These days, every marker of normalcy feels like a reason to celebrate. While FY21 did not come without its pandemic-related challenges for Hope Dental Clinic, we were able to begin fully reopening right at the outset in July. It’s never felt so good to say, “We’re open!” Most of our brave and dedicated volunteers stuck with us and were quick to return — we will be forever grateful for their courage and devotion to the mission of providing free dental care.

Our patients were slower to return. Many come from segments of society hardest hit by the pandemic. They are the essential workers delivering household goods and working in the food supply chain. They are immigrants and refugees, uncertain about navigating the public health care system and living in crowded conditions where viral infection can spread like wildfire. And they are vulnerable adults, unable to leave home for fear of acquiring a severe Covid-19 infection.

Though much has returned to normal in our world, they need us now more than ever. Postponed care has led to unprecedented levels of oral infection, buildup and decay among adults and children coming through our doors. Our volunteers and staff have been stretched to their limits to meet the ever-growing need. The demand has become so great that, as of this writing, we can no longer take new patients unless they are suffering from a dental emergency. As long as these conditions remain and preventive care is postponed, the vicious cycle continues.

Thank you for thinking of them, and us, as we continue to forge ahead in the months to come!

Jessica Flotterud, RDH, MS, MPH
Executive Director
OVER HALF OF MINNESOTA ADULTS AGED 65+ DO NOT HAVE DENTAL INSURANCE.

THE STATE OF ORAL HEALTH IN MINNESOTA*

Too often, the ability to perform life’s basic functions such as eating, speaking, sleeping and even smiling is denied low-income children and adults, people of color and seniors—all of whom disproportionately suffer from dental diseases and oral conditions. The Minnesota Department of Health reports that:

1.4 million Minnesotans are without dental insurance.

60% of Minnesota counties are considered Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, including Ramsey County.

Less than half of low-income children in Ramsey County received preventive dental care in the past year.

Over half of Minnesota adults aged 65+ do not have dental insurance.

According to data from the Minnesota Department of Health, Hope Dental's patients come from groups who are the most impacted by Covid-19. Who are they? 43% are people of color, with 35% identifying as Hispanic. 48% identify as having immigrant/refugee status. 6% describe themselves as homeless.

HERE’S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

While people of color represent 19% of Minnesota’s population, they accounted for 27% of all COVID-19 cases, 33% of hospitalizations and 52% of all ICU admissions.

67% of those experiencing homelessness who were diagnosed as COVID+ were people of color.

1 in 3 people of color in Minnesota’s labor force have applied for unemployment insurance during the pandemic.

When you support Hope Dental Clinic, you support equity in oral health. Hope Dental provides vital access to care – 90% of its patients have incomes below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. A Spanish Interpreter is available to help everyone from young children to seniors overcome language barriers. Hope Dental is dedicated to preserving the dignity of its patients by providing the same quality of care they would receive at a private pay clinic.
While all of Hope Dental’s programs and services were impacted by the pandemic, Mission for Healthy Smiles oral health outreach experienced the greatest challenge to its operations. Its primary activity had been organizing groups of dental hygiene students to visit pre-K—12 schools, human services organization and events, making presentations to children and their families about the importance of oral health and how to maintain it with brushing, flossing and proper diet.

As schools, organizations and events went virtual or shut down altogether, the program encountered a major obstacle. We didn’t want to let the important work of Mission for Healthy Smiles come to a halt, so we got creative. Student volunteers worked with HDC leadership to create virtual presentations and resources for teachers. They continued providing free oral health kits to schools and organizations.

It also seemed like the perfect time to expand the program’s reach to another high-need population – seniors and their caregivers. With generous funding from the American Dental Hygienists Association and the addition of a new dedicated staff member to lead the charge, this exciting expansion is well underway.

$1,615,374
Total value of services

$911
Average value of services per patient

9,972
Procedures performed

1,987
Total Served
(1,774 patients, 213 outreach)

323
Volunteers

8,248
Volunteer hours
PATIENT SPOTLIGHT

KENT

Several years ago, Kathy found herself in need of dentures she couldn’t afford. Her son, a disabled vet, had found the help he needed at Hope Dental. So Kathy came to us and found the help she needed too.

But recently, Kathy was in a terrible car accident. Her recovery was difficult and she lost a significant amount of weight. What many people don’t know is that weight can profoundly impact the way a set of dentures fits. Sadly, Kathy found that this was the case for her.

Kathy remembered the excellent care she had received at Hope Dental years earlier. So she came to us once again for help. Dr. Christine Hermanson, who had treated Kathy before, was a welcoming face that inspired trust. Dr. Hermanson is a long-time volunteer at the clinic and provides invaluable free prosthodontic care.

“Kathy’s dentures were fitting perfectly again. She could look forward to eating normally again and living free from oral pain. Kathy said, “This place and Dr. Hermanson are really something special.”

“Kent was one of those people in need who often falls through the cracks – a senior living on a fixed income outside the Twin Cities Metro. He had been saving up for dental treatment, but couldn’t yet afford to get the extractions he needed.

No matter how hard he searched, he was unable to find a local clinic he could afford.

Kent’s daughter knew he didn’t have dental insurance and needed help, so she searched the internet and found Hope Dental. Even though Kent lived an hour away, he was willing to make the trip to finally receive the oral health care – and the hope – he’d been searching for.

Hope Dental’s team of staff and volunteer clinicians gave Kent a full exam including a 3D panoramic x-ray on our new machine provided by Delta Dental Foundation of Minnesota and Patterson Dental. Seeing what he needed, the clinical team created a plan for a series of two appointments to rehabilitate Kent’s oral health.

When asked how he felt after his appointment, Kent gave us a big thumbs up and an even bigger smile. He could finally say, “I’m feeling good!”

“I’m feeling good!”

After some time in the chair with Dr. Hermanson, Kathy’s dentures were fitting perfectly again. She could look forward to eating normally again and living free from oral pain. Kathy said, “This place and Dr. Hermanson are really something special.”
To increase consistency in best clinical practices and offer an improved experience for volunteer clinicians, a pre-dental internship program was created in March 2020.

The year-long internships require a commitment of multiple hours per week, providing students with ample hands-on experience and making free dental care possible for those in need.

Since the program began, feedback from volunteers and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. The second round of internships began in May 2021, and applications for the following year will open in early 2022.

Members of the first cohort shared the following about their experiences:

**RYAN LUTTERMAN**

“The most fulfilling thing I learned was how important dental care is to an individual. ...Being able to remove pain from a patient was an unbelievable feeling. As a result of COVID-19 many patients did not have insurance or money for dental procedures. HDC was able to provide to those who need dental care the most. Going to the clinic every week showed me the importance of dentistry.”

**HANNAH METHNER**

“On one of my assisting shifts, a patient explained to me how nervous they were about going to the dentist that day. [After] the doctor concluded that the patient didn't need an extraction, the patient told me how grateful they were to have someone there who took the time to sit with them and validate their life experiences. I learn something new about life every day from my patients, and I feel so grateful to have the opportunity to connect with others beyond just dentistry at Hope Dental Clinic.”

**PATIENTS AND SUPPORTERS SAY THAT HOPE DENTAL IS A WELCOMING PLACE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.**

In fact, one family has found a way to get everyone involved. The Ferrer-Lugos first heard of Hope Dental Clinic when their daughter, Mari, joined the internship program as a volunteer pre-dental student and Spanish Interpreter this year. After participating in our Virtual 5K event, they were all hooked! Now we count them among our most valuable donors and ambassadors.

The family's support for HDC comes from a personal connection to the many Spanish-speaking patients Mari is able to help with her language skills. Facilitating communication between patients and clinicians is a key part of Hope Dental's commitment to patient equity. “Coming from another country, we understand the barriers immigrants may have... Language barrier is one of them and knowing that there are places like HDC that care about patients, ensuring they feel confident communicating with the doctors, has a personal impact on us.”

When we asked the Ferrer-Lugos why they decided to financially support Hope Dental, they said, “Since we learned about HDC and the great work they do supporting communities in need, we knew that this was the kind of institution we wanted to support. We admire the dedication of the dentists and all staff that volunteer to provide oral care to communities in need.”

Visit www.hopedentalclinic.org to find ways you and the whole family can help!
THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

and volunteers, Hope Dental is health care equity in action. We fill an important role in caring for the working poor, immigrants, refugees, children and seniors who are completely without dental insurance or the ability to pay for care. Every dollar contributed to Hope Dental benefits patients by purchasing dental supplies, repairing or replacing equipment, training staff, recruiting volunteers, or supporting the infrastructure necessary to maintain high quality care.

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 14% OF CLINIC REVENUE IN FY21, offsetting the significant cost of hired clinicians. Whether it’s a gift of time or talent, charitable giving makes it possible for uninsured, low-income children and adults to receive the same level of care offered by private clinics.

Visit www.hopedentalclinic.org to sign up for mailings, find out more about volunteering or make a monetary gift.

REVENUE

In-Kind (Volunteers and Supplies): $334,884 | 34%
Foundations: $326,113 | 33%
Individual Donors: $166,135 | 17%
Government Grants: $62,182 | 7%
Corporate Donors: $41,131 | 4%
Patient Fees: $39,741 | 4%
Other: $8,438 | 1%
TOTAL REVENUE: $978,624

EXPENSES

Programs: $761,869 | 68%
Administration: $200,419 | 18%
Fundraising: $159,711 | 14%
TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,121,999
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**$10,000 and Up**

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| Dr. Kelly Schwartzbauer        |
| Dr. Jadilyn Grütter            |
| Dr. Norman Eid                 |
| Dr. Kirsten Johnson            |
| Dr. Charles Wilkinson          |
| Dr. Michael Splett             |
| Dr. Yasmin Omer                |

**DENTISTS**

| Ackerman, Timothy              |
| Aldrich, Andy                  |
| Allman, Dan                    |
| Barthel, Jim                   |
| Betterman, Anamaria            |
| Betz IV, James                 |
| Billington, Todd               |
| Burkus, Pete                   |
| Carney, Madeline               |
| Choi, Yubin                    |
| Cole Wilkinson, Sandra         |
| Collier, John                  |
| Damodaran, Geetha              |
| Dawa, Ernestine                |
| Ettel, Roger                   |
| Fama, Daniel                   |
| Finn, Amy                      |
| Fong, Teresa                   |
| Gaither, Napoleon              |
| Goulding, Thomas               |
| Grau, Matthew                  |
| Grutzner, Eric                 |
| Hastings, Angela               |
| Hedin, Gary                    |
| Hernandez, Brandon             |
| Hoffmann, William              |
| Hughes, Gina                   |
| Humbert, Stephen               |
| Hunter, Stephen                |
| Iburg, Jennifer                |
| Jabbari, Sanaz                 |
| Jalali, Hossein                |
| Johnson, Steve                 |
| Jones-Wirthuhn, Sarah          |
| Kinney, Renee                  |
| Koehlert, Krista               |
| Koehn, Christopher             |
| Koehn, Merideth                |
| Laing, Robert                  |
| Linden, Steven                 |
| Lohman, Kyle                   |
| McGann, Patrick                |
| McMillen, Allison              |
| Miller, David                  |
| Milnar, Frank                  |
| Mulligan, Megan                |
| Naik, Amruta                   |
| Napier, Nicole                 |
| Nechrebecki, Matthew           |
| Nelson, Matthew                |
| Nelson, Shivan                 |
| Olson, Michele                 |
| Patel, Subhashchandra          |
| Perpich, Michael               |
| Perpich, Rosalie               |
| Petersen, Karl                 |
| Peterson, Sheldon              |
| Pokharel, Kristina             |
| Proeschel, Dan                 |
| Rohl, Matt                     |
| Rupprecht, Robert              |
| Sarles, Steve                  |
| Schaetzle, Kathleen            |
| Shaffer, Priya                 |
| Sorensen, Jana                 |
| Thaiba, Riza                   |
| Thierer, Todd                  |
| Truong, Vy                     |
| Upgaard-Penaz, Rachel          |
| Walker, Amber                  |
| Weisbrod, Michael              |
| Williams, Kyle                 |
| Yang, Jane                     |
| Zeis, Nancy                    |

**DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

| Al-Ali, Fatima                 |
| Bocharchikov, Iryna           |
| Buerck, Shana                 |
| Conlin, Erica                 |
| Hall, Jessica                 |
| Harris, Marla                 |
| Kane, Melissa                 |
| Walker, Gayle                 |
| Zemke, Darlene                |

**DENTAL ASSISTANTS**

| Bliskowski, Ashley            |
| Bradeholt, Alyssa             |
| Erickson, Carrie              |
| Hemming, Jean                 |
| Isaacs, Pam                   |
| Loch, Katrinida               |
| Pogreban, Natalya             |
| Sathre, JoAnne                |
| Schauerschlag, Kayla          |
| Sosa, Rocio                   |
| Stinson, Emily                |
| Wiggins, Stacy                |
| Williamson, Amber            |
| Yang, William                 |
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HOPE DENTAL CLINIC IS A BEACON OF HOPE for our community. This hope is not possible without the combined efforts of countless dedicated people working to provide quality care for our neighbors most in need. Thank you for being a part of giving hope.

Linda Maytan, DDS, MPH

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Blanca Lopez Perez

OUR TEAM
MISSION
Our mission is to provide dental care to those most in need, regardless of the ability to pay.

VISION
To offer our patients hope and a reason to smile, by expanding our connections to the community, oral health care providers, and students.