

Smiles make a difference

2021 Community Impact Report in Connecticut

Supporting those who need it most

More than **\$310,000** granted to CT programs supporting families, children, students, seniors, veterans, and those with developmental disabilities ¹



Making dental care accessible

14,780+ people in CT received free dental care and oral health education ²

For seniors

Funding for Senior Smiles provided free dental services to **80** senior citizens in Bridgeport ³

For children

\$50,000 to expand dental homes for Head Start children in New Haven ⁴

For veterans

Up to **110** veterans who were ineligible for other financial support received no-cost dental care ⁵

"The support of the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation has greatly enhanced our efforts to meet the oral health needs of medically underserved populations of Greater Hartford," said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, President and Chief Executive Officer, Wheeler. "Leveraging the resources of the Foundation's SMILE grants, we've done widespread outreach and education and provided essential dental services to individuals of all ages, most notably, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

Connecticut Mission of Mercy, or CT MOM, operates free dental clinics throughout the state. Foundation grants enabled CT MOM to buy equipment to build a dental lab to provide prosthetics and dentures. *"It's been life-changing,"* says Dr. Laurence Levy, Co-Chair, CT MOM. *"It affects their speech, their relationships with people. When they get their teeth, they are crying tears of joy - literally."*

For the uninsured

Foundation funding enabled **1,700+** people to receive dental care that they could not otherwise afford ⁶

For those with disabilities

Provided adaptive equipment for treating up to **350** people with developmental and intellectual disabilities ⁷



Expanding oral health instruction

5,000+ students, families, educators & dentists benefited from educational programs ⁸

SMILE POWER™

Want to learn more? Turn over for details!

35 years
of
empowering
healthy smiles

Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation

1. The Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation has awarded more than \$21 million in grants since 1986 in New Jersey and Connecticut. We awarded SMILE grants to six major dental care programs in Connecticut in 2021:
 - Senior Smiles at the University of Bridgeport
 - Dental Lifeline Network throughout the state
 - Connecticut Mission of Mercy, throughout the state
 - Yale New Haven Hospital
 - Wheeler Clinic, Hartford
 - Hall Neighborhood House, Bridgeport
2. In addition to the SMILE grants, the Foundation also awards mini-grants. Soft Bones is using its mini-grant to educate patients and dentists about hypophosphatasia. HPP is a rare metabolic disease that affects the development of bones and teeth.
3. The University of Bridgeport's Senior Smiles program provides free basic dental care for seniors age 65 and older. Many senior citizens lack regular access to dental care. Programs like Senior Smiles ensure people can continue looking after their oral health in retirement.
4. Yale New Haven Hospital is making a dental home for 350 children in Head Start programs. All aspects of their oral health care will be delivered at the dental home. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry says that dental homes are critical for helping "children and their families institute a lifetime of good oral health." Foundation funding is providing portable dental supplies and equipment.
5. The University of Connecticut Foundation's Open Wide for Veterans Day program provided free dental care for veterans, kicking off their program in November 2021. Many veterans cannot afford regular dental care, which can impact both their oral and overall health. The Foundation supports programs like UCONN's, which help support those who served our country.
6. Foundation funding enabled more than 1,700 people in Connecticut to receive free dental care. Care was delivered through organizations such as the Hall Neighborhood House's newly established dental clinic in Bridgeport, the Dental Lifeline Network throughout the state, and the Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic. All provide care to underserved populations.
7. Treating those with developmental and intellectual disabilities often requires special training and equipment. A Foundation grant helped provide supportive dental equipment and supplies to Norwalk Hospital's Accessible Smiles program. Wheeler Clinic in Hartford is using its SMILE grant to train dental professionals on treating those with intellectual disabilities, including autism.
8. Catch My Breath - CT, one Foundation-supported program, is educating more than 5,000 students and 20 educators about the oral and overall health consequences of vaping.