

Dr. Rhys B. Jones
Dental Health Center

It shouldn't hurt to smile.

But many of the low income and special needs patients of the Dr. Rhys B. Jones Dental Health Center (DHC) are living with chronic mouth pain. Many have never been to a dentist.

Your gift can change the lives of children who have lived with pain for so long, they can't remember a time without it. Will you give them the chance to smile again?

DENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS LIVES

A child's dental health has a major influence on many areas of their life:

Interaction with peers and family. Learning. Physical and emotional development.



A child with untreated dental disease will often have difficulty eating, sleeping and paying attention in class. Untreated tooth decay



Courtesy of United Way of East Central Iowa

can also result in dysfunction, reduced weight, poor nutrition and poor appearance problems that can greatly reduce a child's ability to succeed in life.

THE GIFT OF PAIN-FREE LIVING

The DHC provides comprehensive dental services with a focus on education and prevention.

The late Dr. Rhys B. Jones, DDS, MS, was the driving force behind establishing the DHC in 1976. Following Dr. Jones' unexpected death in April 2012, the Dental Health Center clinic space was rededicated in his name. The Center provides dental services to infants, children and adolescents in need of financial assistance and to developmentally disabled children and adults. Since its opening 37 years ago it has served nearly 130,000 individuals.

In 2008, St. Luke's Foundation launched the Spark a Smile campaign to raise funds for DHC expansion, renovation and equip-



Dr. Ritu Bansal, DDS, MPH, has been the director of the DHC since August 2011. Under Dr. Bansal's leadership, the DHC continues to carry on Dr. Jones' vision of providing quality dental care to its at-risk population. The photo below shows the severity of dental disease in children seen at the clinic on a daily basis.



ment updates. The community responded to our appeal for help and because of philanthropic support, the Center was renovated in 2010. While the DHC was able to replace 17-year-old equipment and double its space to increase the number of patients it can serve, there is still much to be done. We rely on the generosity of our community to continue to serve the children and special needs adults in eastern Iowa.

The DHC offers children up to 18 years of age a

positive experience when going to the dentist. Patients are put at ease by dentists, dental assistants and dental hygienists with pediatric and special care experience. DHC dental hygienists visit local schools to provide public health dental screenings and dental sealants. Dental hygienists work to improve access to dental care for many eastern Iowa children.

A FUTURE TO SMILE ABOUT

The DHC served 4,428 patients in 2011 and 4,790 in 2012. Through its Prevention & Early Outreach Program, the DHC provided 10,788 dental screenings at area schools in 2011 and 12,145 in 2012. Children are screened for urgent dental needs and dental disease.

While we are making a difference in many young lives, there are still more patients we need to serve and more work to be done. According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, 46% of children who are covered by Medicaid go without any dental services at all. We rely on the generosity of our community to continue our mission.

*You mean so much
to a child in pain.*

Please complete the enclosed pledge card today or call St. Luke's Foundation at 319/369-7716.



UnityPoint Health
St. Luke's Foundation