

## Annual Report - 2021 SmileTree Sponsorship



In 2021, Global Dental Relief is deeply grateful for SmileTree's enduring support on behalf of children globally. As you know, this past year has been a time of unanticipated challenges for each of us, our communities and for the children GDR volunteers serve.

Truly SmileTree, and Danny and Virginia, have been among our most steadfast supporters. And in 2021, your generous sponsorship allowed GDR to continue critical care for children -- providing oral health education and dental treatment, as well as crucial food distribution to the children we know and have treated with dental care for over 20 years.

Because of changing conditions, GDR has made one adjustment to your 2021 agreement, substituting sponsorship of our November clinic in Guatemala for a portion of the oral health program in Nepal. Schools in Nepal remained closed for most of 2021, eliminating our ability to reach children class by class with instruction, fluoride treatment and a new toothbrush. We were, however, able to reach 3000 children with oral health instruction when they met on Saturdays in school yards for food distribution. We look forward to the robust rollout of the oral health program in 2022.

Here is a report on your 2021 sponsorship – with deepest thanks.

## Field Dental Clinics – Mexico and Guatemala



SmileTree sponsored two clinics in 2021 -- the November 8, 2021 clinic in Akumal, Mexico, and November 26, 2021 clinic in Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala. GDR volunteers have worked consistently throughout the pandemic at our new clinic in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. In Guatemala, the November 26<sup>th</sup> clinic was our first since the pandemic - a festive and exciting event!

The Mexico clinic treated the children of Mayan workers in Akumal, Mexico. This is our newest clinic location, with a pervasive local need for care. Clinics have been challenging as schools have either been closed or open only 2 days a week. The November Mexico clinic hosted five dental and 2 hygiene chairs. A total of 14 volunteers treated 430 patients with \$112,000 in donated dental care. Each child received approximately \$262 in care.

In Guatemala, volunteers celebrated our first return since the start of the pandemic. Our five-chair clinic hosted 5 dentists and a total of 15 volunteers. The clinic was a huge success, treating 847 patients with \$200,616 in donated care! Sixty three percent of children required care, and each received an average of \$237 in donated treatment. It was a wonderful, joyous event to reunite with our local partners in the service of children.

## Nepal Food Program

In 2021, Smiletree also sponsored our Food Scarcity Program in Nepal. During the pandemic, many Nepali families faced a constant and often desperate struggle to secure food and basic nutrition. Children and their families met on Saturdays in local school yards to receive packets of food to feed a family of five for a week. Food packets include rice, lentils or beans, oil, flour, a nutritional supplement and a vegetable.



SmileTree's sponsorship brought critical nutrition to 134 families for an entire month. In total, SmilleTree provided 53,000 meals to children and their families in need - critical life support during these harsh times globally. Thank you for your generous support of this program!

### **Oral Health Program**



Education is particularly critical in locations where dental volunteers are unable to travel. In Nepal, your support provided 3,000 children with oral health education and the distribution of a new toothbrush for each child.

On specific Saturdays, parents were asked to bring their children along to GDR's food distribution sites. Even though school was closed, children often came dressed in their school uniforms, excited to be out of the house and learning again. Each child received oral health instruction and a new brush.

By continuing oral health awareness, we safeguard the dental health of children until field clinics can resume.

## **Conclusion**

The generosity of SmileTree made an immense difference in the scope of GDR's work on behalf of children. From all of us and on behalf of the families we serve – Thank you, Namaste and Gracias!

