



LINDQUIST DENTAL CLINIC FOR CHILDREN

Volume 2, Issue 1
February 2009

February Is...

February is "National Children's Dental Health Month"

All across our great country, the medical and dental community as a whole has worked to bring attention to the needs of our future, our children. As such, we are focusing on the need for, and sometimes the lack of, dental health care for children in America. You see, it isn't just in our community that the need is great, it is everywhere. That is why we exist! The Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children (LDCC) is, and always has been, dedicated to providing quality dental care to children 0-18 years of age, regardless of family income.

LDCC is a comprehensive dental care clinic with staff that specializes in treating children who are insured, uninsured, or on state assistance. This includes military dependents with **TRICARE** insurance (in support of our service persons, there are no out-of-pocket costs for covered services for families who qualify according to income).

Did you know that keeping a health smile starts with your child's first tooth? Most of us assume that baby's teeth are just that, baby teeth. Eventually they will fall out and when the permanent teeth come in, well, those are what matter. If only that were true!!! The care given to a child's baby teeth directly impacts how their permanent oral health, as well as their overall health, is effected. Baby

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By The Numbers: 2008

- 5608 Total patients
- 12,063 Total appointments
- 44% : 0-6 years old
- 34% : 7-12 years old
- 22% : 13-18 years old
- 78% of patients are Medicaid eligible
- 73% of elementary age children have tooth decay.

Our wonderful staff, posing for a holiday photo!

We've Expanded Our Mission!

We've expanded our mission to serve more children!!

In existence since 1936, we have continued to grow and expand our services to meet the needs of the underprivileged children in our community. In the beginning, we were a mobile unit, affiliated with school programs. As the need grew, we opened a small clinic and soon found ourselves bursting at the seams. Thanks to many dedicated donors in 2005, we relocated to a larger facility that has allowed us to continue in our growth and expand our services. Today, we are looking to open a satellite office in the Peninsula area, recognizing the ever growing needs of the

children, not only in Pierce County, but across the entire South Sound Area.

At the end of 2008, the LDCC Board of Directors decided to change the mission to better reflect our expansion of services. Our new mission states that we are committed to caring for all children in the South Sound (including those who may reside outside of Pierce County).

As our economic downturn has increased the need for our services, we find we are accepting more and more children whose need outweighs their location. Changing our mission statement broadens our ability to treat these children and get them on their way to a healthier, happier smile. **Please see our new mission statement on the back page.**

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A Message from our President and CEO:

Welcome to the second edition of the Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children newsletter! Our goal is to inform you of clinic activities with the hope that you will reach out and support us in our mission to provide compassionate and professional dental care for children in our community.

As you see on our front page, February is National Children's Dental Health Month. For the past 55 years, dental health professionals and advocates have chosen February to highlight the extreme importance of early childhood dental care. For even a longer time, 73 years, Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children has provided the highest quality dental care for children from low income families.

I am proud to announce that in response to requests to help low income children from outside of Pierce County, we officially expanded our reach and will serve children from all over the south Puget Sound area. Our plans to open a satellite facility in Gig Harbor in the fall of this year are underway. We look forward to serving many deserving children in the Key Peninsula community.

We at the clinic are acutely aware of the economic problems that are on everybody's minds. I want to assure you that we will continue to serve children in need. My appeal to you is for your continued financial support to help us keep providing dental care for children whose parents have lost their insurance or families who can't quite afford a dental visit.

Thank you for reading our newsletter and for your support in helping us change the lives of many children in the south sound.

February Is...

(continued from page 1)

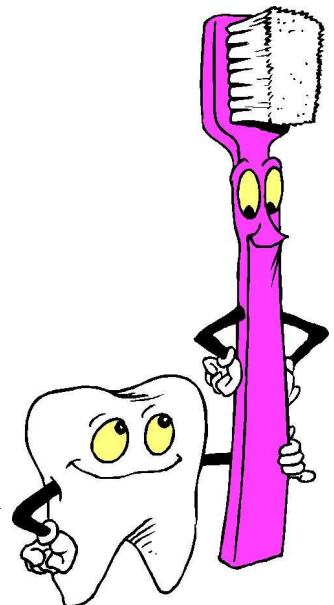
teeth that are not cared for can literally rot in their mouths. The decay can actually travel from the exposed teeth into the teeth that have yet to come in. The decay can also effect the gums, causing inflammation and pain. The inflammation and pain can cause a child to miss school, or worse yet, cause other illnesses throughout the body. For this reason, the American Dental Association (ADA) recommends that children have their first dental visit by the time they get their first tooth or by the time they are one (1) year old. Kids should have regular dental checkups every six (6) months and should be brushing two (2) to three (3) times a day.

While most people have dental coverage, there are those who are unable to afford regular check ups. This is why

February is so important. By raising awareness with a national campaign, we are given another opportunity to educate our community about the need for our services and the need for your support in reaching the children who need them.

At LDCC, no child is turned away due to the inability to pay!

To learn more about how to keep your family's teeth strong and healthy, the ADA has games and puzzles your kids can play online at <http://www.ada.org>.



THE LDCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are very grateful for our board members' support!

Carole Lightell, Board Chair, School Nurse

***Clint Saner, Board Vice Chair,
Financial Advisor***

***Abbe Salk, Board Secretary,
Insurance/Employee Benefits***

Vince Tilotta, Board Treasurer, Banking

***Julie Wurst, Past Board Chair,
Finance/Business***

Shirlee Dashow, Small Business Owner

Sarah Hyman, Development

Peter Kram, Attorney at Law

Jim Whitacre, CPA



Meet Carole Lightell

Dear Friends of the Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children,

It is my pleasure to be able to write to you about a passion of mine. This year, I have the privilege to be the President of the Board of Directors of the Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children (LDCC). The clinic has a long and very successful history of serving low income children in our community and I am very proud to be associated with it. As a school nurse, I have long known about LDCC and their wonderful services. After many years of referring children, I became involved in the promotion of the clinic by joining the board of directors.

In my current capacity, I get to work with a group of dedicated staff and volunteers whose passion for children and their dental health are unmatched in our community. I get to see the wonderful work that occurs every day at the clinic, and I get the satisfaction of knowing I help make a difference in their lives. If you tour the clinic, you will see children from birth through 18 years old in any one of the 10 dental chairs, being cared for by professional dentists and a complete support staff dedicated to the dental health of our children and their future.

In light of the present economic woes being experienced by many families and their children, I want to assure you that our services will continue. As we expect the number of families needing our services to climb, our need to provide financial

support with the uncompensated care fund will grow. I ask you to consider making a donation to help children who are in need of dental care. By designating your gift toward uncompensated care, you can rest assured that your gift will be paying for direct dental services.



Ms. Carole Lightell

Please join me in supporting the Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children during this **National Children's Dental Health Month**, by filling out the donation form on the back of this page and returning it to the clinic as soon as possible.

With sincere thanks,

Carole Lightell RN, MSN
School Nurse
President of the Board of Directors

Uncompensated Care Fund

We all love children, but let's face it, they don't make good patients!

OK, I know what you are thinking... "WHAT?!" I thought this was supposed to be a children's dental clinic?" Well, it is and now that we have your attention, our point is this... Children are just that, CHILDREN. They don't make appointments, fill out paperwork, sign up for dental coverage, or pay their bills! All of those things must be done by the adults in their lives. But, what happens when the adults don't have the resources to do those things? What if they don't have the knowledge to find the dental care the children need?

This is where professionals can intervene and help. Perhaps a doctor or the school nurse refers them to the Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children. LDCC schedules treatment. If needed, LDCC staff helps the adult with

following up for state assisted dental coverage or works with the family to provide the care at a cost they can afford.

But how can LDCC afford to do this? Simple, by the generosity of our donors. Donors to the Uncompensated Care Fund help families both financially as well as educationally by providing them with immediate dental care, information, and resources to provide their children healthier lives.

Uncompensated Care is more than dollars and cents. It is restoring a smile, building confidence, strengthening a body and lifting up not only the child, but the family as a whole to realize their full potential.

In 2007-08, LDCC provided over \$80,000 in uncompensated care. We are expecting that need to climb in 2009. With your help, we can assist those who find themselves without the means to treat their children. Together, we will brighten their smiles and their futures.



Yes! I want to support LDCC



Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children

130 - 131st Street South
Tacoma, WA 98444

Clinic Phone: 253-539-7445

www.lindquistdental.org

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell or Work _____

E-mail _____

Bill my credit card: VISA / MC

Expiration date _____

Development Office: 253
-531-9087

E-mail:
Rick@lindquistdental.org

I would like to support the Uncompensated Care Fund at LDCC with a gift of....

- \$250.00 for two dental exams
- \$200.00 for one filling
- \$100.00 for one cleaning
- Other _____



Please take a moment to answer the following questions so that we can better serve our donors and patients!

How long have you known
about LDCC?

- Never before today
- 0-5 years
- More than 5 years

How did you learn of
LDCC?

- School
- Friend
- Staff or Board
Member

Would you like to become
more involved in LDCC?

- Yes!
- No
- Maybe, give me a
call!

Are you interested in
touring the clinic?

- Yes!
- No
- I would like more
information first

What age are the children
that reside in your home?

- 0-6 years
- 6-12 years
- 12-18 years
- Sorry, no children

If you know about us, what do you see as
most important?

- Providing Uncompensated Care
- Advancing technology
- Expanding our services from
different locations

LET US KNOW!

Have you enjoyed reading our newsletter?

*Is there something else you'd like to know
about us? Let us know and we can add it*

to our next newsletter!

Do you know someone who might benefit

*from our organization or someone who
might want to become involved? Please*

*feel free to contact us with their name and
address and we will send them a copy of*

this newsletter, today!



Thank you!



Featured Staff Member

Dr. Trerice is the epitome of the dental care that LDCC provides children in our community. He has been practicing his craft at the clinic since June 2007.

An Olympia native, he attended dental school at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. He says he received great “live” instruction as the school saw a lot of patients willing to be guinea pigs. A big reason for the number of patients was that Nevada had the lowest ratio of dentists to general population at that time.

However, having roots in the Northwest caused a great deal of homesickness. So much, that he had his van packed and went straight from his graduation ceremonies to the freeway and headed north.

Dr. Trerice worked for a dentist in Olympia, spending most of his time performing extractions. He learned that he had a calming effect on the traumatized patients he would see. While he worked in Olympia, he heard about a clinic needing temporary dental help. It was Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children!

After temping for awhile, he was approached about working full time. He was a little apprehensive about working with children full time, but soon learned that his calming ability worked with kids, too. Now he loves working with children and they love him! A self-described goofball, Dr. Trerice can be counted on to make everyone in the clinic smile.

If you visit the clinic with your child, ask Dr. Trerice to get out his Yo-Yo!



Dr. Lucas Trerice

Dr. Trerice is one of three full time dentists at LDCC. Together they form a team of committed, dental professionals specializing in high quality children’s dentistry.

Ricky’s Story

Lorraine is a grandmother caring for her three grandchildren, ages 11, 9, and 4.

A year ago, Lorraine realized that the youngest, Ricky, needed to see a dentist. He had some visible decay of his front teeth and it was getting worse by the day. Ricky was scheduled to start preschool soon and when he started to complain about his teeth hurting, Lorraine knew she could wait no longer. She scheduled an appointment with a dentist in Tacoma she had heard about.

During the visit, a dental assistant emerged from the exam area and told

Lorraine that Ricky needed extensive, expensive dental work and she had to make a choice: do the work now and miss the start of preschool or don’t get the work done at all. Lorraine could not believe those were the only options! She took the time to do a little more calling around and found out about the Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children.

She came to LDCC without a formal appointment to see what could be done for Ricky. She was welcomed in and said she felt comforted by the friendly staff and the clean, bright atmosphere. The dentist who did Ricky’s exam felt that since he still had his baby teeth, they could be extracted and

the appearance would be that they had just fallen out early. Ricky would then be pain free in time to start preschool just days later.

Lorraine says Ricky had his teeth pulled and started on time. He loves school and is progressing on schedule. LDCC made financial arrangements through Medicaid for Ricky’s care and he looks forward to his next dental appointment. Lorraine says she will be “forever grateful” and credits the LDCC staff for really evaluating Ricky’s needs based on not just his dental care, but on his needs as a child!

You Can Help!

Every day there are children like Ricky in the clinic. Because we help so many low income children whose families are unable to pay the total cost of dental care, we ask you to support LDCC to allow us to help more needy children. Please consider a gift to Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children. We are a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, so your donation may be tax deductible. Call us at (253) 531-9087 for more information.



For more information on contributing to the well-being of our children go to:
www.Lindquistdental.org

"NO child in need of dental care is turned away due to inability to pay!"

Our Mission:

"To provide accessible, compassionate and effective dental care to South Sound children in need."

Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children provides dental services for children of all ages, regardless of income. We accept DSHS medical coupons, most insurances - including TRICARE (in support of service persons, there are no out of pocket costs for covered services for families who qualify, according to income) and all uninsured children are seen on a sliding scale fee basis.

A Big Thank You ...

to our partners:

Tacoma-Pierce Co. Health Dept.

WA Dental Service Foundation

ABCD Program

Pierce County Community

Services

United Way of Pierce County

Ben B. Cheney Foundation

Pierce County Dental Society

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation



130 - 131st Street South
Tacoma, WA 98444

Clinic Phone: 253-539-7445

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