

Community Engagement Annual Report 2026



SCHOOL OF
DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



Message from the Director of Community Engagement & Clinical Integration



For our team, care for underserved communities is at the forefront of everything we do. We cannot provide that care without first understanding the communities we serve. It is our role to meet people where they are and strive to understand their lived experiences. We do this so we can target our approach and tailor our services to improve access to oral health care for all Utahns.

We are building networks across our state with community organizations, other disciplines of healthcare, and local public health teams. Through these partnerships we are working toward a shared goal of advancing health.

I am pleased to share our inaugural Annual Report with you, highlighting the many achievements of our team this past fiscal year. We implemented screenings at six new schools in Granite School District, grew our integrated clinical footprint, and maintained the continued success of our Mobile Dental Clinic.

This work is guided by a clear sense of purpose that is aligned with the mission of the School of Dentistry to advance health through service, education and research.

—Heidi Longi, DMD, MPH
*Director of Community Engagement
& Clinical Integration*
University of Utah, School of Dentistry



The Team



Heidi longi, Director of Community Engagement & Clinical Integration

Dr. longi grew up in Star Valley, Wyoming and received her bachelor's degree from Utah State University. She completed her DMD and MPH from University of Nevada Las Vegas. She has worked in both private practice and public health settings. She joined the University of Utah School of Dentistry in 2023. Her work focuses on improving access to care, enhancing oral health literacy, and reducing barriers that contribute to oral health disparities.



Anna Maruleza, Community Outreach Manager

Anna is a first-generation Chicana from California with a master's degree in education and over 15 years of experience in public health and patient advocacy. Her work spans both grassroots organizations and large medical institutions, with a focus on sex education, cancer prevention, community-engaged clinical research, and dental community engagement. In her current role, Anna leads community engagement efforts for the School of Dentistry in the Salt Lake Valley, organizing dental education and screening opportunities for low-income and underserved communities. She also supports a Mobile Dental Clinic that operates week-long pop-up clinics each year, providing free dental care to qualifying patients in rural Utah.



Dr. Stephanie McLaughlin, Lead Outreach Clinician

Dr. McLaughlin was recently appointed to the position of Lead Outreach Clinician at the University of Utah School of Dentistry. She provides comprehensive dental care to a diverse patient population, including underserved communities in rural Utah and incarcerated youth. Much of her work takes place in community-based settings where access to oral healthcare is limited. Through the mobile outreach clinics, she works closely with dental students, helping them develop clinical judgment and confidence while providing high-quality patient care.



Jeni McGregor, Integrated Care Clinic Supervisor

Jeni has spent 23 years in dentistry and the past two years at the School of Dentistry formerly supporting the Ogden Clinic. She is deeply committed to making a difference, especially for underserved and vulnerable populations. She finds fulfillment in delivering care with compassion, empathy, and purpose. She currently supports operations at three integrated clinics (West High School Clinic, HMHI Neurobehavior HOME, and HMHI Crisis Care Center). Additionally, she supports integrated care partnerships with the College of Nursing delivering dental care to incarcerated youth across seven facilities.



Valentine Mukundente, Community Health Worker / Patient Navigator

Valentine Mukundente was born and raised in Rwanda, and she moved to Utah in 2000. She is a mother of 2 children, and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration. As a member of the refugee community, Valentine collaborates with various organizations that represent underserved communities, giving her valuable insight into their unique needs and challenges. This experience enables her to better serve patients in her role as a Community Health Worker with the School of Dentistry. She supports community events and connects dental patients with resources and services that promote their overall health and well-being.



Lisa Pueblo, Lead Dental Assistant for Integrated Clinics

Lisa supports our dentists and dental students at three integrated sites (West High School Clinic, HMHI Neurobehavior HOME, and HMHI Crisis Care Center). Lisa is a crucial part of effective operations at these clinical sites with over 25 years as a chair side dental assistant. However, it's her deameaner and patient centered approach that makes her an incredible asset for integrated care as she deepens partnerships everywhere she works.



Jose Sandoval, Dental Assistant for Outreach

Jose recently joined the Community Engagement team supporting our integrated care for incarcerated youth. Jose also supports the Rose Park Dental Student Clinic. He is an experienced dental assistant who brings compassion and professionalism to all his interactions.

The Mission

Service: we care for the underserved

All community engagement activities are evaluated by the following criteria:

1. Will this activity advance the health of an underserved population?

- a. **83% of the community engagement** events where we provided screenings were in an area classified as “Very High” on the Utah Health Improvement Index. Higher scores in this system mean that more improvements are needed in this area to advance health equity and lower health disparities.
- b. All **9 sites** visited by the Mobile Dental Clinic are designated as having a shortage of dentists and have health professional shortage area (HPSA) scores. HPSA scores for mobile sites range from 11 – 18 (the highest score an area could receive as a dentist shortage area is 26).

2. Does this project provide unique educational value to our students?

- a. Community engagement activities give students unique experiences interacting with vulnerable communities including pediatric populations and populations with special needs.

3. Will this opportunity support a current School of Dentistry goal or initiative?

- a. To care for underserved communities, we must spend time getting to know the individuals who make up these communities. Improving access to dental care is not simply solving a laundry list of economic, transportation, and language barriers; it is also building trust with communities who have often been excluded from dental care for generations.
 - i. To support our partnership with Granite School District, in addition to our presentations and screenings in the schools, we attended 7 community events to engage with this community and support trust building with our South Main Dental Clinic.
 - ii. We attended 6 events in support of the West Valley project to engage with West side communities.

Project Highlight

A dental student led the creation of a volunteer program at the Huntsman Mental Health Institute’s Neurobehavior HOME program. What started as students and faculty volunteering on Friday afternoons to provide dental screenings grew into a formalized rotation led by Dr. Enrique Varela where students have unique educational experiences providing comprehensive dental care to patients with developmental disabilities in a setting of integrated care.

Service Across Utah

29

Total Community
Events Attended

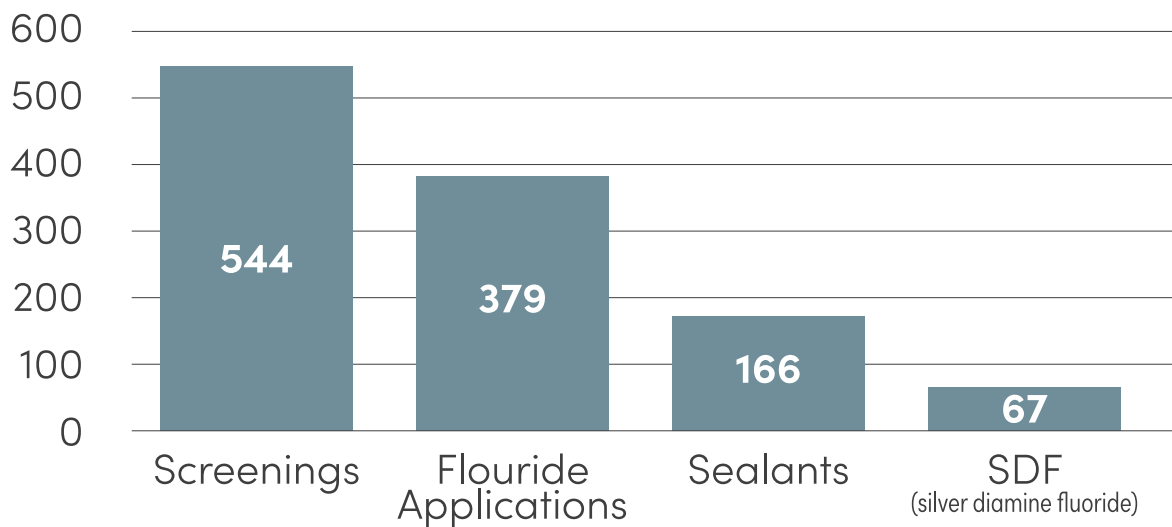
5,443

Hygiene Supplies
Donated

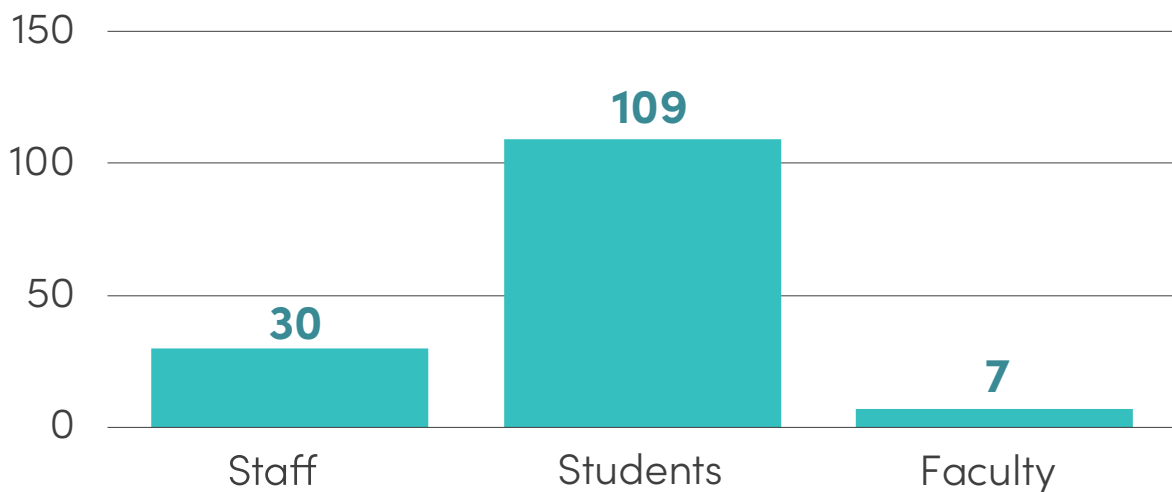
18,300

Flouride Varnish Units Distributed
in Partnership with Ultradent

Number of Services Provided at Community Events



University of Utah School of Dentistry Volunteers



The Outcome



Granite School District Screening Program

This program funded by the Mark and Kathy The Mark and Kathie Miller Foundation began for the 2025- 2026 school year. The program serves the following schools identified through the Promise Community Schools partnership as schools with high social needs:

- Lincoln Elementary
- Moss Elementary
- Granite Park Elementary
- Olene Walker Elementary
- Woodrow Wilson Elementary
- Cottonwood High School

We deliver an oral health presentation in the classroom followed by an oral health screening and fluoride varnish application. All students screened through the program without dental insurance have access to follow-up care at our clinics at no cost through this targeted donation to our Oral Health Assistance Program.

530

Dental screenings
completed

61

Students with
urgent dental needs

56

Students cared for
at UUSOD clinic

Give Kids a Smile

University of Utah School of Dentistry hosted another successful event in partnership with the Utah Dental Association and Henry Schein. We were able to reach **224 children** through our community partners Wasatch Service Mission, Midvale Community Building Community, and Maliheh Free Clinic.

Diagnostic	478
Cleanings	74
Fluoride Varnish	22
Silver Diamine Fluoride	9
Sealants	66
Direct Restorative	265
Pulpotomy or Pulp Cap	7
Stainless Steel Crown	8
Root Canal	10
Extraction	73
Vouchers	12
Other	13
Total Procedures	1037

These services resulted in over **\$147,709** of dental care.

We had over 350 volunteers including 43 staff members, 73 students, 76 incoming students, 156 community members, 9 faculty, 28 community dentists, and students and faculty from the Utah Valley University Hygiene Program. We also had 8 community partners provide resources to families during the event at our health fair.



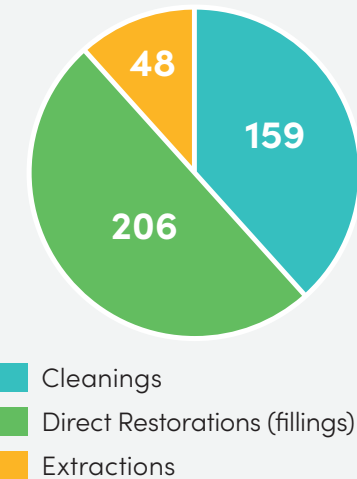
Mobile Dental Clinic

We visited the following communities:

Richfield, Moab, Nephi, Blanding, Manti, Delta, Kanab, Vernal, Logan

All services are provided at no cost to uninsured individuals who are income qualifying (200% or below of federal poverty limit). Patients are identified and vetted by our local community partners. This program is funded through the Utah Department of Health and Human Services Primary Care Grant.

Number of Dental Services through Mobile Dental



494
Total Encounters

12
Dental Student Externs

The Outcome

There are many patient stories that have stayed with me, but the common theme is the overwhelming gratitude expressed by those we serve. For many of our patients, access to dental care is not something they can take for granted, but rather a rare opportunity. I have had the privilege of caring for entire families whose only dental visits occur at the yearly Mobile Dental Clinic, as well as patients who have endured chronic dental pain because treatment was otherwise out of reach. Seeing the relief on a parent's face when they realize their child can receive the needed dental care without the burden of financial hardship is incredibly rewarding. Likewise, helping a patient find immediate relief by removing a painful tooth or preserving a tooth with extensive decay serves as a powerful reminder of why I continue to choose dentistry. These moments reinforce the profound impact that accessible, compassionate dental care can have on the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

—Dr. Stephanie McLaughlin,
Lead Outreach Clinician



"This was the best experience my son has had with a dentist, and he was excited to come back to see them each time."

—Patient

"The Clinic and the entire staff were AMAZING and very understanding and easy to work with both days and did a good job!"

—Patient

FISCAL YEAR 2027 MOBILE TRIPS		Student Externship Sign-Up for Mobile	Dental Assistant Sign-Up for Mobile
August 24-28, 2026	Moab UT		
September 21-25, 2026	Kanab UT		
October 19-23, 2026	Logan UT		
November 16-20, 2026	Delta UT		
January 11-15, 2027	Moab UT		
March 8-12, 2027	Kanab UT		
April 5-9, 2027	Manti UT		
May 3-7, 2027	Vernal/Roosevelt UT		

Upcoming Community Events:

- Healthy Start West Valley**
 8/15/26 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
 Centennial Park
 5405 W 3100 S West Valley City, UT
- Junior League Dental Care Fair**
 9/19/26 Time: TBD (morning and afternoon shifts available)
 526 E 300 S Salt Lake City, UT 84102
- Hispanic Heritage & Health Fair**
 9/26/26 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 Promontory Hall, Utah State Fairgrounds
- Ehsan Project Health Fair**
 10/17/26 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Kahdeja Mosque
- Larry H. Miller Company Season of Service**
 11/23/26 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
 Salt Palace Convention Center

Did you know students can plan their own community outreach events?

This includes school presentations, hygiene bag distributions, and even screening events. To learn more and submit your event to receive support from the community engagement team, scan the QR code.





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