

# The Smile Report

Highlighting Our Impact on Arizonan's Health and Wellbeing



## Oral Health In Medicine Initiative

We have partnered with the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix to create the Oral Health In Medicine Initiative. The partnership will increase oral health education for all medical students at the university and is expected to launch in the 2024-2025 academic year.

[Learn More](#)

**Pictured from left to right:** Leah Hillier, MD, clinical assistant professor and director of service learning with UArizona College of Medicine - Phoenix; Irene Alexandraki, MD, senior associate dean of Undergraduate Medical Education with UArizona College of Medicine - Phoenix; Fredric Wondisford, MD, dean of the UArizona College of Medicine - Phoenix; Michael Jones, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Arizona; Barb Kozuh, executive director of Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation; and Eve Hoover, DMSc, associate professor at Midwestern University and Arizona representative of Harvard's Center for the Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH).



## Nearly \$800,000 Awarded to 39 Nonprofits

For the 2024 year, we awarded grants to 39 nonprofit organizations that work with underserved populations of all ages through oral health and nutritional programs. A total of \$793,149 was awarded to support oral health education, disease prevention and food assistance programs.

[Learn More](#)



## Grantee Spotlight

Foundation for Senior Living's (FSL) Nutrition Program, supported with a \$10,000 grant from Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation in 2024, provides in-person meals and snacks, as well as home delivered meals, to seniors and adults with disabilities. Additionally, they distribute food boxes and bags to hungry Maricopa County households.

[Learn More](#)



## Volunteer Spotlight

Christina May is the Claims Supervisor and has been with Delta Dental of Arizona for more than 15 years. She was recognized for volunteering at 8 events for a total of 20 hours in 2023. Christina is one of our most dedicated employee volunteers.



## Board Member Spotlight

Dr. Eric Heiser, president of Coconino Community College, was elected to the Foundation board in February 2024. He holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Colorado State University. Dr. Heiser also serves as chairman of the Board of Directors for the Competency-Based Education Network and as president of the Board for the National Council of Instructional Administrators.

[Learn More](#)

## POP QUIZ!

**TRUE or FALSE?** A hard-bristled toothbrush cleans your teeth better than a soft-bristled toothbrush.

**Answer:** False! Hard bristled toothbrushes, including firm or medium-strength bristles, can cause damage to the gums. Soft bristled toothbrushes are better for your teeth because the bristles are easier on the teeth and gums, keeping them healthy and giving you comfort.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Dive into a healthy smile with *Grin! for Kids*.  
[Download the magazine.](#)



## Grin! for Kids

Check out our activity books filled with fun and games to teach kids that it's cool to have healthy smiles!

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 FOUNDATION

**Our mission is to create a path to better health and wellness.**  
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