



AUGUSTA REGIONAL DENTAL CLINIC

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



AUGUSTA REGIONAL CLINIC 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every guest, donor, volunteer, partner and sponsor who joined us on September 9th for our 30th Anniversary Gala.



Gathering exactly 30 years after our clinic opened its door for the first time added an extra layer of significance for the evening, making it a truly unforgettable occasion.



We have received an outpour of support in honor of this important milestone and have been deeply touched by your generosity and show of support. Together, we will continue serving our most vulnerable neighbors and thrive to expand our offering of services to the community.



As usual we will share our progress and upcoming projects in this bi-annual newsletter. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments you may have.



With heartfelt appreciation,

Sophie Parson, Executive Director



A CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE DENTISTRY (CID) IN AUGUSTA CO.

In our community, **access to oral care is extremely limited for low-income patients with special healthcare needs (SHCN)** (i.e. patients with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities, or long-standing medical conditions). The reasons are many: an undertrained dental workforce, a lack of special equipment, etc. As a result, families face long wait times for a dental appointment and then endure long drive times, sometimes as far as Richmond.

To provide affordable and dignified care to patients with SHCN in our area, the ARDC joined a pilot program led by the Delta Dental Foundation of Virginia. 4 of our staff members underwent intensive training at New York University and we purchased specific equipment to treat patients with mobility restrictions and special needs. **Our team is determined to welcome 20% more patients with SHCN by the end of 2024 and offer them full range of services directly in our dental home.**



PATIENT SPOTLIGHT - MEET KIM AND PATRICK!



Patrick's mom Kim posing with ARDC Dental Assistant Tonya

Kim has been bringing her teenage son Patrick to the ARDC since August 2022. "Nobody takes Medicaid no more. It has been very difficult to find a dentist," said Kim. Patrick plays in his high school football team and, according to his mom, has never failed a grade! "It has been wonderful here. I cannot tell you enough how my son is confident with you."

He tends to always want to reschedule medical appointments but not here. After his first appointment he told me, Mom I want to take care of my teeth now," continued Kim. "You guys have had such a wonderful impact. He keeps telling me that even after he is of age and has his own insurance, he wants to find a way to keep coming here".

WE NEED YOU FOR ORCAS!

Every Wednesday our ORCAS team visits local elementary schools to provide preventative oral care at no out-of-pocket to underserved children and are looking for volunteers to support our team.

Join us and help improve oral health in our community! You will be in charge of welcoming the children, explaining how their appointment will go, and engaging conversations on good brushing techniques and healthy eating habits. We will train you and provide all materials. All you need is a positive attitude and the will to make a difference.

Volunteer close to home! Volunteer shifts are scheduled every Wednesday morning (8am-12pm). Our schedule for the school year 2023-2024 is available on our website augustaregionaldentalclinic.org ("Community initiatives", "ORCAS"). **Interested?** Contact Sophie Parson (540)-221-6724 or director@augustaregionaldentalclinic.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

