



ARCORA Foundation

Bending the Arc of Oral Health Toward Equity

2023 Community Report

Our Mission

At Arcora Foundation, our mission is in our name:
to bend the arc of oral health toward equity.

Our Vision

We share our vision with our funder, Delta
Dental of Washington: all people can enjoy good
oral and overall health with no one left behind.



Find more Arcora
highlights and
stories in our digital
community report.

ArcoraFoundation.org





A Message From the CEO

One oar cannot propel a rowboat. One person's ability to make change can be limited. At Arcora Foundation, we know the power of partnerships to accomplish big things together. Partnerships are central to Arcora's mission to bend the arc of oral health toward equity. You help move our work forward and share in celebrating our successes.

You are part of a network of partners who help drive equity in our oral health work. That network includes dental and medical professionals, policymakers, grantees, state and national groups, local and state associations, non-profit organizations, and communities.



Open house for Community Health Center of Snohomish County's dental clinic. A \$250,000 grant from Arcora funded renovations there to expand dental access.



Young women learn about careers in dentistry through hands-on training. Arcora supports Delta Dental of Washington's efforts to build the dental workforce of the future.

Within our communities, we strive to show up as authentic partners. We are taking time to learn who you are, your strengths and resources, and your aspirations and visions for better oral and overall health. In 2022, we used community learning grants to build and deepen partnerships with 5 organizations across Washington state. Thank you for what you shared, which will inform how we show up in communities. We look forward to more learning opportunities with you in 2023.

While we continue to nurture these and other partnerships, we understand it takes time—years, decades, generations—before we realize the outcomes we are working toward. We move forward—one oar stroke at a time—driven by our commitment to equity in oral health.

For now, we celebrate another year of partnerships to advance oral and overall health with no one left behind. This year's report again reflects what we continue to accomplish together.

-Vanetta Abdellatif
President and CEO, Arcora Foundation

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Community celebration for Odessa Brown Children's Clinic's new South Seattle location. Arcora and Delta Dental of Washington contributed \$5 million toward the dental clinic there, which serves young people no matter their ability to pay.

Partners celebrate Spokane's community water fluoridation efforts

Local advocates and city leaders involved with Spokane's fluoridation efforts marked a milestone last year. They—along with Arcora Foundation staff—met in person to celebrate accomplishments so far. Some in the group of more than 30 people had never met; others hadn't seen one another in person for years. Heather Wallace—Smile Spokane Local Impact Network manager—coordinated the event.

In September of 2020, Spokane's City Council voted to move forward with the process to fluoridate during the height of the pandemic. In the summer of 2023, city leaders will receive a feasibility study and make a decision about how to proceed. Community water fluoridation is the most cost-effective and equitable way to prevent cavities in people of all ages.

“ Our first in-person meeting in 2022 since the start of the pandemic was such a joy for members to reconnect. You could feel the energy and passion for community water fluoridation. We celebrated our accomplishments and were re-energized around strategies for the coming year.”

HEATHER WALLACE, NETWORK MANAGER, SMILE SPOKANE / SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER, BETTER HEALTH TOGETHER

367,000

Working with our partners, Arcora Foundation has ensured an additional 367,000 people in Washington state received the health benefits of fluoridated water from 2001 through 2022.



2022 Statewide community water fluoridation investments from the state legislature:

- **\$532,000 for the Office of Drinking Water within the State Department of Health**—establishes a program to support local water systems and provide outreach on community water fluoridation.
- **\$166,000 for the State Department of Health to conduct a statewide oral health equity assessment**—recommends how to address inequities through community water fluoridation and other measures. Their report is due to legislators by June 30, 2023.

Learn more about community water fluoridation in Washington state at WashingtonWaterFluoridation.org.



Reallocating power through grants and sponsorships

Arcora Foundation's health equity framework includes the reallocation of power and resources to community-led efforts to prevent oral disease and improve access to care. In addition to more than \$1 million in grants, Arcora provided \$424,929 in sponsorship funding to elevate and advance community-led efforts to improve oral health.



Capital Clinic Access Grants

provided \$500,000 in funding to two safety net dental programs to serve more people, particularly Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities with oral health disparities. The recipients—Community Health Center of Snohomish County and Community Health Care in Pierce County—used Arcora funding to expand dental operatories in their integrated care clinics. Combined, the capital grants will support an estimated 33,100 dental visits a year.



Project Grants

provided \$520,025 in funding to help 18 organizations increase access to dental care, improve social determinants of health, and/or promote healthy behaviors, particularly within BIPOC populations. One recipient, Tubman Center for Health and Freedom, will use this funding to launch Tubman Guides, an oral health community health worker program for Black community members in Central and South Seattle.

**\$1.4
million**

\$1.4 million in grant and sponsorship funding to improve dental access and oral health equity through locally led initiatives.

Interested in funding opportunities to support your work to advance oral health? Learn more at ArcoraFoundation.org/Grants.

“ We truly appreciate Arcora’s critical seed money to create an innovative community health worker program that will support the needs of medically marginalized community members and also connect community health practitioners to good-paying jobs with opportunities for career progression.”

JULIE CHINITZ, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
TUBMAN CENTER FOR HEALTH AND FREEDOM

48,000



POWERED BY ARCORA FOUNDATION

More than 48,000 unique referrals provided by DentistLink to local, affordable dental care.

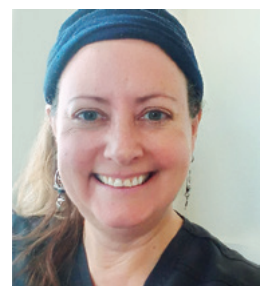
Providers work peer-to-peer for expanded access to dental care

Expanded access to dental care benefits everyone, especially people with challenges to accessing care. That's why Arcora Foundation's DentistLink program launched the Dental Access Improvement Team (DAIT). The DAIT is a group of Apple Health (Medicaid) providers. Their shared goal is to remove barriers to dental care for Apple Health-enrolled Washingtonians. DAIT members follow a peer-to-peer recruitment model to build relationships with other dental providers to improve processes and understand needs. We now have a team of 7 providers, which is made up of 4 dentists, 2 registered dental hygienists, and a dentist. Each will serve a one-year term and work to promote Apple Health acceptance among their colleagues, with a focus on adults.

Interested in joining the DAIT peer-to-peer recruitment team? Contact Carl George at CGeorge@ArcoraFoundation.org.

“ As a longtime Medicaid provider, I’m so pleased to be a part of an effort to increase both dental provider satisfaction and community access to care with Apple Health (Medicaid).”

LAVONNE HAMMELMAN, DDS, DAIT MEMBER





“ In We Smile, everyone teaches, and everyone learns. We are delivering high quality dental care that our communities want and need.”

ANNA DEGRAFFENRIED, COEUR D'ALENE TRIBAL
MEMBER AND DENTAL THERAPIST
COLVILLE-LAKE ROOSEVELT CLINIC

Native People lead the way in oral health innovations

Northwest Tribes and Native-led organizations continue to lead the way in innovative, community-led solutions to improve oral and overall health.

The Swinomish Tribe and Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board launched the dəxʷəyəbus-dental therapy training program and enrolled its first class of students. This program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Arcora Foundation is proud to support and celebrate our partnership with these Native-led organizations.

We're also proud to continue to partner with the Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center (NTDSC) to support Northwest Tribal and Urban Indian dental programs. We worked together with 7 tribes to implement We Smile: Minimally Invasive Dentistry (MID) style. This is an oral health quality improvement collaborative for American Indian/Alaska Native people that uses minimally invasive, maximally effective clinical practices—no shots, no drills—and other strategies.

13,950

13,950 patients accessed dental care at participating We Smile Indian Health Services Tribal Dental Clinics in fiscal year 2022—95% of the way to the clinics' pre-pandemic baseline.

Partnerships key to Local Impact Networks' success

The Sumner Community Food Bank's mission is to provide nutritious food with dignity to neighbors in need. The food bank recognized many customers' needs go beyond food. That's why the food bank partnered with the Local Impact Network (LIN) in Pierce County. This partnership helps expand access to dental care through on-site mobile clinics and DentistLink referrals and other social services, including for a growing number of Ukrainian and Russian clients.

Arcora Foundation's LINs unite communities, organizations, and other key stakeholders in collective problem solving to address local challenges to better health. LIN partners are inspired to create resources and influence systems that have lasting effects. Currently, LINs operate in Pierce and Spokane counties and the North Sound region.

“ It's a blessing to partner with regional service providers to bring non-food services to our immigrant and refugee clients. We understand that their journey has them on a path to wellness and to be able to address some of their other needs has been a fulfilling experience and has expanded our role in the community.”

ANTHONY APELES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SUMNER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Want to learn more about the LIN model?
Visit ArcoraFoundation.org/Local-Impact-Networks.



Members of the Pierce County LIN gather at the Sumner Food Bank for their monthly Free Dental Day clinic.

SmileMobile makes a difference one smile at a time

An 18-year-old student at Yelm High School hadn't seen a dentist in more than 10 years. Dental pain affected his quality of life, which included his studies. He didn't have dental insurance. Even if he did, he didn't have transportation to get to appointments. Christine Ronquillo, Yelm High School community outreach specialist, made sure this student got scheduled for an appointment when the SmileMobile rolled into town. "He had a wonderful and safe experience with the SmileMobile team and was given a referral for a local area clinic within walking distance from the school," Ronquillo said. The student followed the recommended treatment plan. By the time he graduated, all his dental needs had been properly addressed. This is just one of the many successful outcomes from partnerships with school districts, health departments, churches, local community organizations, and volunteer dental professionals across Washington state.

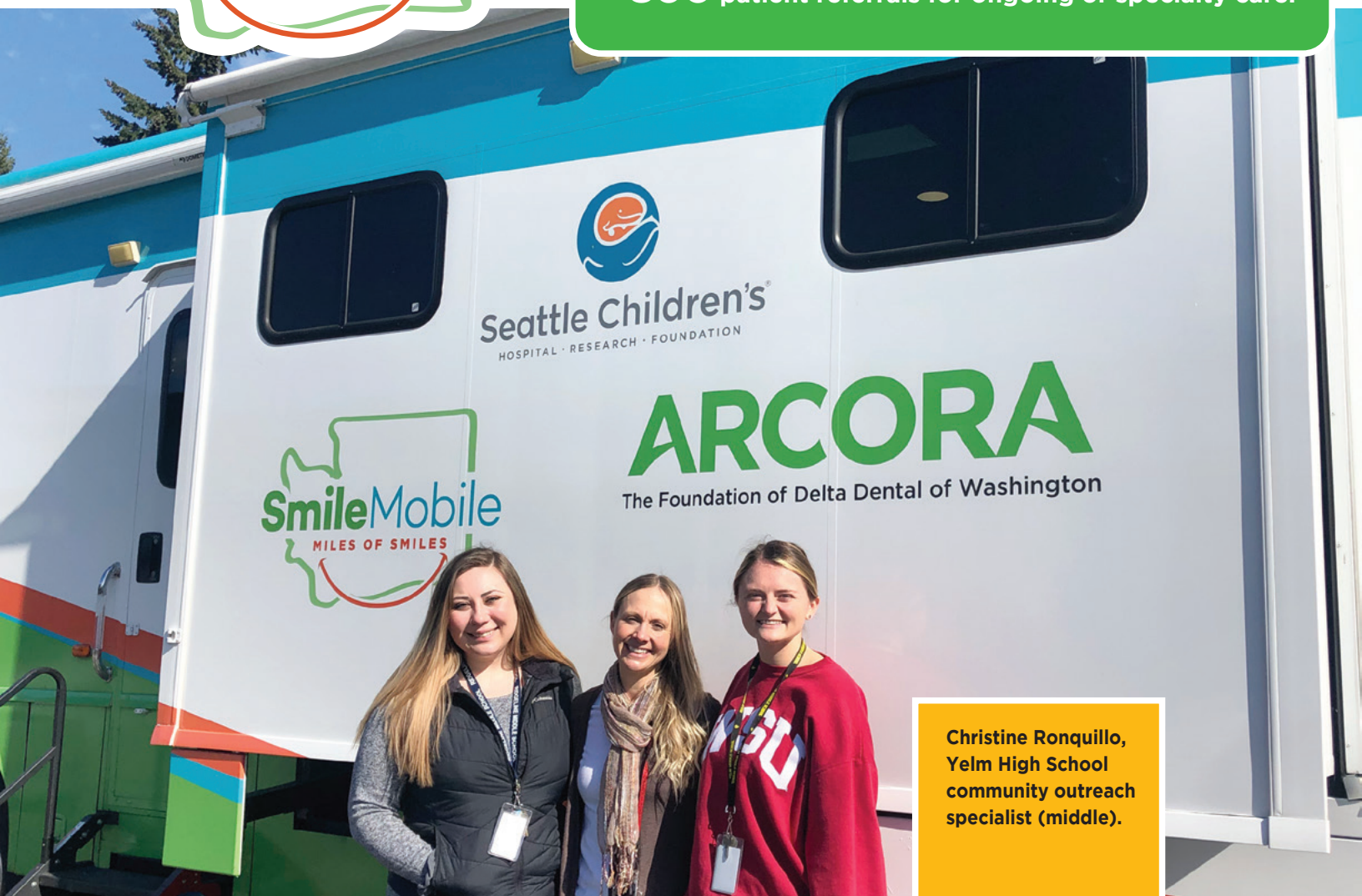
“ Access to oral health care has disparities when it comes to reaching the communities of color. The SmileMobile came to visit the Tri-Cities in support of our health initiative, bringing access to equitable health care. The SmileMobile serves as a reminder of how many people are without adequate health care in Eastern Washington.”

CHAUNÉ FITZGERALD, CEO, WOMEN OF WISDOM TRI-CITIES

Want to learn more about the SmileMobile?
Visit SmileMobileWa.org or contact
Karri Amundson at KAmundson@ArcoraFoundation.org.

2022 Highlights

- More than **1,400** patients served.
- **35** clinics.
- **4** community events.
- **800** patient referrals for ongoing or specialty care.



Christine Ronquillo,
Yelm High School
community outreach
specialist (middle).