



## 2022 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



## ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA: ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES

The National Institutes of Health report, *Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges*, states that more than 40% of people who are in low-income groups have untreated cavities, compared with 9% among those in groups with higher income.

Access to dental health care continues to be one of the biggest challenges within the health care system, and a key driver of health care inequity. Many families regularly seek treatment for dental conditions in hospital emergency departments that are not equipped to provide comprehensive oral care.

**Dentistry is an essential health care service because of its role in evaluating and treating oral diseases, which can affect a person's overall health.**

PRASAD is pleased that we have been able to continue this essential service to children despite the myriad challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

Financial support for PRASAD's Children's Dental Health Program has become more crucial than ever, because of the increased cost of operating our dental clinic and the decreased funding from insurance reimbursements. And, while our aging mobile dental clinic is still going strong, it requires more repairs and will eventually need to be replaced.

Whatever the future may bring, we remain committed to giving children happy, healthy smiles. Thank you for your support!

### PRASAD CDHP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Swati Desai, President

Reiko Kaplan, Treasurer

Ronald Brent, Trustee



### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. M. Cecilia Escarra





---

## OUR MISSION

According to the Centers for Disease Control, tooth decay is among the most common childhood chronic health conditions.

PRASAD CDHP is committed to improving the dental health of children by providing affordable, comprehensive dental services through education, prevention, and treatment. Our focus is on children from low-income families who are less likely to receive dental care.

---

## COMPASSIONATE CARE HELPS TO OVERCOME FEAR: PETER'S STORY

When 11-year-old, Peter came to our clinic for his first dental visit. He was frightened and shy, and he barely spoke.

His second appointment was for sealants. Peter told the assistant that he was nervous, so she explained to him step-by-step just what they were going to do. After the treatment, he said, "It wasn't bad, it just tasted a little funny."

Peter's third appointment was for fillings. He was afraid of the procedure because it would require an injection. He also shared that he had a bad experience with another dentist when he was very young, and that was part of why he was so nervous.

The staff took the time to comfort and reassure him. After this appointment, Peter said that it wasn't bad at all, and that he was actually looking forward to his next appointment!

What started as a frightened child with a history of bad dental experiences became a courageous child with healthy teeth and pride in his smile.

---

## YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Low-income children lack access to the oral care they deserve. Thanks to generous donors, since 1998, PRASAD CDHP has provided 31,000 dental visits, more than 95,000 dental procedures, and dental health education as well as oral hygiene supplies to 90,000 children! We need your help to continue providing essential dental care to children in need. Thank you! Please donate today to brighten a child's smile.

---

## JOIN OUR EFFORTS!

### ABOUT PRASAD CDHP

PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program is an initiative of The PRASAD Project.

For more information, please visit our website:

[WWW.PRASADCDHP.ORG](http://WWW.PRASADCDHP.ORG)

### DONATE TODAY

[WWW.PRASADCDHP.ORG](http://WWW.PRASADCDHP.ORG)

845-434-0376

PO Box 576

Ferndale, NY 12734

[prasad@prasad.org](mailto:prasad@prasad.org)

©2022 PRASAD and PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program. All rights reserved.  
PRASAD and PRASAD CDHP are registered trademarks of The PRASAD Project.