

A World of Good

Townies crisscross the globe to ensure that everyone has access to good dental care



When Townie hygienist **Ann Dohm** discovered that her patient Tim Buckley needed a kidney transplant, she immediately got tested to see if she was a match. Her amazing story begins on **page 81**.

For the past three years, **Dr. Janki Patel** and her team have collected and distributed toys to less-fortunate children during the holiday season. To learn how they inspired patients to donate the toys, see **page 75**.



During his Health Outreach dental mission in the Rio Dulce area of Guatemala, **Dr. Richard Ehrlich** treated patients on a converted houseboat. Read more about his trip on **page 78**.

For the past five years, the May issue of *Dentaltown* magazine has profiled dental professionals who've donated their time and services to those in desperate need of care, whether in their communities or halfway across the world.

For this year's installment, we asked Townies to send in photos of their recent philanthropic projects and to share a few words about where and why they

participated. Over the next several pages, you'll meet dozens of your peers and learn what drives them to give back. (We've placed the names of Townies in **bold**.)

Also in this special section: Scheduling Institute founder **Jay Geier** feels so strongly about giving back that he donates 10 percent of his company's profits to charities. Scheduling Institute also has helped send dozens of doctors overseas

on dentistry missions that have treated thousands of patients. If you're interested in developing your own philanthropic program but aren't sure where to begin, check out Geier's suggestions on how to get started.

And don't miss our article about Townie **Ann Dohm**, whose philanthropy involved more than time or money—the hygienist donated a kidney to a longtime patient.



Scheduling Institute founder **Jay Geier** has joined many client dentists on overseas mission trips, which over the years have treated thousands of patients, such as these boys in Costa Rica playing with Geier and his daughter Annabelle. Geier discusses why it's so important to give back, and how to ramp up your own philanthropic efforts, beginning on **page 84**.



Since 2012, **Dr. Michael Farmer** has taken UNC School of Dentistry students on an annual mission trip to Uganda, which now has only one dentist for every 165,000 people. To discover more about the mission, see **page 80**.

North America



PACOIMA, CALIFORNIA

Dr. Miyoung Yoon (Rosemont Smile Dental, La Crescenta) volunteered at the 2017 Head to Toes event at the MEND dental clinic in Pacoima. Every August, approximately 200 third-graders from a local elementary school start off the school year with new shoes, backpacks and school supplies at the center, which also provides free dental screenings, fluoride treatments and vision exams with the help of volunteer medical professionals and Disney VolunTEars.

PHOENIX

Dr. Jeanette MacLean and dental assistant Yvette Montoya treated patients with SDF and GIC Dec. 8 and 9 at the Arizona Mission of Mercy. By placing SMART restorations (silver modified atraumatic restorative treatment), they helped control caries in the entire mouth versus the one tooth or arch typically allowed due to overwhelming demand from thousands of patients who wait in line, some for days, outside Veterans Memorial Coliseum. MacLean also partnered with Team Smile to bring SDF and SMART to their children's charitable dental events.



MESA, ARIZONA



provided free dental services to 73 adults with special needs who would not otherwise have access to care, at a value of nearly \$23,000 in dental screenings and treatment. Duong has led the event for five consecutive years, coordinating service for more than 450 patients.

Dr. Mai-Ly Duong (Sundance Dental Care, Phoenix), an assistant professor at A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, organized the university's annual Day for Special Smiles event in October. Under Duong's leadership, 200 student and faculty volunteers



ELTON, TEXAS

Dr. Jayesh Patel (Affordable Dentures & Implants, Waco) performs oral surgery at the Belton Body of Christ Community Clinic, where he's been a volunteer for the past seven years. On the fourth Thursday of each month, after treating patients all day at his private practice, Patel makes the 50-minute drive each way to Belton to perform free oral surgery for those in need.

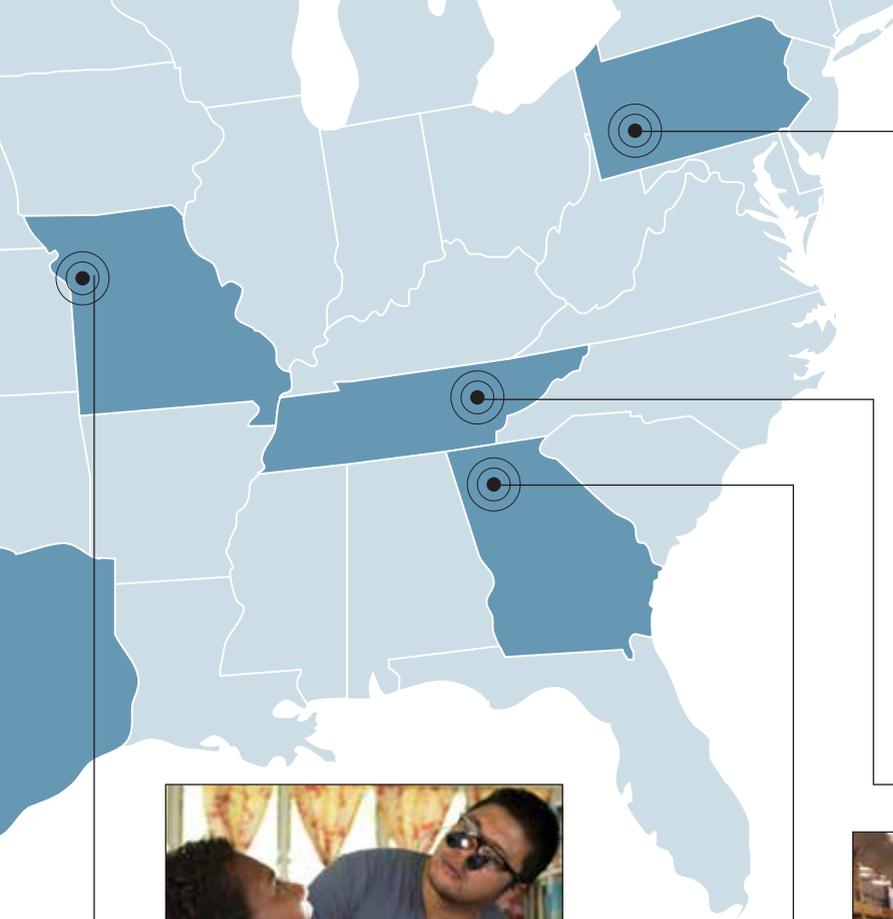


TEMPLE, TEXAS

The Fossum Dental Group provided more than \$30,000 in free dental services as part of its fifth annual Community Dental Day. The Feb. 24 event was made possible by dozens

of volunteers and community partnerships. Dentists pictured amid the full team of volunteers are Drs. **Richard Fossum**, **Brooke Elmore**, Melinda Duncan, **Daniel Caraveo**, **Courtney Grosskopf** and Brenna Sura.





MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Dr. Karessa Kuntz and the staff at Smile Beautiful Dentistry in Monroeville donate full care to one Donated Dental Services patient each quarter and also offer fluoride varnish to each patient. Kuntz estimates that the average value is \$10,000 per year. (Kuntz is pictured at center, with her hygienist and front desk associate.)



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Dr. Matthew Yip (Parkville Modern Dentistry and Orthodontics, Kansas City) is so passionate about helping youth gain access to care, he collaborated with Synergy Services, a Kansas City shelter for runaway and homeless youth, to implement a dental voucher program. (The legal team at Pacific Dental Services supported Yip by drafting a memorandum of understanding that details the process and services.) Synergy caseworkers help clients complete patient information and health history forms, coordinate appointments and provide transportation.



KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Dr. Glen Goldstein (Randolph Dental Care, Randolph, New Jersey) first volunteered with Remote Area Medical nearly a decade ago, and has completed eight missions since. His most recent, in late January and early February, took him to Knoxville, where he treated 25 patients over five days.

SOUTHLAKE, TEXAS

Dr. Tyler Brady (Haven Dental, Southlake) has founded We Heart U, a one-for-two toothbrush nonprofit organization. For each toothbrush sold, one is donated to a patient in need; We Heart U also provides dental hygiene kits to patients in underserved communities and donates grant money to participating dentists to fund treatment for patients who normally could not pay for it. Since its inception in January, the organization has given away 500 toothbrushes and worked with local dentists and church groups traveling to Jamaica, Honduras and Kenya, with plans to send others to Peru and Ghana later this year. Information: we-heart-you.org



MARIETTA, GEORGIA

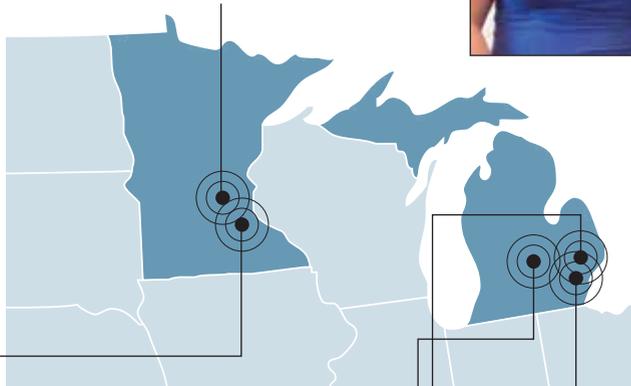
For the past three years, **Dr. Janki Patel** and the team at Johnson Ferry Dentistry & Orthodontics have partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program in Marietta to collect and distribute toys to less-fortunate children during the holiday season. To date, the team has collected more 1,000 toys by offering their patients reduced fees on dental work and incentivizing the entire community to help donate. The practice also regularly serves in Smile Generation Serve Day by providing free dental care to foster children, veterans and those in need.



North America

RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

For the past four years, **Dr. Michael Perpich** (Richfield Dentistry, Richfield) has partnered with Pacific Dental Services to provide care to patients who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it. "One specific case is my patient Julie," Perpich says. "She has been in recovery for five years and during this time she's had several medical conditions, which resulted in the loss of all her teeth. During this time, I have been able to restore her dignity, confidence and smile. I have been able to provide her with the care she needs to move forward pain-free and with confidence in her life as a woman and a mother."



WOODBURY, MINNESOTA

Dr. Mitchell Wilkinson and the team at Woodbury Smiles Dentistry team have dedicated time and donated dentistry for the past four years as part of Smile Generation Serve Day. Patients have included some with terminal illness, some suffering from drug addiction, and many children.



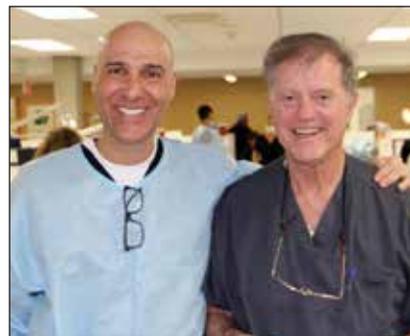
LANSING, MICHIGAN

For the past 11 years, **Dr. Tim Zielinski** (Zielinski Dental, Macon) has provided dental care to greater Lansing's indigent and uninsured population at the Care Free Medical Clinic, which offers dental, optical, medical and behavioral health clinics. Zielinski, who began with weekly and biweekly sessions, currently provides dental services one full day each month.



DETROIT

Through their Amplify dental training programs, **Dr. Ara Nazarian** (Premier Dental Center, Troy), left, and **Dr. Richard Golden** (Dr. Golden Laser Dental, Detroit) have provided free dental services eight to 10 times a year for the past eight years, averaging 75 patients per program. Amplify works with veterans groups, church organizations and community centers to identify patients who receive free dental care as part of clinical educational services. So far, dentists have performed 8,233 extractions and 2,822 bone grafts, at a value of about \$3.5 million.



HARRISON TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

Dr. James J. Karam (Warren, Michigan), below left, and his son Daniel served in the Macomb County Health Department's medical reserve corps that was deployed to perform first aid during the two-day U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds air show at Selfridge Air National Guard in Michigan last August. Over two days, 15 volunteers treated 217 patients.



HAITI

After his wife, Sarah, visited Haiti on a medical mission in 2017, **Dr. Trent McCord** (Mint Dental Care, Centerton, Arkansas), left, learned that a pastor there, the Rev. Jean St. Cyr, was in need of major dental work. Through a series of serendipitous events, the Mint team was able to restore St. Cyr's teeth at no cost while he was on a trip to the United States. Less than a month later, the team traveled to Port-au-Prince to



provide dental care to members of St. Cyr's church at the Compassi-Hon medical clinic.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dr. David J. Ahearn (Perfect Smiles, Westport, Massachusetts, and Southcoast Smiles, Sekonk, Massachusetts, and the founder of Design Ergonomics) teamed up with the Scheduling Institute and World Mission Partners to design, construct, equip and train a new dental clinic in La Romana, Dominican Republic, that provides pro bono dental care to patients in need from across the country. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of a passionate group of Townies, the Good Samaritan Clinic of La Romana opened Jan. 25.



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North America



RIO DULCE, GUATEMALA

The Rio Dulce area of Guatemala is 45 minutes by speedboat from the nearest road, so **Dr. Richard Ehrlich** (Elm Tree Dental, Palgrave, Ontario) and other members of a Health Outreach dental mission in February traveled the river in a houseboat that had been converted to function as a dental office. "The boat had two chairs, and we set up three more portable ones for restorative, triage and surgery," Ehrlich says. "I mostly performed restorative dentistry, using a lot of SDF, GI and Activa with resins. The work was hard but rewarding."

GUATEMALA CITY

Dr. Omid Termechi (Center for Comprehensive Implant & Aesthetic Dentistry, Astoria, New York), second from right, conducts implant surgery on a patient at University of Francisco Marroquin as part of a Dental Implant Surgical Seminar team. The DISS program provides treatment to patients at no charge while training the next generation of dental students and practitioners who volunteer long-term follow-up care after restorative goals have been met. (Pictured from left:



dental student Anita Sanchez; Termechi; Dr. Bradley White; and **Dr. Abe Abdulwaheed**.)

EL SALVADOR

Dr. Donald J. Zelazny (Z Dental, Franklin, Michigan) learned about **Dr. John Leland's** mobile dental clinic in El Salvador from an article in *Dentaltown's* May 2016 issue. One year later, Zelazny was in the clinic himself, treating patients in El Cuco. "We had a great time and treated many underprivileged folks," he says. "I was even able to give a lecture on volunteer dentistry to the dental society in the nation's capital, as well."



NICARAGUA



For the past 10 years, **Dr. Brian Polillo** (Lynnwood Crossroads Modern Dentistry and Orthodontics, Lynnwood, Washington) has traveled around the world—Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia and Nicaragua—to donate his dental services. For the past three years, he and a group of colleagues have returned to the same village in Nicaragua in an effort to keep one population healthy and reduce the amount of emergency need. (He's pictured here with Maria, a girl he's been able to watch

grow over the course of his trips to Nicaragua.) Closer to home in Washington state, Polillo also volunteers his time at a mobile dental clinic and is active in providing donated dentistry at his offices.

South America

ECUADOR

Dental assistant Marj Nystrom and **Dr. Rance Davis** (Sherman, Texas) were among more than 60 dental professional and support volunteers who participated in Operation Ecuador, a faith-based medical mission trip in Ecuador. The mission happens in a remote rainforest accessible only by canoe via the Cayapas River. Over five days, Operation Ecuador treated more than a thousand patients from Feb. 23 to March 3.



GUYANA

Dr. Jonathan Visscher (Valley Dental, 100 Mile House, British Columbia) has traveled to more than a dozen countries to provide dental care, and over the past year he's focused his attention on Region 1 in Guyana. Visscher and a hygienist traveled via river boats and Cessna airplanes to access the small villages in remote areas along the rivers. "Because this was my fifth trip to the region, it was exciting to see the oral changes—in the kids, especially. Far fewer extractions, and more free toothbrushes and hygiene as they learn to take care of their teeth!" This year, Visscher plans to add a Bolivia trip to his itinerary.



Asia/Middle East

JORDAN

Drs. Hani Eid and **Hazar Jaber** (Happy Kids Dentistry and Orthodontics, Longview, Washington) and **Dr. Noor Nahhas** (Destiny Dental, Lansing, Michigan) spent a week in January treating patients at the Al-Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan on a Syrian American Medical Society mission trip. Eid completed 28 pediatric dental surgery cases under general anesthesia, and more than 600 patients were treated during the six days at the camp, which with more than 80,000 refugees is one of the world's largest. Pictured, from left: Dr. Shahed Hijazeen; Idris Asfour; Eid; Victoria Ponkratov; Jaber; Nahhas; Dr. Amal Lattouf; Dr. Yousif German; and Steve Morris.



Africa



UGANDA

Since 2012, **Dr. Michael Farmer** (Plaza Midwood Dentistry, Charlotte, North Carolina) has taken UNC School of Dentistry students on an annual mission trip to Uganda in conjunction with the Makerere University dental school—the only one in the East African country. Plans are in the works to build a clinic to provide access in the remote Nakasongola region, which would provide preventive and restorative care and also increase by 25 percent each year the number of dentists in the country, which currently has one dentist for every 165,000 people.

WORLDWIDE

Through his company, Larell One Step Denture, **Dr. Lawrence Wallace** has been providing dentures for philanthropic mission trips all over the world—from Mission of Mercy free dental clinics in the U.S. to foreign nations including Haiti, Kenya, Nepal and Nicaragua. The ability to make a denture on the spot, in one visit without outside lab need, has allowed thousands of people to have dentures who otherwise would not be able to because of the barriers of cost and access.

