

# VINA Newsletter

## Winter 2024

NOVEMBER 2024

### Table of Contents

VINA Updates .....Page 1

VINA by the Numbers..... Page 1

Patient Testimonial .....Page 2

2024 at VINA ..... Page 2

## VINA UPDATES



2024 VINA Tailgate  
Fundraising Event



### THE VINA TAILGATE

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who supported us at the annual VINA Tailgate! This fun-filled event was a tremendous success, and it wouldn't have been possible without your generous contributions. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of those in need!

### Additions to Board of Directors

We're excited to announce additions and changes to VINA's leadership team! **Dr. Erika Johnson** joins the board, bringing her passion and expertise to our mission. Additionally, **Dr. Anne Bibik** has been appointed Vice President of the board. We're thrilled to have their leadership as we continue to grow and serve our community.

### New Team Member

Please join us in welcoming **Soo Karber** as our new Community Outreach & Development Coordinator. Soo's experience and dedication will help us expand our impact in the community and strengthen our connections with patients and supporters.



### Senior Smiles Program

VINA is honored to be selected as a beneficiary of the **Livingston Sunrise Rotary Club's 2025 Midnight in the Tropics** fundraiser. The funds will support a special program aimed at improving outreach and dental care for seniors, a growing segment of our patient population. We are grateful for the Club's support in helping us better serve our community!



"Without having dental insurance, my options were slim for getting dental help. **It is possible for me to smile again.** I appreciate everything they have done and for doing it for me" -VINA Patient

## BY THE NUMBERS

**460**  
Volunteer  
Hours



**441**  
Preventative  
Care  
Appointments



**402**  
Veteran  
Appointments



**910**  
Total  
Appointments



**72%**  
Seniors



January 2024 - October 2024



# PATIENT TESTIMONIAL

“*I am so grateful for VINA! I had gone many years without dental care and was in constant pain. I had a total of 15 teeth extracted and they made me a complete upper denture and a partial bottom. It has changed my life. I have more confidence, I can smile without fear of judgement and I can eat without pain. This would have been impossible without VINA. Thank you so much for all you do.*”  
-VINA Patient



## 2024 AT VINA

### COMMUNITY EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

#### VINA Tailgate

On October 24, we hosted the annual VINA Tailgate, bringing together our community for an evening of fun, food, and fundraising. Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported our mission—we couldn't do it without you!

#### Victors for Veterans Celebration

On November 8, we had a Victors for Veterans Celebration Lunch, where staff, board members, V4V students, volunteers, patients, and University of Michigan faculty came together to celebrate the program and express gratitude to our veterans and those who serve them.



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Bill Metz** brings warmth, expertise, and dedication to VINA. A retired Brighton dentist, he continues to make an impact in Livingston County, volunteering weekly for exams and screenings with dental hygiene students, seeing veterans through our Victors for Veterans program, and filling in whenever needed.

As a Brighton Rotarian and Executive Director of the Livingston District Dental Society, Dr. Metz's commitment extends across the community. Known for his kindness, flexibility, and reliability, Dr. Metz's compassion shines through in every interaction with VINA staff, students, and patients. Thank you, Dr. Metz, for all you do!



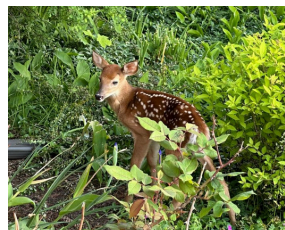
*Dr. Metz working with UMSD students during a Victors for Veterans clinic.*



*Dr. Metz & Sam at the MDA Foundation Sparkling Smiles dinner*

#### Memorable Moments on Social Media

This year brought some unexpected visitors to VINA! From curious deer to majestic sandhill cranes, wildlife sightings added a touch of nature's beauty to our surroundings. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for pictures of these memorable moments!



vinacommunitydental



vinadental



vina-community-dental-center

#### MDA Foundation Supports VINA

We were thrilled to welcome the Michigan Dental Association Foundation for a check presentation supporting VINA's Prevention Incentive Program! For five years, this program has improved access to preventive care, reducing emergencies and long-term costs. This generous grant helps us continue providing vital care—thank you, MDA Foundation!

