

VINA NEWSLETTER – HOLIDAY MAILING 2019

VINA Community Dental Center



VINA in 2019

VINA Community Dental Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit that provides dental care to Livingston County residents with limited finances. 2019 blossomed into a successful year for us and our patients. VINA served nearly 1600 patients, secured limited grant funding for the Basic Dental, Prevention Incentive, and Emergency Dental Programs, and increased our volunteer dentist hours by 131%. When we faced a cash flow challenge last summer, our loyal donors stepped up and showered us with generosity so we wouldn't have to slow down or curtail our work. Every day we are flooded with gratitude and stories of how patients' lives have been changed by VINA and how fortunate they feel for having VINA in their lives. This special holiday edition of our quarterly newsletter will showcase just some of the lives **you** have touched this year with your generosity.

GREG

Seniors make up 50% of the patient population at VINA.

Greg came to the clinic in need of a partial denture for his missing front teeth. Before getting fitted for his denture, Greg was hesitant to share his smile and unable to eat properly.

Now that Greg has been fitted for his partial, he will be able to maintain better eating habits, but he will also be able to smile without feeling self-conscious about his missing teeth.

Greg was all smiles as he left the office, thanking everyone who helped restore his smile.

Greg before and after being fitted for his partial denture



“Due to divorce, I no longer had insurance and a decreased income. VINA helped me take care of my oral health when it seemed impossible for me.” -Anna

“The staff are all very nice, and the dental hygienists are gentle and understanding. I never experience discomfort during an appointment!” -Sharee

“I have low-income and it is difficult for me to keep proper oral care. VINA has been a blessing as I now have access to regular dental care. Thank you.” -Rand

“VINA has helped me be able to keep my teeth healthy and looking nice! Thank you!” -Anon

Laura after being fitted for her dentures



LAURA

“I had many decayed and fractured teeth due to lack of dental care that I could not afford. My teeth were quite painful and I often had to dig out the decay and broken parts of my teeth. I became aware of VINA and they got me in as soon as possible. I had to get almost all my teeth pulled but it actually felt better. Now, I got dentures and am looking forward to being able to smile again thanks to VINA!”





BENNIE

Bennie before and after being fitted for his partial denture



Bennie is a senior patient who was unable to afford the cost of a partial denture. VINA has a list of patients waiting to make an appointment for a protheses fitting since they cannot afford it. Bennie was on this list. He was able to afford the necessary partial denture due to an incredible donor who heard his story and responded.

Even though we offer prosthodontics at a fraction of the price, they are still expensive and many of our seniors cannot afford the cost.

We were unsuccessful in our attempts to secure grant funding for a Senior Prosthodontic Program. We are hoping that by using the testimony of patients like Laura, Bennie, and Greg we will be able to secure funding in 2020 through grants and specified individual giving. Otherwise, patients like these who wouldn't have been able to afford the cost of protheses will languish in discomfort without assistance.

“VINA helped me get the dental work I need without incurring large amount of debt because I am young and cannot afford the care I need without dental insurance coverage.” -*Jacob*

“VINA has helped us keep our teeth healthy and enabled me to get a much-needed root canal and crown. Since I have diabetes, it's very important that I get regular dental care, which I probably would have put off if not for VINA's services.” -*Laila*

“Without VINA our dental needs would not be addressed. We have other medical needs, such as cancer treatment and joint replacement, that drain our finances. Thanks to the affordable dental care and services at VINA, we can now fit dental care into our budget.” -*Keith*

“Being in this program has helped me receive dental care I was not able to afford before. I always tell my friends and family how thankful I am to be here and recommend VINA to others when I can.” -*Breanna*

“I have had many dental issues involving cavities and extractions. I thought I would never be able to get my mouth fixed with no dental insurance and very little income. VINA has changed everything and given me hope my smile can still be saved.” -*Ian*

“I appreciate the dental care that I received at VINA. My income changed to low paying jobs, and medical and dental care were too expensive for me. I am very thankful for the care I have received and grateful to those who make it possible.” -*Rebecca*

“If it wasn't for VINA, I would not be able to have my teeth cleaned and have work done because I do not have dental insurance. I've been coming since VINA opened their doors.” -*Kim*

We wanted to give you this card as a symbol of our appreciation for all that you do. Your kindness has helped our lives greatly and we are so grateful. We are truly thankful that you do dentistry services for folks with low income and no insurance. Without you and VINA Dental we would've had nowhere to go. You have treated us with the up-most respect, and so has your staff. Without VINA, Bill would still have severe tooth pain and it eventually would've cost him his job he just got, so we are so happy that your facility helps those without much money and insurance. -*Bill & Merisa, card to Dr. Bonine*

