

Delta Dental of Rhode Island has donated a remarkable \$350,000 to the Rhode Island Hospital Samuels Sinclair Dental Center to enhance facilities and advance its residency program.



Dental Residency Program Bolstered by \$350,000 Gift from Delta Dental of Rhode Island

As a result, more Rhode Islanders who turn to the Center for their oral health care will be able to access high quality, vital dental services. In addition, the residency program and other training and outreach programs enhanced by this gift will benefit patients treated in dental practices throughout the state.

Currently, the Center provides about 15,000 patient visits annually to individuals from some of our state's most underserved communities. The Center is the dental home for about 11,000 patients — most of them children — who simply would not get essential dental care otherwise.

"This gift is significant for our Center because it will allow us to resume our residency program and help renovate our facilities with new equipment and technologies. This essential enhancement will allow us to bring on two residents and to provide about 4,000 more patient visits annually," says Dr. Elizabeth Benz, Director of the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center and Director of the General (Dental) Practice Residency Program.

As a 2012 graduate of the Joseph S. Sinclair General Practice Residency at Samuels Sinclair Dental Center, Dr. Benz understands the impact the Center has on the lives of the patients they serve. Their reach extends beyond the Center's doors too. Medical students from The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and dental hygiene and dental assistant students from the Community College of Rhode Island rotate through the facility as part of their education. Like Dr. Benz, many of those trained by the dedicated professionals at the Center ultimately choose to stay in the Ocean State to care for Rhode Islanders.

"This latest gift by our partners at Delta Dental of Rhode Island is an investment in the future health of all Rhode Islanders," says Dr. Benz. "By helping us train the next generation of dentists and educate current health care professionals on issues and advancements related to oral health and its impact on overall health, Delta Dental is making a lasting gift that benefits Rhode Islanders today and for years to come."

As the state's major dental insurer, Delta Dental is committed to the education of individuals, families, health professionals and medical students, especially as it relates to the connection between oral health and overall health.

"Our long-standing collaboration with the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center is an important focus for us. The Center delivers extraordinary care and treatment to our state's most vulnerable citizens," notes Joseph A. Nagle,

President and CEO of Delta Dental of Rhode Island. "We know that extending our partnership by investing in technology and modernization upgrades will enhance the Center's capacity for care and help reinvigorate its residency program. We are also excited to work together to explore ways to assist with coordinating care among Rhode Island's most

at-risk patients to improve both oral and overall health." Thanks to the support from Delta Dental of Rhode Island, the Center will begin its facility improvements in the coming months and has already initiated the recruitment process for two residents slated to start in June 2016. The gift will also fund necessary equipment and technology upgrades and acquisitions.



Dr. Elizabeth Benz with patient