



ArkansasFoundation



Smile Power

2019 COMMUNITY BENEFITS REPORT



A LETTER FROM OUR

Foundation President and Executive Director

In 2007, Delta Dental of Arkansas established the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation. Since its inception, the Foundation has invested nearly \$25 million to improve the oral health of Arkansans.

At the Foundation, our goal is to connect oral health to overall health. As research has shown, oral health issues can be directly tied to other health issues. We work to fulfill our mission improve the oral health of all Arkansans. To achieve our mission we focus on three areas: education, prevention and treatment.

Oral health education can reduce many common oral health issues. The Foundation is grateful to have the opportunity to support oral health education programs like those helping parents learn how to be their kids' first teacher in oral health habits. In 2019, we invested in the development of an Oral Health Curriculum for Nurse Practitioners serving rural communities and invested in nonprofits and schools providing oral health education.

In 2019, we awarded nearly \$1.1 million to Arkansas nonprofits, government agencies and schools that work to improve oral health for all Arkansans. We work diligently with organizations to ensure we are impacting the lives of those served in a positive way. We are exceptionally proud of all that was accomplished in 2019 by our partners across the state who allowed us to play a part of their outstanding work and look forward to all we will do together in 2020.

Jim Couch
President
Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation

Chrissy Chatham
Executive Director
Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation

68 organizations supported throughout Arkansas



Community Grants are available for organizations wishing to improve access to oral health care in underserved areas. Grants are intended to fund initiatives that provide preventive services or treatment for individuals of all ages, ethnicities, genders and socio-economic statuses in Arkansas.

Mini grants are available to support innovative, solution-based projects that make an impact in the field of oral health. Our intent is to directly impact communities through providing access to funding for organizations with start-up ideas that may not meet the requirements of our Community Grants program.

2019 COMMUNITY IMPACT

 **\$1.13 million**

invested in 2019 to improve the oral health of Arkansans

282,286



Arkansans impacted

 **11,447**

toothbrushes distributed to nonprofit organizations, churches, libraries, and school-based health care programs

 **925**

mouth guards provided to children ages 4-18 who participate in organized sports



Super Smiles at School, our school-based mini grants program, seeks to expand oral health education and treatment by partnering with early childhood centers and public schools to directly impact early childhood, primary, secondary and post-secondary students.



\$50,430

FUNDS AWARDED

2019 RECIPIENTS

[ADH Nurse Family Partnership Program](#)

[American Heart Association](#)

[Arkansas Family Dental](#)

[Arkansas Oral Health Coalition](#)

ASU MidSouth

ASU Nurse Practitioner Program

[BBBS of NWA](#)

[Black River Area Development Corporation](#)

[CARTI](#)

[Centers for Youth and Families](#)

[Christ-Way Community Services](#)

[Clinton Foundation](#)

[Daughters of Charity Services](#)

[Economics Arkansas](#)

[Forrester-Davis Development Center](#)

[Great Rivers Educational Services Cooperative](#)

[Greater New Bible Way Church](#)

Mid-Delta Health Systems

U of A Cooperative Extension

UAFS

[Watkin Chapel M.B. Church](#)

[Winthrop Rockefeller Institute](#)

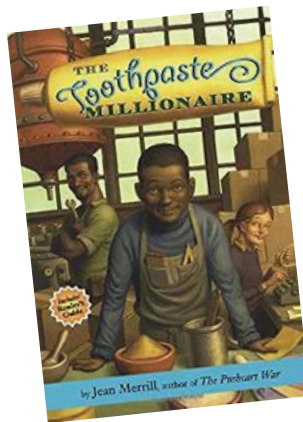
[Women & Children First: The Center Against Family Violence](#)

Economics Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK

In 2019, the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation renewed its previous year's support for the statewide Arkansas Reads One Book initiative. Economics Arkansas was a lead partner in this initiative by preparing and distributing teacher guides, family reading guides and extension activities for parents and students. These resources explored oral hygiene as well as personal/family finance, economic principles and entrepreneurship principles.

Arkansas Reads One Book activities were designed to learn the importance of taking good care of one's teeth, meanwhile studying key lessons about saving and budgeting, entrepreneurship, business management and ethics, and more.



The book selection for 2019 was “The Toothpaste Millionaire,” by Jean Merrill. Dismayed by the high cost of toothpaste, its 12-year-old protagonist creates a much less expensive product, expands the market, issues company stocks, creates jobs, resurrects an abandoned factory and earns his first million.

“In just a few short years, Arkansas Reads One Book has become one of our largest student-focused programs. We are so thankful to the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation for its support in this effort.”

Kathleen Lawson, Executive Director of Economics Arkansas

“Some schools created their own toothpaste while others held school assemblies that included things like demonstrations on how to brush. It was really great to see reading, economic concepts, and oral health brought together in such an innovative way.” said Kathleen Lawson, executive director of Economics Arkansas.

Students perform a play enacting the events from the Arkansas Reads on Book initiative



Lesly Ramos
former Wakefield
student

In 2019, the clinic received
a Community Grant and
achieved outstanding results.

1,954
children were treated
in the dental clinic

1,672
dental screenings

580
sealants placed

366
caries treated

How the Dental Clinic at Wakefield Elementary — and a former patient — are caring for students

The [dental clinic at Wakefield Elementary in Little Rock](#) sponsored by Children International is the product of collaboration among community leaders and Delta Dental of Arkansas.

The effort began as portable dental screenings provided to six Little Rock schools through Children International and the Arkansas Department of Health, in partnership with Delta Dental.

After achieving great results from the screening program, a Dental Health Action Team was formed to implement a new dental clinic inside of Wakefield Elementary School that was set to reopen by the 2004-05 school year after a fire.

One of the first obstacles was finding a dentist to work in the clinic. At first, a volunteer dentist would come to the clinic with a group of hygiene students while the search continued for a permanent dentist. During this time, Arkansas Children's Hospital offered to employ and credential a dentist for the clinic. In May of 2005, the clinic had its first full-time dentist, Dr. Shawn McMoran. In total, the clinic has had eight dentists join in serving the children of Wakefield elementary and partnering schools.

Now in her third year with Wakefield, Dr. Cimone Heisel oversees the clinic. Prior to joining the clinic, she worked for Arkansas Children's Hospital for 10 years where outreach had been a large part of her work.

Results weren't the only thing that excited the Wakefield staff during 2019. To the delight of the staff, one of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) students volunteering in the clinic during the school year was Lesly Ramos, a former Wakefield student whose first dental experience happened in that very clinic some 15 years ago.



“I will never forget that experience because of the sensation I had after getting my teeth cleaned,” said Lesly. “My teeth never felt so clean. Even to this day, I can still vividly remember the experience.”

Lesly went on to make her first dental appointment at 12 years old. As her mom spoke limited English, she called and scheduled her appointment herself. “I became the oral health champion for my family,” said Lesly. “I would go to visits with my parents and explain procedures and translate what the dental staff shared with my family.”

These experiences inspired Lesly to pursue a career in the dental field. In her second semester at UAMS, Lesly was told she and her classmates would be practicing under dental supervision at the VA, Wakefield Clinic, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, and the 12th Street Clinic. Lesly was excited to return to Wakefield, and was delighted to find out that the staff remembered her from being a student.



Dental Clinic at Wakefield Elementary

“The staff is truly committed to treating kids and even more so educating them on how to take care of their teeth. I will always be grateful for my experience at the Wakefield clinic as it changed my life in so many ways.”

Lesly Ramos
former Wakefield student

\$1,057,250

FUNDS AWARDED

2019 RECIPIENTS

- [12th Street Clinic \(UAMS\)](#)
- [Arkansas Children’s Foundation](#)
- [Arkansas Farm Bureau Foundation](#)
- [Arkansas Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association](#)
- [Arkansas Minority Health Commission](#)
- [Arkansas Public Media](#)
- [Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund](#)
- [ArMOM](#)
- [Baptist Health](#)
- [Care Center Ministries](#)
- [CARTI](#)
- [Centers for Youth and Families](#)
- [Community Clinic Dental Clinic \(Ft. Smith\)](#)
- [Community Clinic FQHC \(Springdale and Rogers\)](#)
- [Derek Lewis Foundation](#)
- [Donald W Reynolds Cancer Support House](#)
- [Fayetteville Public Schools](#)
- [Good Samaritan Ft. Smith](#)
- [Harmony Health Clinic](#)
- [Healthy Active Arkansas](#)
- [Hope Cancer Resources](#)
- [Methodist Family Health Foundation](#)
- [Mid-America Science Museum](#)
- [Natural Teeth](#)
- [River City Ministries](#)
- [River Valley Christian Clinic \(Dardanelle\)](#)
- [Rotary Club of Harrison](#)
- [Rural Counties Health and Fitness](#)
- [Samaritan Community Center \(Rogers\)](#)
- [Special Olympics](#)
- [UALR. Children’s International \(Wakefield Clinic\)](#)
- [UAMS Hygiene Department](#)
- [Washington Regional Hospital](#)
- [Welcome Health](#)



Northeast Arkansas Career and Technical Center and Monticello School District



\$23,875
FUNDS AWARDED

2019 RECIPIENTS

- [American Heart Association NWA](#)
- [Great Rivers Educational Services Cooperative Arkadelphia](#)
- [Great Rivers Educational Services Cooperative Dequeen](#)
- [Great Rivers Educational Services Cooperative Mena](#)
- [Great Rivers Educational Services Cooperative Camden](#)
- [Marion School District](#)
- [Monticello School District](#)
- [Northeast Arkansas Career & Technical Center](#)
- [Panther Health & Wellness \(Siloam Springs School Based Health Center\)](#)

Throughout the state of Arkansas, schools are promoting Smile Power by educating students on the importance of choosing water over sugary drinks and the connection to oral health. Two Arkansas schools received a Super Smiles at School Mini Grant to install an Elkay Water-Filling Station at each of their schools. The following details how each school promoted oral health and promoted water consumption through student-led activities.



MONTICELLO SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Installed a Water Bottle Filling Station to officially launch their “Think About Your Drink” campaign.
- Students and faculty took a pledge to abstain from sugary drink consumption and choose water for 30 days.
- Students documented monthly usage of water bottle filling and the data was incorporated into health class curriculum to determine how many ounces of water was consumed each month.
- Added a water hydration policy to the Monticello High School student/staff handbook, which allows students to carry a clear, plastic water bottle while on campus.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

- Students created a short video on how water consumption affects teeth.
- They also created posters showing how sugary drinks can affect the mouth.
- The medical programs coordinated various dentists to come and visit students while explaining the steps to take in order to ensure proper oral health.
- Students purchased over 700 water bottles for each high school student.

2019 Super Smiles at School partners



Monticello student filling her water bottle at the new hydration station



Marion High School staff member prepares oral health kits for at-risk and homeless students served by the school's Patriots Promote Smiles project



A LETTER FROM

Tamika Edwards, Chairman of the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation

I am excited about the tremendous accomplishments achieved by the organizations highlighted in this report. I am also proud of the part that the Delta

Dental of Arkansas Foundation has played in supporting the work that positively impacts communities across our great state.

In addition to our longstanding oral health grant initiatives, we have invested nearly \$8 million in community water fluoridation projects over the last eight years. As our fluoridation projects come to a close, we look forward to a new phase of targeted investment. In 2019, the Foundation Board and staff along with internal and external stakeholders, took a deep look at the future direction of the Foundation. Through this focused work, the following set of strategic initiatives emerged:

- **Transforming Communities:** supporting communities with unique solutions to address the oral health struggles in their respective areas;
- **Connection to Overall Health:** promoting opportunities that focus on medical-dental integration; and
- **Data Analytics:** collecting data that reflect the correlation between oral health outcomes and the Foundation’s investments.

We are confident that these pillars will further advance our efforts to “improve the oral health of all Arkansans” in a transformational way. I look forward to sharing our successes, and appreciate your support as the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation makes improved oral health a reality for all Arkansans.

Tamika S. Edwards, JD
Chairperson
Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation



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To apply for funding or for more information on a specific program, visit deltadental.com/foundation or contact the Foundation at foundation@deltadental.com.