

A World of Good

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



*Sala Family Dentistry of Reno, Nevada, has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars of dental work to help local veterans receive the care they need. Pictured, left to right: Dental assistant Kayleen Lindsay, **Dr. Todd Sala**, a U.S. Army vet patient, **Dr. Josh Woolley** and **Dr. Jason Sala**. For more on Sala Family Dentistry's efforts, see page 62.*

Since 2013, the May issue of *Dentaltown* 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 typeface**.)

They keep admirable company: One of the dentists profiled in last year's edition, Dr. Usa

Bunnig, was named Humanitarian of the Year for 2017 by the ADA. To commemorate her win, we recap Bunnig's work with the Smiles on Wings organization she founded. And we also profile Dr. Bernard Fialkoff, a Townie who's spent years tirelessly building a program to combat the rise of opioid and other drug addiction through preventive education and community outreach.



Last December, **Dr. Jacob Tazik** performed pediatric dental care in a mobile clinic in Siem Reap, Cambodia (and also photographed some of his patients). Turn the page to read more about his trip.



Dr. Alain Auguste traveled to Arusha, Tanzania, last May to provide dental care to patients in need. "This trip taught me how to be more patient and the need to keep educating my patients about oral care," Auguste said. For more, see page 59.



Asia/Oceania

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Dr. Jacob Tazik of Watkins & Medura Family and Cosmetic Dental Center in Dallas, Pennsylvania, traveled with the Dental Humanitarian Outreach Program last December to perform pediatric dental care in a mobile clinic at Siem Reap. Tazik also took photos of some patients, including the ones below. The DHOP is supported by the Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC and travels around the world to provide dental care to children.



MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN, PHILIPPINES

Dr. Brainard Llanes of Modern Essence Dentistry in Roselle, Illinois, and his wife, Maryann, a registered dental hygienist, provided free dental services and supplies to patients at St. Francis of Assisi Church as part of a dental mission and outreach program in February. Ten dentists and their teams provided free care to more than 250 patients; services included oral exams, dental extractions, fluoride treatments and blood pressure monitoring, while products included oral hygiene kits, dentures, pain medications and antibiotics.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Dr. Christopher Murphy and hygienist Christy Nave of Eastern Shore Dental Care in Chester, Maryland, traveled 8,000 miles to provide dental care to villagers who've had little to no access to oral treatment during their lives. While on Uepi Island with the Morovo Medical Mission, Murphy and Nave set up a dental chair to treat patients right on the beach. They ended up extracting 61 teeth in their first two days alone—a common necessity for patients who've never even had a dental exam.

Africa

GHANA

Dr. Richard Baxter of Shelby Pediatric Dentistry in Birmingham, Alabama, was one of four American dentists who traveled with MPower Approach to northern Ghana in 2016 to train community health workers how to safely and effectively extract teeth. In an area that has 3 million people but only one dentist, these 16 workers now can administer aesthetic and perform safe extractions and follow-up care. Three years earlier, Baxter traveled to Myanmar to provide the same training to residents there.



SENEGAL

Dr. Gunther Heyder, founder of A Reason to Smile, extracts an infected, decaying tooth from a woman in a remote Senegalese village with the help of a volunteer assistant and translator. Each year, ARTS takes two 10-day trips to provide dental care, hygiene education, and supplies to places with no access to this vital part of overall health care. This year, the team plans to expand its efforts to continue working in Senegal and Uganda and will add a trip to Nicaragua as well.



ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Dr. Alain Auguste of Fairfield, Connecticut, was one of 12 Aspen Dental volunteers who traveled to Tanzania last May to provide dental care to more than 600 patients. "One of my patients was in severe pain and really wanted to get an extraction—but before doing so, she stopped me so she could pray," Auguste says. "The

procedure took only two minutes, and she was so happy and relieved that we were able to hug and laugh after it was over."

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Central and South America

CHACAYA, GUATEMALA

Dr. Allan W. Stevenson and office manager Vernena Jorgensen of Trailridge Family Dental in Parma, Idaho, finish sutures after extractions in a village near Chacaya. (Hygienist Shanell Wrigley administered anesthetic.) The team not only provided dental care to those in need but also brought items donated by supply companies, the Lions Club and residents of Parma and nearby towns. Those items included 76 newborn kits, 73 hats, 107 hygiene kits, 49 blankets, 84 pencils, 39 hair bows, three soccer balls, 245 handmade "puppy dog" crafts and three garden boxes.



GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA

After **Dr. Ross Sanford** retired from Central Point Family Dentistry in Oregon, he and his wife applied to serve as missionaries for the LDS Church. In 2015 they were assigned to a dental clinic in Guatemala City that serves orphaned children, a municipal school of would-be street kids, and current and future missionaries. The clinic provides services ranging from routine prophylaxis to horizontally impacted third molars, all at no cost. Dental software from XLDent helps the team with clinical records, X-rays and progress notes. "It's amazing how fulfilling dentistry can be when money is removed from the equation," Sanford said.



CHIMALTENANGO, GUATEMALA

Dr. Mary Gephardt of Eddyville, Kentucky, left, and **Dr. Mary Brown** of Greenville, Kentucky, provided dental care to pupils of Grace English School and its sister school as part of an initiative that also included 17 other people doing everything from performing eye exams to beginning construction on new homes. The first day the group was in town, the mayor came by to celebrate the new dental clinic and a donated filtered water system.

LA CARPIO, COSTA RICA

A patient at Project Abraham in Costa Rica shows **Dr. Jim Moreau** her smile. Moreau and his team from MoreSmiles Dental Spa in Covington, Louisiana, have worked with World Mission Partners since 2015 to provide urgently needed dental care for hundreds of people, from hygiene cleanings and exams to basic restorations and extractions.



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CHAGUARPAMBA, ECUADOR

Townies **Matt Draudt** and **Landon Lowell**, along with some fellow students from the School of Dental Medicine at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Florida, spent their 2016 Thanksgiving break in Ecuador, providing free dental care services to small towns high in the Andes Mountains, under the oversight of **Dr. Raymond Pate** of Catawba Valley Dental in Hickory, North Carolina.

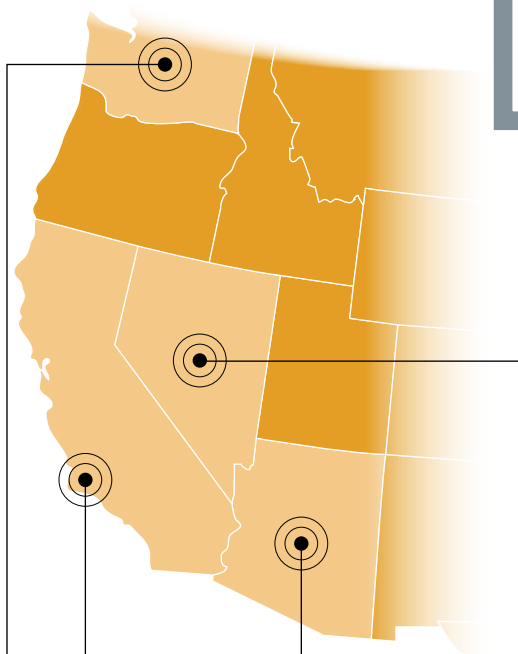


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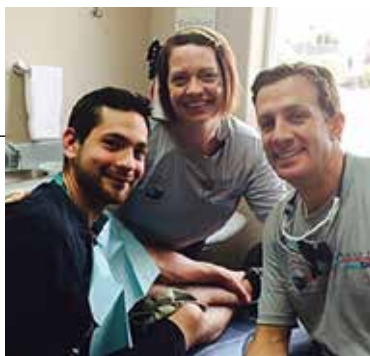
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United States/ North America



RENO, NEVADA

Through Smiles for Freedom, an organization founded by Sala Family Dentistry hygienist **Kandice Simpkins**, the practice has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars of dental work to help local veterans receive the care they need. This grateful patient posed for a photo with Simpkins and **Dr. Jason Sala**. By the end of 2016, Sala Family Dentistry had given \$1.15 million in charitable contributions for this and other efforts back to the community.



LOS ANGELES

Dr. Lane Ochi, left, works on a patient Jan. 20 at the Care Harbor Los Angeles free clinic. Care Harbor converts arenas and other large venues into working clinics that provide free medical and dental care to thousands of people over just a few days. Ochi was joined by Khe, his chairside assistant, and David, who's studying to be a dental assistant.



GLENDALE, ARIZONA

Twenty students and faculty from the Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine partnered with a team of Aspen Dental volunteers including Townie **Dr. David Sung** (pictured left), to provide free dental care to 20 veterans, during a Day of Service.



Midwestern Dean **Brad Smith** (pictured shaking hands with Sung), who's also a Townie, described the experience as "a win-win-win situation." It was the first time that academia has been involved in the Healthy Mouth Movement, a community giving initiative launched by Aspen Dental dentists in 2014 to provide access to quality dental care to those who need it most.

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

On their first-ever Thank a Vet Day, **Dr. Michael Breier** and the staff of Lifetime Dental Care provided \$22,000 worth of free dental care to 27 U.S. veterans. Breier's two sons helped for the day, and on the ride home one told his father: "Really, it's not like we're donating to them. It's like we're paying our bill, because of all they've done for us."



PHOENIX

This Vietnam veteran was all smiles after receiving pro bono implant treatment from instructor **Dr. Justin Moody**, left, and Affordable Dentures & Implants practice owners through the Brighter Way Institute on March 10. Affordable Dentures & Implants will partner with the institute at six clinic sessions in 2017 to deliver free dental implant, oral surgery and prosthetic treatments to hundreds of veterans and homeless people at the Central Arizona Shelter Services campus.





PLAINS, MONTANA

Drs. Andrew and Elizabeth Ordelheide and the rest of the team at MT West Dentist have volunteered to participate in Dentistry from the Heart events for the past three years, providing care to local residents in need. (Pictured: Andrew Ordelheide and dental assistant Lana working on a patient at the May 2016 event.)



CAMERON, MISSOURI

For its third annual Take a Bite Out of Hunger drive, **Dr. Paul McGraw** and the staff of CosMedic Dentistry made it a goal to collect 2,000 items for the local Green Hill

Women's Shelter. For each children's toy or food, toiletry or hygiene item donated last November and December, patients and community members received one "Dental Dollar" they could redeem in the practice or donate to other patients to use. The final tally of donations was more than 2,100. (Pictured left to right: administrative assistant Devynn Johnston, operations manager Lana Kirschman, marketing coordinator Pauline Ford and customer service representative Bridgett Branstietter.)

AMES, IOWA

For the past three years, **Dr. Jacob Overman** and the staff of Overman Family Dentistry have spent Veterans Day providing free care to vets whose dental needs weren't covered by VA benefits. (Pictured below: Overman and dental assistant Jenny Gano working on a veteran.) The practice also organizes an annual Candy Buy-Back Day, encouraging patients to bring in their Halloween candy, which is put into care packages sent to soldiers serving overseas.



CLEVELAND

Dr. Joseph Krajekian of Stow, Ohio, has volunteered several times on the Aspen Dental MouthMobile, a 42-foot dental office on wheels, most recently helping provide 22 veterans with more than \$12,460 in donated dentistry. "Nothing is more rewarding than connecting with another human being through service," says Krajekian. "I had this

moment with a veteran who was homeless. It's such a tragedy that our system has failed in providing adequate oral care. We have such an opportunity to give back."

TAYLOR, MICHIGAN

Over the past eight years, the Shwedel Dental team has provided more than \$250,000 worth of free dental treatment to adults in need as part of their Dentistry from the Heart program. The 2017 session is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 9. (Pictured at right: assistant Cheryl Mexico and **Dr. Caroline Okonkowsi** during the 2016 event.)





LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Dr. Brandon Stapleton and his team at iDENTity Dental Studio donate dental services in their office to those most in need, through the national nonprofit Dental Lifeline Network (DLN). Stapleton recently helped Wesley, a 67-year-old Army veteran (pictured here with the dentist), smile again by restoring his oral health pro bono through DLN's Donated Dental Services program. "I love volunteering and helping in the community, and I believe it's important for me to give back," said Stapleton.

RICHMOND, TEXAS

Dr. James Edmondson of Fossum Family Dental Care, assisted by registered hygienists Andrea Warfield and Melanie Martins of Fossum Dental Group, numbs a patient before treatment during the group's annual Community Dental Day on Feb. 18. At this year's event, the team of volunteers completed 19 cleanings, 14 fillings and 100 extractions on 105 local patients who needed dental care.



SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

The Pacific Dental Services Foundation helped **Dr. Jacob Dent** at Sugar Land Modern Dentistry convert his practice into one that specializes in caring for patients with developmental disabilities. This clinic provides special-needs patients with screenings, fluoride varnishes and night guards at no cost. The transformed facility, made possible through charitable grants, is the first of several that will have a specialized look and feel to engage these patients. Dent is also the clinical director for the Texas Special Olympics, and treatment for its athletes will be provided at this facility.

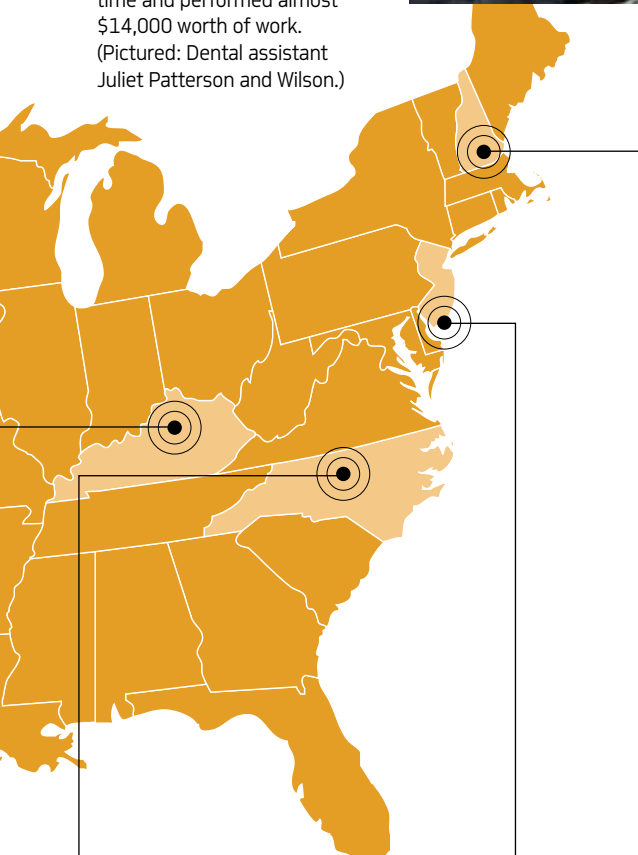


WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

March 18 was Because We Care day at Reynolda Smiles Family Dentistry, which paired staffers with pre-dental students who had volunteered to experience more about the service aspect of dentistry. By day's end, 73 patients had received free or reduced-cost treatment, and the Reynolda team passed any donations received to the local Samaritan Ministries organization. (Pictured above: dental assistant Kumar Sidoo and **Dr. Andrew Geer** performing a filling on a patient.)

MILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

On Saturday, March 11, **Drs. Drew Wilson** and **Joshua Osofsky** and the rest of the team at Family Dental Care of Milford opened the practice doors and performed more than \$20,000 worth of pro bono work on 18 U.S. veterans. An oral surgeon from New Hampshire Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery also volunteered his time and performed almost \$14,000 worth of work. (Pictured: Dental assistant Juliet Patterson and Wilson.)



CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, NEW JERSEY

Friday, March 31, marked the fifth annual Dentistry from the Heart event hosted by **Dr. Eric V. Thomas** and the staff of Sunshine Dentistry, which aimed to treat at least 100 patients in need. Last year the team, assisted by many community volunteers, provided more than \$15,000 worth of treatment to more than 80 patients.

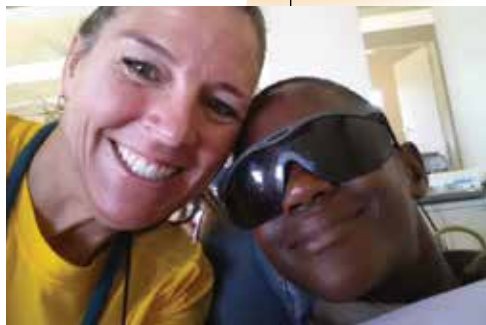
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WHITE HOUSE, JAMAICA

For more than five years, the team at Drew Beaty Family and Cosmetic Dentistry in Federal Way, Washington, has traveled to Jamaica on a dental mission trip organized by the Great Shape! organization. During each weeklong trip, doctors, hygienists, assistants and other staffers use donated dental supplies to provide dental care to thousands of Jamaicans. Recently, the organization added two weeks in neighboring St. Lucia. (Pictured: hygienist **Lorieann McDonough** with a patient in November 2016.)



CIEN FUEGOS, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In January 2017 the Productive Dentist Academy teamed with the Barnabas Task organization to provide dental care to families in Cien Fuegos. Over four days, 25 volunteers at two clinics saw 504 patients for cleanings, fillings and extractions. **Dr. Bruce Baird** of Granbury Dental Center in Texas performed extractions, and **Dr. David Diehl** and dental assistants Bekka Bickley and Liz Zimmerman of Dupont Family Dentistry in Fort Wayne, Indiana, placed fillings. Hygienists **Patti Sooy** of Cheney, Washington, and Julie Crismore from Fort Wayne provided preventive care, and Cynthia Baird kept instruments sterile. At one point the clinic lost power, so Baird moved his extraction patients outside for better light and kept working.



CITE SOLEIL, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Dr. Mithila Sharma of Danville, Illinois, was one of 11 Aspen Dental volunteers who traveled to Haiti last November to provide oral care to more than 600 people. Sharma says the experience gave her a new perspective: "We made a denture for a patient who had been missing most of her teeth for a very long time and was in a lot of pain. Seeing her smile after getting the dentures made all of us tear up. ... This experience reassured my belief in humanity and always trying to do good for others."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In March, while **Dr. Michael J. Landry** spent a week in the Dominican Republic providing free dentistry to many Haitian refugees who live in sugar cane work camps known as "Bateyes," he and his team members from Consultants in Dental Aesthetics in Houston performed everything from fluoride treatments to cosmetic work. This patient, whose teeth had been rotted by sugar cane, cried and hugged Landry after he saw the cosmetic work the dentist had performed.



PALMARITO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The first year that **Dr. Carl Ern** and his team members from Putnam Dental Associates in Brewster, New York, traveled to Palmarito to perform volunteer dental work, they could do only extractions and used church pews as dental chairs and cement blocks as stools. (Pictured above, from left to right: Ern, a patient whose upper central incisor had to be extracted, the patient's father, assistant Jennifer Nieves, a local interpreter and hygienist Toni Viau.) By their most recent trip Ern's team had raised enough money to buy a portable dental unit, and was able



to perform about half fillings, half extractions. They still needed to seat patients in pool lounge chairs and use school chairs as stools. Their next goal: a portable X-ray machine. (Pictured, left to right: Joanne Colombo, Nieves and Ern.)

[Editor's note: For this and other work, Ern was awarded the 2017 Dr. Richard G. Spolzine Access to Care Humanitarian Award by the Ninth District Dental Association.]