

ENSURING KIDS GET THE DENTAL CARE THEY NEED

Generosity of Delta Dental brings smiles to thousands

Tucked away on the campus of Rhode Island Hospital is perhaps one of the state's best kept secrets: The Samuels Sinclair Dental Center. But for the families who depend on its compassionate care and those who support it, the center is one of the Ocean State's crown jewels.

"The importance of the dental center cannot be overstated," said Joe Perroni, President and CEO of Delta Dental of Rhode Island. "Supporting its work is an easy decision because of how closely it aligns with our mission and with our commitment to accessible care for all. Lifespan and Rhode Island Hospital deserve so much credit for what we have here."

Celebrating its ninetieth anniversary in 2021, the dental center was founded to ensure care for children whose parents could not afford it and for patients of all ages with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. It is one of the first centers in the country to provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary dental care within a hospital setting.

"Delta's philanthropy is instrumental to everything we're able to do," said Elizabeth Benz, DMD, the center's director. "Their support has been critical to bringing in new technologies. Without them, we wouldn't be able to see the number of patients that we treat, which has grown to nearly 20,000 visits a year."

A longtime, dedicated partner, Delta's latest leadership support is helping to fund facility enhancements, such as new dental chairs, upgraded x-ray units, and soon a special milling machine to furnish crown and bridge units in-house. Additionally, a portion of the gift will benefit the center's burgeoning residency program, allowing Dr. Benz to add a third resident opportunity.

Thanks in large part to the center featuring the latest equipment and leading-edge technology, applications to its residency program have skyrocketed from an average of 20 per year to more than 80.

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—Elizabeth Benz, DMD

"Our residency program has made a name for itself and Delta is a huge part of the reason why – they've helped us create a state-of-the-art facility where students want to learn," said Dr. Benz. "And what we do here isn't something you can learn, you need to experience and practice it. They are amazing skills that you'll keep for your entire career and that make you a better dentist."

Adds Perroni, "When we see a need, we want to help meet that need, and we know that the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center delivers tremendous care to the most vulnerable in our community. Their concerns are our concerns, and that fuels our philanthropy."



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