



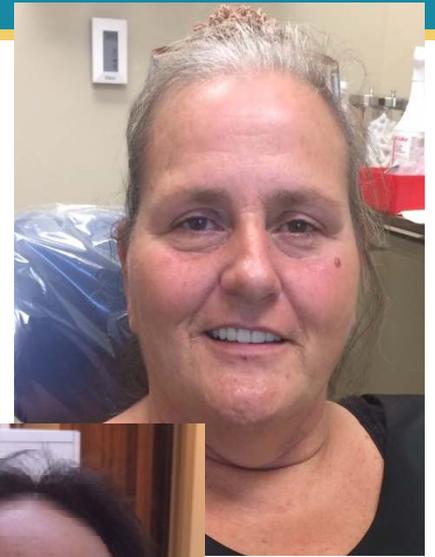
## **St. Teresa of Calcutta Dental Care**

Raising the Grade on Oral Health in Oklahoma: Working-Age Adults

# Who do we serve?

Working-age adults ~75% of our patient population

- Have jobs that don't offer dental insurance—day labor, part-time, self-employed
- Students
- Mental illness
- Disability
- Unemployed



**CATHOLIC** Eastern Oklahoma  
**CHARITIES** | **Love**  
**Changing**  
**Lives.**

# Eligibility and Accessibility

- Eligibility is self-reported and reviewed during the application process
- Care based on extent of need
- Infection, swelling, and dentist and physician referral are prioritized

# Eligibility and Accessibility

## How do patients find us?

- Word of mouth
- Referrals from other social service organizations
- 211 and Google searches
- Physician, ER, and Dentist referrals
- Other programs on the campus of Catholic Charities

# Eligibility and Accessibility

## How are patients selected for care?

- Comprehensive care—applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis
- Extraction clinic—prospective patients phone in for same-day appointments

# Eligibility and Accessibility

## Is there a waitlist?

- No waitlist for hygiene or restorative procedures.
- A working list of patients who need dentures
- Patients are asked to submit a new application if they have not received an appointment within 2 months of submitting an application

# Eligibility and Accessibility

## What about the extraction clinic?

Patients schedule extractions by calling our clinic from 9am-noon on Tuesday mornings for Tuesday evening appointments

Patients are also scheduled for Wednesday morning appointments

# Accessibility

## Silver lining of Covid-19

Same-day appointments for the extraction clinic give us much more flexibility

# Eligibility and Accessibility

## Has Covid-19 affected accessibility?

- Largest barrier to care—changes to processes
- Difficult to quantify our current unmet need
- Fewer volunteers
- Able to see fewer patients, but also have fewer patients seeking care

# Barriers to care

## Transportation

- We will begin working with Modus Transportation to provide rides for people living in the Tulsa area
- Bus—routes are not direct and hours are limited
- Transportation from outlying areas is difficult

# Barriers to care

## Communication

- Spanish—Spanish-speaking staff
- Russian & Burmese languages—Bring an interpreter or use translate app
- Unreliable phone service, changing phone numbers

# What services do we offer?

- Extractions
- Hygiene and preventive care
- Basic restorative
- Root canal treatment on anterior teeth
- Dentures and partial dentures
- Other services on campus include, financial assistance, education, immigration, food, counseling, and case management

# How do we provide care?

- 4 staff members—1 dentist and 3 assistants
- Newly remodeled 5-chair clinic. (Many thanks to DDOF and Butterfield Fnds!)



# How do we provide care?

## Volunteers

- Dentists—on-site and in their offices
- Dental hygienists
- Dental assistants
- Pre-dental students

# How do we provide care?

## Students

- 4<sup>th</sup>-year dental students from OUCOD
- OU Dental Hygiene—Bartlesville
- TCC Dental Hygiene (currently on hold)

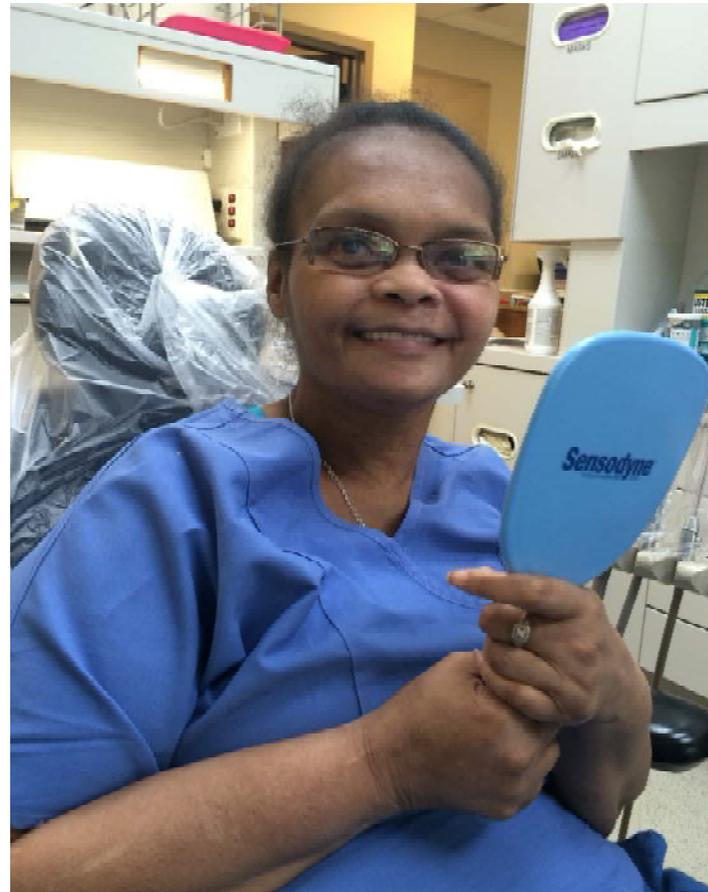
# Why do we provide care?

## Overwhelming need in our community

- Improve the health of our community
- Improve dental function
- Improve self-esteem

# Why do we provide care?

- Stroke and coma for 5 months
- Denture did not fit after her stroke
- Patient has many residual deficits and was having trouble eating
- 25 year old daughter is caregiver and nursing student at TCC
- Patient and daughter were thrilled with her new denture



# Why do we provide care?

- Patient had lost front teeth
- Worked with the public and was very self-conscious
- Had other teeth with decay that we were able to save
- Patient was very happy with his partial



# Why do we provide care?

- Patient was going through tough times
- Began volunteering at church
- Now has a full-time job with a non-profit food distribution mission and serves as a mentor



# Why do we provide care?

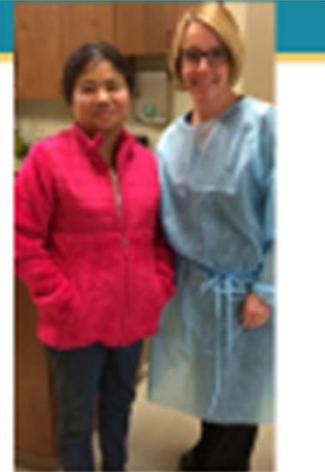
People do without healthcare because of their oral health

- St. John Transplant Center to provide dental treatment and dental clearance for patients seeking placement on the kidney transplant wait list
- Saint Francis Cancer Center to provide extractions prior to radiation treatment
- Other physicians, to treat dental disease prior to other medical procedures

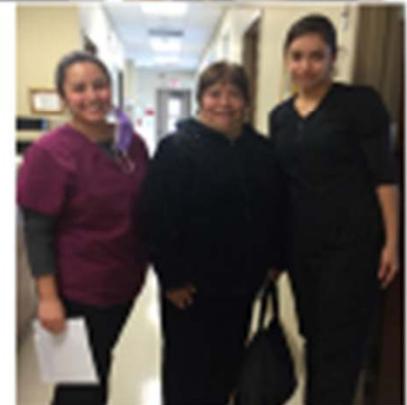
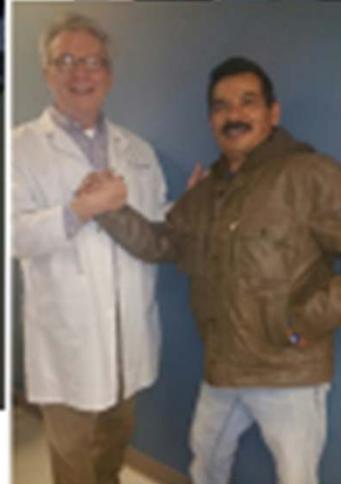
# What need remains?

- Additional providers to offer restorative, extractions, and dentures
- Additional resources for those on Medicare
- Medicare coverage, if dental care is a necessity prior to medical care





*“We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do.”*  
 Mother Teresa



# Contact

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