



LINDQUIST DENTAL CLINIC FOR CHILDREN

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Welcome to LDCC!



The Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children (LDCC) is a dedicated, private non-profit dental clinic for children, which has been in existence since 1936. Determined to provide high quality dental care, we strive to fulfill our mission, "to provide accessible, compassionate and effective dental care to Pierce County children in need".

Named after a community minded banker, Mr. Lindquist never

knew his name would epitomize his passion of caring for his community into the next century. Since it's inception in 1936, LDCC (formerly known as the Carl E. Lindquist School Clinic) had always been affiliated with several school programs. Specifically designed to serve the underprivileged children in Pierce County, the clinic had, at this point, always been a mobile facility. In 1998 LDCC moved into its own small five chair clinic on Garfield Street, near Pacific Lutheran University. In 2002, LDCC officially changed the name to make clear our goal of serving the children of our community. Over the years the need for our services outgrew our facility. In 2005, thanks to many dedicated donors, we were able to relocate to a larger 10 chair clinic that has allowed us to expand the depth and breadth of our dental services.

LDCC is a comprehensive dental care clinic that specializes in treating Pierce County's uninsured and state assisted children. This includes military dependents with **TRICARE** insurance, and in support of our service persons, there are no out-of-pocket costs for families who qualify! **At LDCC, no child is turned away due to the inability to pay!!**

What We Do

LDCC provides direct dental services to all children 0-18 years. Including exams, preventative care, cleanings, regular X-rays, panoramic X-rays, fillings, extractions, sealants, fluoride varnish, conscious sedation, root canals, limited crown and bridge, and limited orthodontics (space maintainers etc.). All services are provided by Washington State licensed dentists.

Our services are very accessible as we are located on a major bus line, are ADA accessible, and serve patients from throughout Pierce County.

We attempt to do as many fillings at one appointment as possible to minimize the number of times a child must miss school and to help parents plan transportation. While efficiency is important, we also realize that we are treating impressionable children, many of whom have never had dental treatment before.

We also provide assistance in completing the application for state supported medical and dental insurance programs, to families who are unsure of whether they might qualify for medical coupons.

By The Numbers: 2007

- 4,433 total patients
- 11,144 total appointments
- 39% : 0-6 years old
- 37% : 7-12 years old
- 24% : 13-18 years old



You can't miss us!

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President/CEO Report

Welcome to our first Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children newsletter! I am so excited to be able to show our community the dental services we provide for the children of Pierce County. 2007 was a growth year for LDCC. Our clinic continues to be a huge asset for Pierce County, seeing many low-income children who otherwise might not receive ANY dental care. Some might ask why we do this, but one look at the troubling statistics says it all.

- According to the recent Surgeon General's report, "Oral Health in America," *Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in America and is considered an "epidemic".*
- Low and moderate-income children miss an average of 13 days a year of school specifically due to dental problems.
- In Washington State, one in seven low-income children has unmet dental needs.
- 80% of all dental disease is found within the low-income population of our community.

Our services do come with a price, however. For every child we see from a low income family, Medicaid reimburses only 30-35% of the total cost. For those with no insurance or paying according to our sliding fee scale, we anticipate a mere 15% recovery. Here are a couple of examples: on average, it costs us \$227 to provide a filling; we are reimbursed by DSHS only \$72. A space maintainer costs us \$201; we are reimbursed by DSHS only \$82. We rely on the generosity of our community to help pay for this "uncompensated care".

I am very proud to say that Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children is helping to change the lives of many Pierce County children. With the financial support of caring people like you in our community, we will be able to continue this very important work. *THANK YOU!*

The Hope Center

Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children (LDCC) has partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound (BGCSPS) to establish dental care services to low income families living in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula (GH/KP) area. This plan involves adding a three chair clinic in the Jim & Carolyn Milgard HOPE Community Center in Gig Harbor, scheduled for operations in fall 2009.

THE NEED IS GREAT!

We know there are approximately 1780 school age children in the

GH/KP area (this information provided by the number of children in the Peninsula School District that are on free or reduced lunch). This doesn't, however, take into account those children who are pre-school age who are also eligible for services. Yet, it is LDCC's understanding that there are less than five (5) dentists in the GH/KP area that accept Medicaid as a payment option and of those, each dentist provides only a limited number of appointments available to Medicaid patients. LDCC's partnership with BGCSPS will add a much needed

THE LDCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are very grateful for our board members' support!

Carole Lightell, Board Chair, School Nurse

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**Abbe Salk, Board Secretary,
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Vince Tilotta, Board Treasurer, Banking

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Finance/Business**

Paul Bocchi, Legislative Budget Analyst

Shirlee Dashow, Small Business Owner

Sarah Hyman, Development

Peter Kram, Attorney at Law

Jim Whitacre, CPA



service to those children who may not be able to travel into our current location.

We look forward to this new and exciting expansion!



Featured Staff Member

Ralna Galves' official title at LDCC is Administrative Assistant/Dental Assistant. Her unofficial title should be Clinic Greeter. She is the first person our families contact when they call or come into the clinic and she always has a smile for all who walk through the door.

Ralna celebrated her two-year anniversary working at the Clinic on September 18, the same day as her daughter Raina's 6th birthday. For her, working with children has been a life-long goal. She feels strongly about helping put kids at ease when they come in, knowing that going to

the dentist can be an uncomfortable experience for a lot of them.

When Ralna isn't answering the phone or checking-in a patient, she assists dentists in the clinic. She went to school to acquire her certification to be a dental assistant and enjoys the occasional change of pace.

Ralna is just one example of the kind-hearted and dedicated staff at the Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children. Regardless of whether they are dentists, assistants, managers or administrators, you will find the same dedication to children in everyone here!



Ralna Galves

We look forward to highlighting more of these caring people in future editions of our newsletter!

Seth's Story

Deborah Crozier took over complete care of her four year old grandson, Seth in June 2008, after Seth's mother (Deborah's daughter) dropped him off for the third time. An unstable home life and a diet of candy did little to help his physical and oral health. Seth's weight was low and he complained about how his mouth hurt when he ate. Mom's inability to encourage Seth to brush, had resulted in visible damage to little Seth's teeth.

One of Deborah's first tasks was to get him into a dentist. Many of his teeth were "really bad". But, her search turned out to be exhaustive and frustrating, as she and Seth received support from DSHS. All the dentists she contacted either did not accept Medicaid coupons or were not equipped to do the paperwork. Due

to Seth's constant pain, Deborah turned to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital to find an answer. The staff at Mary Bridge immediately suggested the Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children. They knew that the clinic is specifically for children and specializes in children from low-income families.

Deborah contacted LDCC to make an appointment and since Seth was in pain, they got in right away. From the moment they entered, they felt comfortable. There was a waiting area with toys to play with and a child's video to watch. The staff was friendly and welcoming, the dental assistants and dentists were caring and attentive to Seth's needs. Taking into account Seth is only four, the staff used age appropriate language and walked he and Deborah through

the steps necessary to get him back on track to improved oral health.

Seth's treatment included two comprehensive appointments (minimizing the number of visits) including having two teeth crowned and three others pulled. As much as this sounds traumatic, after Seth recovered from the work, he told Deborah with a smile, "Grandma, my teeth don't hurt anymore."

Deborah now reports that Seth can eat without pain and is enjoying healthy food. He has put on some weight and has even gotten a bit taller. She says, "Seth is a happy little camper now that his teeth don't hurt anymore and he is looking forward to going to pre-school."

Thanks to our generous supporters, LDCC was able to treat Seth with little-to-no cost to his struggling family.

You Can Help!

Every day there are children like Seth 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 Pierce County 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**



**Lindquist Dental Clinic
For Children**

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