be catching on. Western University of Health Sciences Dental School in Pomona, Calif., is creating a culture of respect for fellow students, dignity for patients and a lifelong commitment of giving back through opportunities for dental students to work in community clinic settings and learning about causes worthy of support.

“We are all influenced by people throughout our lives. It is important for educational institutions and practitioners to have the strong value to belong to and be involved in organized dentistry,” says Western Dental Dean James Koelbl.

“Not because you get something from it, although there are a lot of tangible benefits by being a member and being involved in the CDA Foundation, but it is the professional and right thing to do.”

Dr. Koelbl lives by example—speed of the leader, speed of the team. “I strongly believe in organized dentistry,” Dr. Koelbl says. “When I learned about the Foundation and the work that has been done in the last 10 years, it resonated with me. It has become my cause and I am vocal about that with my fellow colleagues and students.”

Getting Involved
Recently, Jennifer Stolo, associate executive director for the Foundation, presented scholarships to two Western students as well as spoke about becoming involved now as students. “As dental students, you become aware not only of the need but the myriad of philanthropic opportunities,” she tells the students. “Many organizations, like the Foundation, are helping to bridge those disparities of oral healthcare, and it is important now as students, you embrace the spirit of philanthropy that has been instilled in you here at Western.”

Samh K. Shah, studying to earn his DMD in 2013, addressed the student body during the Foundation presentation: “When I became the CDA representative for Western U CDM, I wasn’t too aware of the CDA Foundation, but as I got more involved with CDA in general it became very apparent to me that the CDA Foundation does a great service to...”

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Something to Smile About
A Fresh Start for Twins

Last year, the CDA Foundation produced a video, *A Gift That Matters*, that tells the story of twins, Stephanie and Ramses, and how, in part, thanks to a CDA Foundation grant to Fresh Start Surgical Gifts, their lives have been changed forever.

At first glance, Stephanie and Ramses—now 19—appear to be like typical teens with typical teen concerns: school, friends, sports, clothes, cars. Look closer and you will see that the twins inherited a condition known as amelogenesis imperfecta, a disorder of tooth development that causes teeth to be unusually small, discolored, pitted or grooved and prone to rapid wear and breakage.

That all changed in September 2008 when Stephanie and Ramses were referred to Fresh Start Surgical Gifts by Vista Community Clinic. Fresh Start Surgical Gifts provides free dental health education, and preventive, restorative and orthodontic treatments for disadvantaged children who are faced with complex dental conditions as a result of a facial deformity. Fresh Start was awarded a grant in 2009 by the CDA Foundation to help with the cost of materials for the twin’s treatment.

Smile for the Camera!
Now nearly two years later, Stephanie is beaming. “I have been waiting for this for so long and now that it’s here, I have so much more confidence,” she says. Ramses’ treatment is more complex and is expected to be complete in another year. When asking Ramses about how he feels about the upcoming completion of his treatment, he says, “I think I will look good... I think I will look super good!”

Ramses and Stephanie, 19-year-old twins, inherited a condition that causes a disorder of tooth development. Both are receiving full mouth restoration thanks in part to a grant from the Foundation. Stephanie has received her uppers and is expected to complete her treatment within the year. Ramses will complete his treatment in approximately one year.

“It is for people like Ramses and Stephanie the CDA Foundation exists,” says Dr. Carol Summerhays. “Meeting them and their parents to learn more about their stories reaffirms our commitment to the Foundation that truly is changing lives.”

In the San Diego area alone, where Fresh Start is located, the CDA Foundation has awarded nearly $1 million in grants to programs like Fresh Start. The CDA Foundation Grant Program offers financial support to a wide variety of community oral health programs that increase access to care for vulnerable people. These programs are often the only safety net for families to receive dental care services.

To learn more...
about ways to support the CDA Foundation, visit us on the Web at www.cdafoundation.org.
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the underserved communities of California. I know many of you don’t see this yet, but I assure you that as you go forward in your dental education, you will see their contributions. I also think that, as a new dental school, we need to set the precedent that this will be a school that cares about giving back and becoming a friend of the Foundation is a great start.”

Giving Back
Dr. Alex Lee concurs. Dr. Lee is a full-time faculty member of Western, hired by Dr. Koebel after meeting him at a Foundation board of advisors meeting last fall. “Giving any money can be a tremendous burden for a dental student,” Dr. Lee says. “It’s not an easy thing, but at the same time, it represents their pledge to help. That’s what changes people for a lifetime—to make a pledge, no matter how small, in the early stages of a career and instilling that spirit of philanthropy. I am so thankful to be able to influence a whole new generation of people by setting that example.”

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Of the 143 dental students at Western, 85 percent contribute back to the Foundation. “Our goal is 100 percent,” Dr. Koebel says. “As the students participate in hands-on events in underserved areas, they begin to see just how great the need is and what a great conduit the Foundation is in making a difference.”

Creating Smiles…Changing Lives: Campaign Update

Four years into the $39 million Creating Smiles…Changing Lives campaign, we’re almost halfway—nearly $18 million—toward goal. With a few years left, it would seem the strategy is working.

The mission of the campaign is simple—to raise funds to expand programs and services. The vision, however, reflects the heart of the Foundation: to provide sufficient resources that dramatically increase the state of oral health in California through outreach and education; preventive and restorative initiatives and a sustainable increase in access to care for children, elderly and working families.

“Oral health care is an integral part of overall well-being,” says Carol Summerhayes, DDS, campaign chair. “The California dental community’s good work through the Foundation’s programs and services is expanding that access by addressing complex barriers for those who have limited or no resources for dental care in California.”

Since the Foundation began 10 years ago, more than 250,000 people have been helped. Nearly $4 million in grants were distributed by the Foundation, generating nearly $44 million in dental services.

“We have a lot to be proud of,” says Dr. Summerhayes, “and a long way to go. Our goals are high because the need is so great, particularly for children. If we can make a difference in the life of a child, it impacts the entire family and ultimately a community.”
Demandforce Makes Being a Friend That Much Easier
Each Gift Receives a 10 Percent Increase

New corporate philanthropic supporter Demandforce, a leading demand generation software company for small businesses, is now helping the Foundation gain more friends. Through a $10,000 challenge grant, Demandforce will match every new friend with an additional 10 percent donation. For example, if you become a benefactor friend at $1,000, it now becomes a $1,100 contribution.

“We have already built a great relationship with CDA members by being an endorsed program, but we’re looking for additional ways to give back,” says Sam Osman, vice president at Demandforce. “The CDA Foundation is already making such a tremendous impact in California, and we want to help grow the number of donors by offering a matching percentage of the donation. We feel this will make it that much more compelling to become a friend of the CDA Foundation.”

The Friends of the CDA Foundation annual gift club partially supports the grant program. To date, this program has awarded $4 million in grants, which ultimately generated $44 million in dental services to nearly 250,000 Californians. Currently there are nearly 400 friends, with a goal of 500 by the end of the year. To take advantage of the Demandforce matching 10 percent challenge, go to cdafoundation.org/give or call the Foundation offices at 800.232.7645, Ext. 4916.

For additional information on Demandforce, visit http://demandforce.com/dental.php or call 800.246.9853.

Do you want to learn more about how the CDA Foundation is changing lives?

Visit our website, cdafoundation.org, to learn about the CDA Foundation’s impact on the state of oral health in California.

- Learn how our programs increase access to care and meet community needs.
- Apply for one of our numerous grants or scholarships.
- Discover the many ways to give and make an impact on lives.

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