

August 16, 2021

Delta Dental Foundation Grant Supports Dental Care for Head and Neck Cancer Patients

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. – The Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) awarded a \$50,000 grant to HNC Living Foundation to help low-income head and neck cancer patients meet their oral health care needs during treatment and recovery.

Each year, [more than 65,000](#) people in the United States will experience head and neck cancer for the first time. For many head and neck cancer patients, a dental clearance is the first step in their cancer journey to minimize the long-term effects the treatments may have on their oral health. Treatment, which may involve chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, or often a combination of all three, can impact a patient's ability to talk, eat, chew and other daily functions related to oral health.

"Many head and neck cancer patients begin and end their treatment with dental care," said Danielle Puzio, Chief Operating Officer of HNC Living Foundation. "The Delta Dental Foundation is an invaluable partner, and through the generosity of the grant, we can continue supporting our patients during the beginning of their journey and as they move on to recovery."

HNC Living Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of head and neck cancer patients through financial assistance for critical services, will use the DDF grant to support patients with dental care related to their cancer diagnosis in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

"We're proud to support care that not only restores form and function but also rebuilds a patient's dignity," said Holli Seabury, EdD, executive director of the DDF. "You can't overstate the power of a smile."

Since 2015, HNC Living Foundation has awarded nearly \$2 million in grants that have helped more than 3,500 head and neck cancer patients access:

- Dental services including restorative dentures and dental care, before and after cancer treatment.
- Patient services including prescriptions, traditional and complementary therapies, nutritional supplements and medical supplies.
- Transportation assistance, lodging, and food as a result of travel for treatment.

For more information about HNC Living Foundation, please visit www.HNCLiving.org.

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The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and

North Carolina. DDF is dedicated to developing and enhancing partnerships and programs to improve oral and overall health and health equity. For more information, visit www.deltadental.foundation.