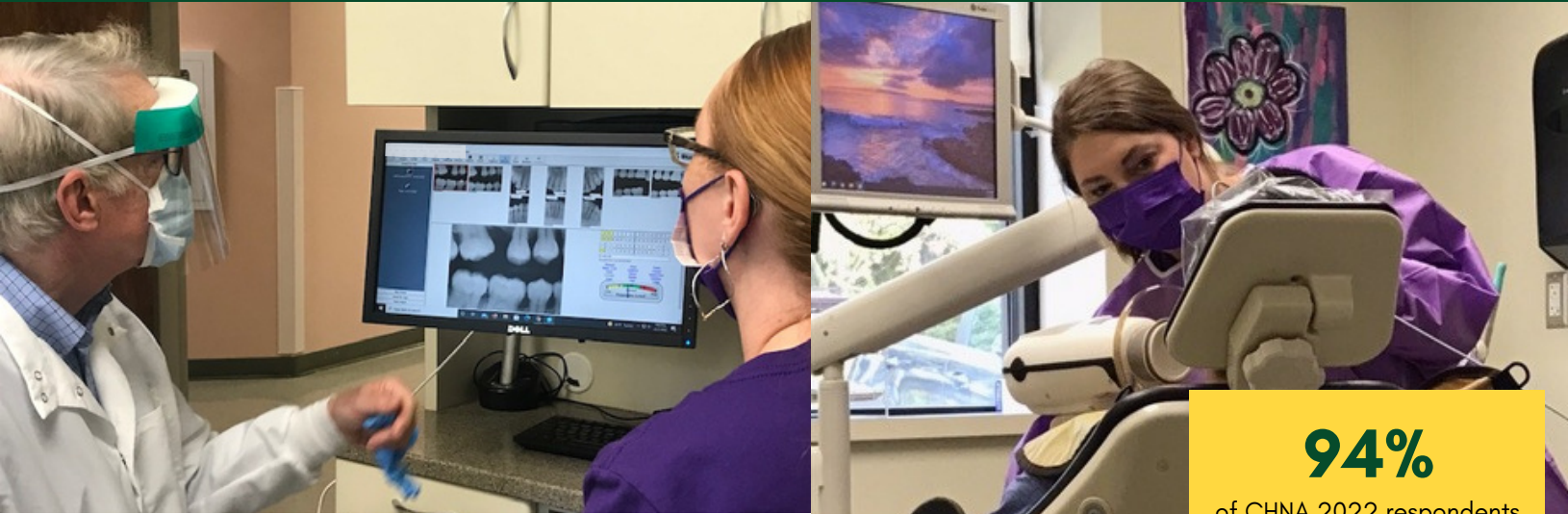




AUGUSTA REGIONAL DENTAL CLINIC

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



"APPARENTLY, CHEWING FOOD IS A LUXURY"*

Dear friends,

Last month, Augusta Health released, as part as its tri-annual Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), **an alarming report on our community's oral health:**

- 28% of the SAW residents do not have any form of dental insurance.
- 6 out of 10 SAW low-income residents have not visited a dentist in the past 12 months.

At a private dental office, a routine checkup can cost up to \$550. While this cost is covered for most part by private insurances, it represents an impossible expense for uninsured patients. As a result, **dental care is often forgone**, especially at a time when most low-income families must make choices between food and rent, or paying out of pocket to see the dentist. The consequences are dramatic as lack of access to dental care leads to pain, infections, costly trips to the ED, worsening of pathologies, and loss of teeth.

For 20 years now, our nonprofit clinic has been providing quality and compassionate care to uninsured children and adults living in the SAW area. **As the only affordable dental office in a 40 miles' radius, we thrive to keep up with the need in our community**, and continue providing relief to our most vulnerable neighbors (see page 2).

We recently lowered our copays, and launched the "Dr. Mark Hammock Memorial Fund" to provide financial aid to patients unable to cover the cost of their treatment. Additionally, we will organize a new edition of our free clinic day (Dentalpalooza) on 10/22/22. We will welcome 70 patients and provide care at no out of pocket cost.

None of that would be possible without your generous support. **Thank you for allowing us to continue our action** when tens of thousands in our community struggle to afford basic health care.

Sophie Parson, Executive Director

*Augusta Health CHNA 2022 respondent

94%

of CHNA 2022 respondents reported that oral health is a problem in our community

35,000

kids and adults do not have dental insurance in the SAW area

\$35

is the copay per dental visit at the ARDC

PATIENT SPOTLIGHT - MEET TRACY!

Tracy is a single mother of 6, and lives in Staunton. She works as a nurse aid for a local at home health care service company.

Tracy's children benefit from Medicaid and have been beloved ARDC patients for years. *"I had braces in high school and a general bad experience with dentistry. I did not want my kids to have the same and wished to build the habit of having a healthy smile".*

"I have been 100% satisfied with the ARDC team. They always know what is going on in my kids life and never forget to ask about their latest games results. My kids are always welcomed with open arms and a smile".

Tracy recently lost her insurance coverage. Despite being employed, she does not have dental insurance and paying out of pocket is prohibitive. She joined her children as an ARDC patient this past Spring and received care for free during our Dentalpalooza event in April 2022.

"The ARDC is not only good for the community, it impact the lives of so many"



Tracy (left) posing with ARDC Scheduling Coordinator Jessica

DENTALPALOOZA FALL 2022

70 uninsured neighbors to receive free dental care

The ARDC will hold a new edition of our free dental clinic day on 10/22/22. Thanks to the support of local sponsors and volunteers, patients will receive cleanings, consultations, fillings, and extractions at no out-of-pocket cost.

This community event will be held in memory of our late Dental Director, Dr. Mark Hammock who passed on 07/07/2022.

If you wish to support our effort, you can donate online at augustaregionaldentalclinic.org or mail a check ARDC PO Box 153 Fishersville, VA 22939.



ADOPT A SCHOOL

Every year, our **ORCAS program (ORal Care at School)**, provides free preventative care to hundreds of children from the SAW public schools. 83% of the enrolled kids are medically underserved.

You can give them their smile back! Inviting corporate sponsors and donors. For a \$500 gift, you can "Adopt a School" and make sure no child in our community goes without basic dental care.

List of enrolled elementary schools includes: Bessie Weller, Berkley Glenn, Cassell, Clymore, Craigsville, Churchville, Stump, Stuart Draft, Wenonah, Wilson.

For more information and to donate, please email Sophie Parson, director@augustaregionaldentalclinic.org



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OUR 2021-2022
EXPANSION
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