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Dear friend...

Summer 2014 has so far been a very exciting period for the Dental Wellness Trust.

In June we carried out an educational visit to Pirton school in Luton with 6 Dental Wellness Trust volunteers including two volunteers from Colgate. We taught nearly 150 children about nutrition, tooth brushing and what a visit to the dentist is like. The children were so enthusiastic and enjoyed role playing at being dentists and patients. Each child was given their own toothbrush and toothpaste and education material to

take home, courtesy of the DWT and Colgate.

The following week, I travelled to Cape Town in South Africa to lead our dental outreach days, held in conjunction with the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) conference in Cape Town. Together with Dr Alon Livni, we arranged for 20 volunteer dentists from all around the world to visit one of our LiveSmart schools to see our tooth brushing programme in action. The children demonstrated their tooth brushing songs that our teacher and LiveSmart Co-ordinator Mavis had composed. The volunteers were all registered dentists at the IADR and rolled up their sleeves to help to screen and treat hundreds of children. It was an amazing 2 days, with so much positive energy among our volunteers. Thank you to all those dentists and teams that volunteered to make a difference to the lives of over 300 children. All children received a Dental Wellness Trust goody bag with a toothbrush, toothpaste and education material on how to brush their teeth.

In July we held our fundraising dinner – which was in honour of the late President Mandela. A wonderful evening of song and dance was enjoyed by nearly 200 guests, with guest speaker Gillian Slovo giving an inspiring speech about her experience of knowing Mandela. Kevin Pieterse attended to hand out awards to some special people, including the star of the show – Mavis. She travelled to London to take part in a week of dental health training, and at the dinner Mavis sang with the London African Gospel Choir.

In August I travelled to Cape Town and undertook a screening programme for 100 residents in the Highlands House Elderly Care Home. We are now planning on opening a dental practice and an international training and teaching centre there. My application for Cape Town to be recognised as a site for the Global Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders has been accepted. International students from all over the world will travel to the Dental Wellness Trust centre for training. These international students will volunteer on our tooth brushing and educational programmes.



Thank you to all who helped so many children. With much appreciation to all who helped.

Dr Linda Greenwall
 Founder, Dental Wellness Trust.



IADR Outreach, Cape Town. June 2014.

The International Association for Dental Research (IADR) held its General Assembly in June 2014. When we realised it was going to be held in Cape Town (the first time in Africa) it was decided that this would be the perfect opportunity to share its work with fellow dental professionals from around the world.

After discussions with the IADR, it was agreed that the DWT - together with Dr Alon Livny and the University of the Western Cape (UWC) Dental School - would organise two outreach days during the conference. Instead of just attending the conference, dentists attending were given a rare and exciting chance to take part in outreach work by screening and treating nearly 300 children who lack education about dental health and access to dental care.

Volunteers met at 8am on 24th June in Cape Town to visit one of our LiveSmart schools, and then headed to the Zolile Malinda Community Centre in Mfuleni township, which is run by Afrika Tikkun. Professor Attie Louw and Professor Neil Myburgh led the team from the UWC. We had use of the UWC mobile dental van and the Colgate Mobile Dental Van. Colgate dental therapist Nontebeka, UWC students and the Afrika Tikkun team were also on hand to help us undertake the outreach programme. The programme also benefited from dental supplies and equipment donated by DMG, Henry Schein/Dental Warehouse and SDI.

Volunteers were briefed and quickly set about meeting the children of Mfuleni to assess their oral health. Those children who had the most need quickly received restorations - some required between 8 and 10 restorations. Most children mainly had fissure sealants placed on the primary and secondary molars. Some children needed to have extractions when their situation was extremely severe. The screening and treatment was repeated the next day and the team screened around 280 children in total.

The outreach programme was a huge success and the DWT found the experience to be invaluable in demonstrating its work to people who volunteered from all over the world.





Kevin Pietersen talking with Dr Greenwall



Mavis singing with the London African Gospel Choir

Fundraising Dinner, London. July 2014



The Dental Wellness Trust held an evening full of song, dance and inspirational messages on 10th July 2014 to raise funds and awareness for its vital work in the UK, Africa and Israel.

At the fundraising dinner, the charity welcomed nearly 200 guests to the Royal College of Surgeons where they heard speeches from people including the celebrated author Gillian Slovo (below), who grew up with Nelson Mandela as a family friend and spoke about Mandela's legacy.

Awards were presented by former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen to people who have worked hard to help the DWT succeed - Dr Alon Livny, Saul Konviser, Sona Bavisha, Krina Patel, Shivana Anand and Mavis Phahlindlela. One of the people honoured on the night was a teacher named Mavis who lives and works in Khayelitsha township, near Cape Town. She teaches her pupils about the importance of brushing their teeth, something that few children in the townships do. Over half of all school absences in South Africa are due to dental health problems.

Mavis set up her own after school LiveSmart club, where she teaches children about dental health as well as how to stay safe and out of trouble in the townships. This has expanded to five other clubs, helping hundreds of children to live better and healthier lives. She is a great inspiration and throughout the fundraising dinner Mavis joined the London African Gospel Choir to sing songs and celebrate the DWT's work.

The charity also launched its Good:Deed toothbrush. Dentists will be able to buy Good:Deed brushes to sell to patients and for every one sold, a brush will be donated to a child in need. Find out more overleaf and on www.gooddeed.info.

The dinner raised much needed funds for the DWT, which will enable us to continue to expand our projects. Plans include the opening of dental clinics in London and Cape Town.



Guest speaker Gillian Slovo

GOOD:DEED

Buy one - Give One
www.gooddeed.info

Good:Deed launch!

The Dental Wellness Trust has teamed up with Henry Schein Dental, CTS Dental Supplies and Whitewash Laboratories to launch the Good Deed brand. This will be an invaluable source of income for the DWT and will go towards our target of giving away 3 million toothbrushes.

Dentists and consumers will be doing a good deed every time they sell or buy a brush. Adult and child brushes will be available and for each Good Deed brush sold, a brush will be given to a child in need. The brushes will be available to dentists to sell to patients in their practices.

Visit www.gooddeed.info for more information.



Mega Molars, Luton. June 2014

The DWT's team visited Pirton Hill on Thursday 19th June, where we delivered the Mega Molars programme.

Children were split into groups and taught about how to brush their teeth, what food and drink they should be eating and what a visit to the dentist is like. At the end of the session prizes were given to the children who designed the best dental health poster. This was repeated with children from the older classes at the school.

In all, over 140 children took part in the afternoon's sessions. We plan to repeat the sessions soon, and discussions are taking place about setting up a tooth brushing club at the school, similar to our ones in South Africa.

Highlands House selected as Alliance Site

The Dental Wellness Trust's proposal for an international teaching and research centre to be based at Highlands House elderly care home in Cape Town has been approved.

This is a very exciting project, which will see students and dental practitioners from around the world visiting our dental clinic in Cape Town to learn about how to improve dental care for the elderly. It is an area of dental care that is too often neglected.

Visitors will also volunteer at other DWT projects in South Africa.

Plans for the clinic's design and layout are currently being drawn up, and fundraising efforts to build and fit the clinic and teaching centre are underway.



Easyfundraising

You can now raise funds for the Dental Wellness Trust just by shopping online! Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dentalwellness for more information.