It is with great excitement that I write this letter at the close of our second fiscal year! It is only because of the generous financial and volunteer support we received from those who believe in the value of our mission that we have made it to our second year.

In spite of the difficult task put before us during our transition to an independent nonprofit organization, we are thriving as we move forward to expand the impact we make on those who need our help.

People in our community such as veterans, single parents, children, and people living in poverty are grateful for the services your support provides. Every day, we relieve pain and allow people to live healthier lives. Every week, we offer services our patients would have difficulty accessing. Every month, we teach people how to care for their mouths at home so they avoid dental emergencies in the future.

I am proud of our sparkling modern clinic that allows patients to access the care they cannot find anywhere else and allows them to do so while not feeling less than those with insurance. It is only because of the support we receive from the community that this is possible. Thank you for being a vital part of our journey.

Jessica Flotterud, RDH, MS, MPH
Executive Director
Hope Dental Clinic
The state of oral health in Minnesota

TOOTH DECAY is the most chronic disease of children and adolescents. Nearly one in five children aged 5 to 11 years old has untreated cavities in their baby teeth, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Minnesota Dental Association, 2019).

OVER HALF OF MINNESOTANS aged 65 years and older reported not having dental insurance (53%). (Minnesota Department of Health, 2017)

1.5 MILLION MINNESOTANS do not have dental insurance (Minnesota Dental Association, 2017)

TOOTHACHES are one of the top 5 most common reasons for emergency room visits. (International Journal of Quality in Health Care, 2017)

“Hope Dental was there in time to help me. My experience with them was a relief.”

– Chance
An affordable dental clinic is critical in our community. Here’s why:

**Better health and education outcomes for children.**
Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. Children with poor oral health are nearly three times more likely to miss school because of dental pain.

**The link between chronic disease and oral health.**
Chronic diseases such as Alzheimer’s, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease and other conditions affect millions of people. A growing body of research has identified a connection between oral health and these conditions.

**Self confidence, employability, and overall well being.**
One in three low-income adults with poor oral health say that the condition of their mouth and teeth affects their ability to interview for a job.

“Hope Dental was able to help me right away. I could not have gotten help if the clinic wasn’t there.”

– Calvin
For 50 years, Hope Dental Clinic has played a significant role in the Twin Cities to offer dental care to people who cannot access it anywhere else due to a lack of dental insurance and money to pay out of pocket.

Without people like you providing for men, women, and children in need in our community, many would be forced to suffer in pain, without resolution to the root of their problems.

Thanks for easing suffering and providing affordable preventive care for thousands of people in our community.
**Patient Spotlight**

**Maria was in trouble.** She had been using a partial denture for over 14 years. But over time, it had deteriorated and broken.

She could not find services to help her. Then, she was referred to Hope Dental Clinic. By the time she arrived, one of the molars supporting her denture had to be extracted.

Because of the care of people like you, Hope Dental was available to remove her broken tooth and fit her with a brand new denture. Now she can talk, eat, and even smile without pain. “Thank you for the help you have given me and the people who need your services,” she says.

**Romeo came into the clinic for restoration of three broken front teeth.** He was suffering badly from exposed nerves that were causing him to “lose a lot of sleep due to the pain.” He even hid the damage by wearing a mask.

The ideal treatment for Romeo would involve crowns, which Hope Dental doesn’t offer. But Romeo said he had “pretty much exhausted all other options,” so volunteer Dr. James Spitzmueller stepped in to help.

Dr. Spitzmueller provided root canal treatments on each of the three broken teeth. Then the teeth were carefully and expertly rebuilt with composite material.

We think you’ll agree, the restoration was a success! Romeo is very pleased with his new smile, and said his experience at the clinic was “amazing” and “outstanding.”

“The thank you for the help you have given me and the people who need your services.” – Maria
Since 2015, Dr. Pete Butkus has volunteered at Hope Dental Clinic once a month, primarily to perform extractions. This vital service helps relieve pain and suffering for people lacking dental insurance and the ability to pay on their own.

“Many of the people who come to us for help have been in a great deal of pain for awhile,” Dr. Butkus says. “Often they have several issues, but we deal with the worst one first. If Hope wasn’t here, they would have nowhere else to go.” Dr. Butkus comes in to volunteer after a long day of work, but to him it’s well worth it. “By removing our patients’ infected or broken teeth, we instantly make things better for them,” he says. Everyone is very grateful. And I learn a lot from the experience, too. It’s very rewarding”.

Dr. Patrick McGann has served as a volunteer at Hope Dental Clinic for 18 years. When he began, he was still a dental student. He serves at the clinic as a way to improve the lives of people with dental needs. But he also donates financially because disposable dental supplies and equipment needed by the clinic to do its work properly come at a cost. “When you go to the clinic and see employees, the equipment, the supplies, you realize there is expense involved,” he says. “The volunteers make the work happen but they couldn’t do it without these supplies.”

A licensed dental hygienist and public health expert, Haley Dollins has volunteered with Hope Dental Clinic since 2012. As the founder of Dental Experts, a dental staffing firm, Haley helped run a clinic with volunteer dental professionals. She has also been instrumental in encouraging volunteer dental professionals to give back by volunteering or giving to HDC. Recently, she has utilized the clinic to teach community education workshops for dental professionals that introduced new protocols in fluoride that Hope has started implementing. “Volunteering at HDC is more than giving of your time,” Haley says. “It’s about receiving the blessing in return.”
Financials

Hope Dental Clinic values their donors. By stewarding gifts well and monitoring expenses, we keep administrative costs as low as possible and stretch every dollar.

The essential services of our volunteer dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and office staff help us do that.

But funds are still needed to buy necessary supplies and equipment and to maintain staff to keep our office functioning effectively. If you would like to provide a gift so that people in need in our community can continue to access the care they need, please visit our website at hopedentalclinic.org/donate

"I’d be in pain without Hope Dental Clinic. Thank God for Hope Dental Clinic." – Jeff
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Everyone deserves a confident and beautiful smile. I love how Hope Dental seeks to make that a reality every day! - Erica Morrow

16  HOPE DENTAL CLINIC | SMILES MATTER
Hope Dental Clinic has been filling a void in the Twin Cities community for over 50 years. and provides a valuable service for those in need.

– Michael Morse