

DDS DENTAL NEWS

DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS FROM FONES VISIT VARCA



One of the main goals of DDS dental coordinator is to educate future dental providers on delivering dental care to people with intellectual disabilities. This opportunity arose when five dental hygiene students from Fones Dental Hygiene School and their instructor, Joanna Trigilidas, visited VARCA on a rainy day. VARCA, which stands for The Valley Association for Retarded Children and Adults, is a “private non-profit organization which provides handicapped individuals the opportunity to

experience meaningful employment”.

About 30 interested individuals who work in VARCA received an oral exam, oral hygiene instructions, a toothbrush and toothpaste. Individuals who did not have a dentist of record were strongly encouraged to see a dentist and were provided with a referral. VARCA’s nurse, Denise Bucci, and staff were very supportive of this project and helped the hygiene students coordinate this event.

All of the dental hygiene students were very impressed with the facility and enjoyed meeting the consumers and getting a grand tour of the facility. It was a wonderful experience for all.

Special Smiles Program- Grotto Humanitarian Foundations – A Best Kept Secret

I recently had a pleasure of meeting Mr. David Cole, who is a volunteer dental coordinator for an organization called the Grotto Humanitarian Foundation. This organization believes that children with special needs should live life as fully and independently as possible. They are passionately committed to helping alleviate the suffering and improving children’s quality of life by providing dental care for those children who otherwise might go without. Their motto is, “One Smile at a Time”. The program is geared towards children who have been diagnosed with MR, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy or Organ Transplant who are under the age of 18. This program is appropriately called “The Special Smiles Program”.

The Grottoes of North America Humanitarian Foundation are an ancillary body of the Masonic Fraternity that was established around 1890 as a social club. Similarly to other Masonic organizations such as the Shriners , it has adopted a charitable focus.

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~ Grotto Humanitarian Foundations continued ~



The Special Smiles Program (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit) is intended as a second carrier to private insurance, and acts as the primary carrier if insurance is not available. This service is intended to help families with the expenses that are not covered by the insurance company, but are needed to maintain good oral health including hospital and anesthesia costs when needed. One of such services may be restorations, crowns or general anesthesia. Once the child is qualified for supplemental coverage from Grotto, it is for the duration of their childhood! What a gift!

The Connecticut coordinator, David Cole, is very committed to this program. He will personally drive to the family's home, interview the family and help them submit the documentation to be approved by Grotto. For additional information about the Grotto Humanitarian Foundation please visit their web site: www.hfgrotto.org or you can e-mail Mr. Cole directly at davec719@gmail.com



New and Familiar Faces in the Dental World



The dental clinics in Ella Grasso and Norwich had staff changes in the last several months. I would like to introduce two very special people who will continue serving and providing quality dental care to DDS consumers.

One of the faces may be familiar to many of you. Her name is Sherry Fucci and she has been working in Ella Grasso on Fridays and Saturdays for the last four years. Sherry's predecessor, Barbara Ritter, has joined a private practice and Sherry is stepping into Barbara's shoes. Sherry brings dedication, experience, enthusiasm and commitment to DDS clients. She has been a dental hygienist for almost 25 years and has been in the same family dentistry practice for 28 years. Sherry is a proud mom of a teenage daughter and son and three fresh Yorkshire Terriers. When Sherry joined DDS four years ago she did not know that she would find a second phase of her career that she loves and is "truly inspired by each day". Her hours are Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and she can be reached at (203) 455-3184.

Another dedicated dental hygienist, Pam J. Young, joins Dr. McLennon in the Norwich dental clinic. Pam has been a dental hygienist for about 25 years. She has extensive experience in providing preventative dental care to children and adults with special health care needs and is thrilled to be joining the DDS team. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious. On a personal note, Pam has been married for 20 years and has two beautiful children, who make her very proud. In her spare time she volunteers in her children's school, helps with the Girl Scouts and periodically enjoys a day on the beach. Pam can be reached at (860) 859-5566



Dr. Dan McLennon and Pam J. Young

Next time you are visiting the Ella Grasso Campus please stop by and welcome Sherry to her new full time role. If you find yourself in the Norwich office, please take a minute, go up to the dental clinic and introduce yourself to Pam.