

2020 Annual Report



Looking Back • Moving Ahead



DELTA DENTAL
FOUNDATION

An affiliate of Delta Dental of
Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana

Our Purpose

To develop and enhance
partnerships and programs
to improve oral and overall
health and health equity.

A Year in Review

When we started planning our philanthropic efforts last year, we never could have imagined that in a few short months a virus would throw the world into turmoil, changing the ways we live, love, and work on a fundamental level.

But if 2020 taught us anything, it's that we're resilient—capable of innovation far beyond what we believed possible. Although last year wasn't the year anyone expected or hoped for, our amazing grantees rose to the challenge, providing oral health services, education, and programming in new and exciting ways.

And while it wasn't always easy, they made it work. We made it work.

The Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) invested more than **\$1.2 million** in COVID-19 emergency assistance, helping safety-net dental organizations, school-based health centers, food banks, homeless shelters, hospitals and other community organizations access necessary resources to keep their staff and clients safe. The DDF also leaned hard into health equity initiatives, funding research, clinics and programs that ensure the people who face the greatest disparities can achieve their full potential through optimal oral and overall health.

This report is a snapshot of the people and projects we've funded over the past year. Many of these projects manifested in different forms, adapting—often with our help—to match the evolving needs of our grantees' communities and the pandemic as it unfolded.

Without the financial support of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, our work would not be possible. We also want to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the DDF's board, which helped us respond quickly and extend our reach during a year like no other.

We hope you'll join us for what comes next.

Board of Directors

James P. Hallan — Chair

John A. Breza, DDS — Vice Chair

Lawrence D. Crawford, DDS

Stephen A. Eklund, DDS, MHSA, DrPH

Ann M. Flermoen, DDS

Raymond Gist, DDS

Joseph C. Harris, DDS

Goran Jurkovic, CPA, CGMA

Elaine Loyack

Kelly J. Scheiderer, RHIA, MHA

Bruce R. Smith

Carole Watkins

Staff

Holli Seabury, EdD, Executive Director

Kimberly Garland, Manager

Jen Anderson, Senior Communications Officer

Megan Schreier, Program Officer

Emily Waldschmidt, Program Coordinator



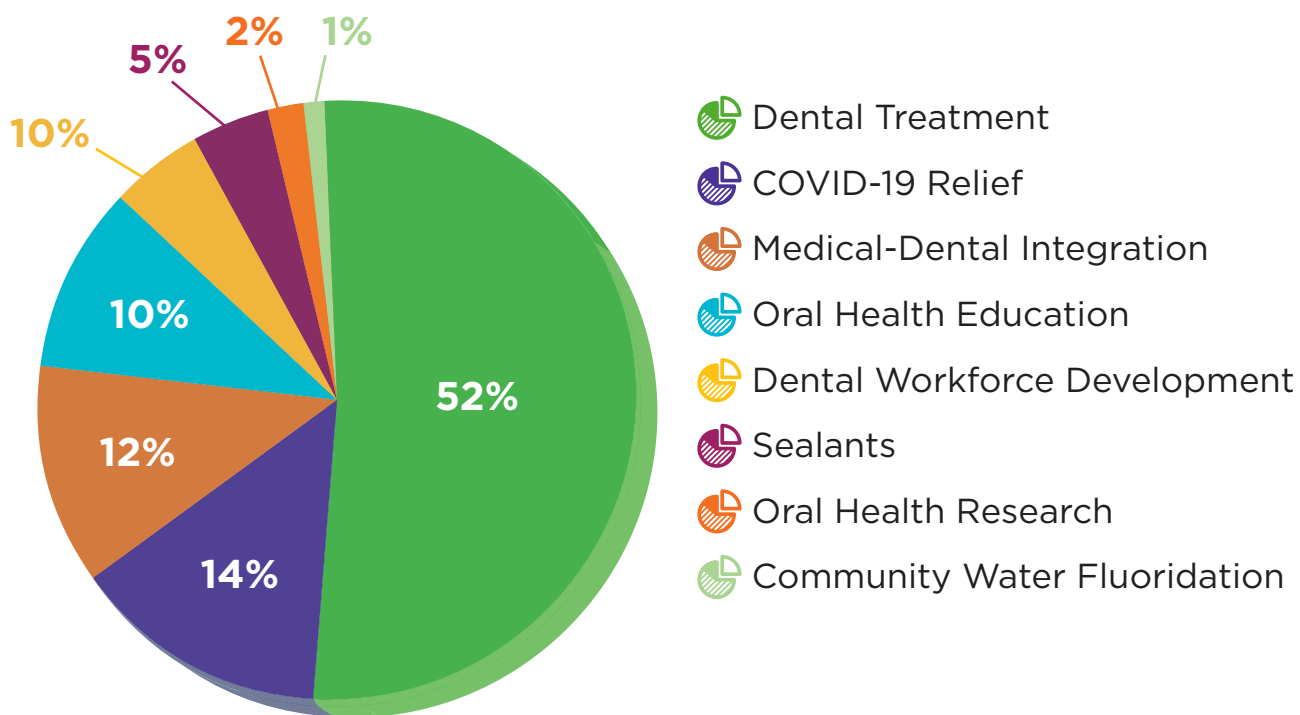
Holli Seabury, EdD
Executive Director,
Delta Dental Foundation



James P. Hallan
Chair, Delta Dental
Foundation Board

Oral Health By the Numbers

In 2020, we invested **nearly \$6 million** across **271 grants**, impacting nearly **800,000 lives**.



In 2020, **71 organizations** received a total of **\$171,000** through the Community Mini-grants Program.



133 miles of floss donated



200,000 toothbrushes donated



194,492 educational resources distributed



178 COVID grants totaling \$1 million

COVID-19 Response

When the pandemic began, the DDF knew it needed to meet the changing needs of the people and organizations it supports. That's why the DDF committed more than **\$1 million** to organizations in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana that were working hard to serve their communities during the pandemic. Each recipient received a supply of toothbrushes and oral health educational resources to help locate providers who were open for dental emergencies.

As the pandemic strained so many organizations this past year, the DDF and its partners found creative ways to meet the needs of systemically disadvantaged people and communities. McMillen Health (McMillen), Impression 5 Science Center, and the Girl Scouts are just a few of our partners who adapted to the “new normal” by going virtual, opening up to new ideas, and changing longstanding plans to promote and improve oral and overall health.



“I Need My Teeth” Oral Health Assembly

McMillen moved their “I Need My Teeth” school assembly to a live virtual format offered to schools in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Children up to fifth grade have continued to learn about the importance of their teeth and how to care for them through music, drama and interaction with characters from the “I Need My Teeth” book. In addition, all of McMillen’s children’s oral health books have been adapted to a digital format and made accessible to everyone. **Forty-five performances** were presented to schools, which reached **4,874 students** and **301 teachers**. For the first time ever, the assembly also reached more than **100 parents**, giving McMillen the opportunity to better evaluate behavior change from the assembly.



“We are excited to expand our services to at-home learning through hands-on learning opportunities for the families of Head Start and Early Head Start in the Tri-County area.”

Dr. Nolana Nobles, director at Capital Area Community Services Head Start

Impression 5 Science Center STEM Kits

Every other month, Impression 5 Science Center creates, assembles, and distributes **1,600 STEM education kits** to Head Start children three to five years old in the Lansing area. The DDF funds this project in conjunction with the Dart Foundation. Each kit has a different theme, including science and oral health, with concepts that incorporate social emotional development, literacy and math. “Through this STEM kit planning process, we were able to add items that utilize a play-based approach, consistent with early childhood education evidence-based practices demonstrating that young children learn best through play,” said Dr. Nolana Nobles, director at Capital Area Community Services Head Start.



Smile Squad Patch Program

In the Smile Squad Patch Program, Girl Scouts review good dental habits, try an oral health experiment, discover how hidden sugars can damage teeth, and learn how proper brushing and daily reading create a healthy body and mind. Since the coronavirus pandemic began, troops have adapted by earning their patches virtually. Last year, **1,441 Girl Scouts** received their Smile Squad patches.

As everyone struggles to live differently through social distancing, programs like Delta Dental Foundation’s Smile Squad Patch Program provided materials and guidance for our troop to learn and grow collaboratively.

Janna Skwirsk, leader of Brownie Troop 77176

Health Equity and Access to Care

Oral health is integral to overall health. Yet those who need dental care the most are often the least likely to receive it due to barriers such as lack of transportation, the inability to take time off from work for an appointment, limited numbers of dental providers in an area, language and cultural barriers, and lack of adequate insurance coverage. Viewing optimal oral health and access to affordable oral health care as a right rather than a privilege can lead to systemic changes that promote health equity. The DDF recognizes the unique needs and barriers faced by underserved populations and strives to support programs that address them.



Uplifting the Disabilities Community

In the U.S., more than **6.5 million individuals** with a physical or intellectual disability are not able to access the dental care they need. The DDF has focused on changing that statistic, providing funding for inclusive health training and continuing education to dental professionals, caregiver education tools and resources, representation and awareness projects, specialized dental clinics at the University of Michigan and the Ohio State University and more.

In 2020, the DDF funded the development of an interactive mobile application that supports oral health care for patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The platform, created in collaboration with Project Accessible Oral Health and autism technology developer InfiniTeach, will address the core deficits associated with ASD, providing social, communication, and behavioral supports for patients and providing access to critical information for caregivers and dentists.

Research to Improve LGBTQ+ Oral Health

Recent federal health information has highlighted the health disparities faced by the LGBTQ+ population. The DDF partnered with Corktown Health Center in Detroit, which provides primary and mental health care to a predominately LGBTQ+ patient base. Corktown approached DDF after their patients repeatedly asked for them to provide affirming, nonjudgmental dental care designed for this population. The DDF not only funded all of the equipment for their future dental clinic, the DDF also connected Corktown to a researcher at Indiana University School of Dentistry (IUSD). Together, Corktown and IUSD developed a dentist and patient survey about attitudes and treatment of the LGBTQ+ population, which was subsequently administered in Michigan and Indiana. The goal is to use survey results to develop education for dental professionals and students and reduce barriers to care.

Helping Improve Dental Care for People Experiencing Homelessness

Poor oral health is especially prevalent among people experiencing homelessness, largely due to barriers in accessing dental care, dental hygiene products, and nutritious foods. In 2020, the DDF helped fund an expansion of Malta Dental and Medical Clinic's dental clinic and move to a handicap-accessible location. Malta predominately serves people experiencing homelessness and veterans who have no access to dental care. Many Malta patients do not have a permanent address and cannot access Medicaid, making the dental services at Malta crucial for their oral health. The DDF also provided funding to equip three dental operatories at the McMicken Integrated Care Clinic, part of the Cincinnati Health Network's Health Care for the Homeless Dental Program. This program uses partner resources and comprehensive, integrated care to help people experiencing homelessness. Approximately **2,000 patients** will be served every year.



Sealants and Community Water Fluoridation

Both sealants and water fluoridation work hand in hand to prevent tooth decay—especially in children. While fluoride in drinking water can help protect the smooth surfaces of teeth, sealants on molars cover the chewing surfaces, keeping out germs and food. In 2020, the DDF provided funding to the Ohio Department of Health for their Fluoridation Assistance Program, which helps provide fluoridated water to **more than 32,000 Ohioans**. The DDF

also provided funding to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the SEAL! Michigan and community water fluoridation programs. SEAL! Michigan provides dental sealants and preventive care through school programs to children that may not otherwise have access to dental care.

Medical-Dental Integration

Even though oral and overall health are intrinsically linked, the way we care for our mouths and bodies is not. Medical-dental integration is an approach to care that coordinates dental medicine into primary care and behavioral health to support individual and population health. The goal? A whole-person, patient-centered approach to care—better outcomes, brighter futures.

Improving Behavioral Health and Dental Integration with Peer Supports

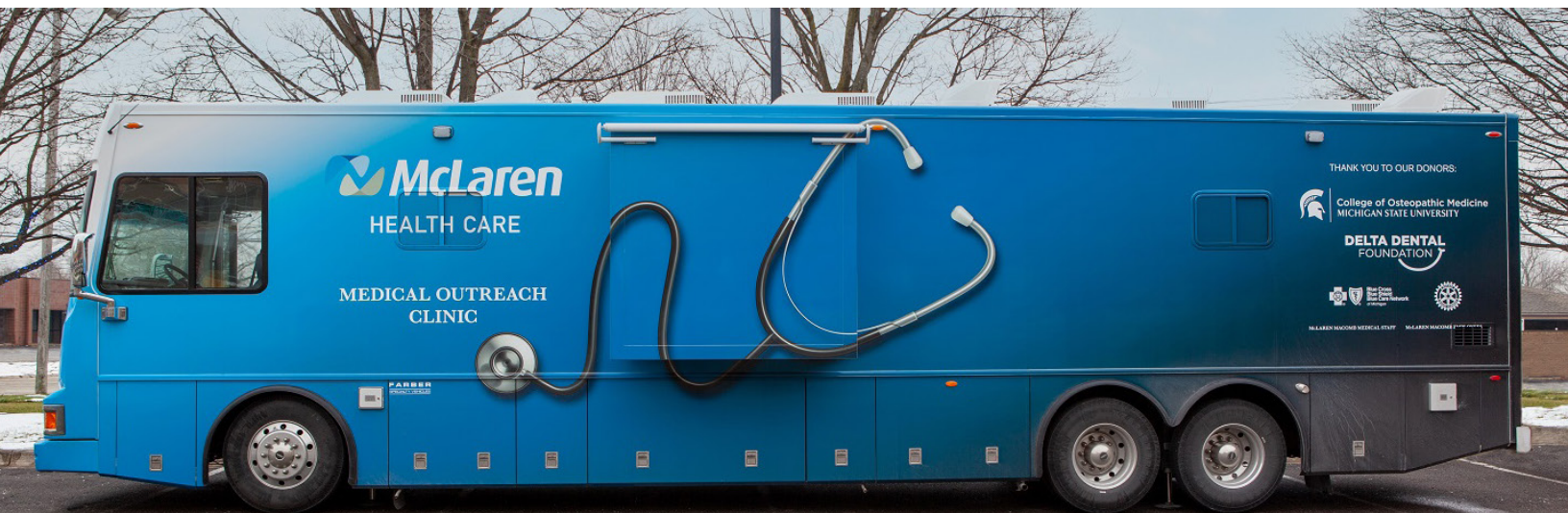
Multiple studies show that individuals with mental illness have poorer oral health and are less likely to receive dental care than those in the general population. That's why the DDF funded a University of Michigan Peer Oral Health Initiative to help promote oral health and access to dental care among Medicaid-insured Michigan residents with serious psychiatric disabilities.

The program uses Certified Peer Support Specialists, trained individuals who have relevant lived experience related to serious psychiatric diagnoses, to provide outreach, education and support related to oral health and dental care at three pilot sites in Muskegon, Wayne County and Lansing.

Helping Take Dental Care on the Road

To better meet the needs of the **nearly 100,000 individuals** in Macomb County without insurance, McLaren Macomb Hospital unveiled an updated version of their Medical Outreach Clinic (MOC). The new 50-foot vehicle includes multiple treatment rooms, a reception and charting area, a restroom, a counseling area, and, for the first time, dental services, thanks to a partnership with the DDF and Baker College.

But the MOC doesn't just provide free care—it's also a first-of-its-kind training facility for McLaren Macomb Family Practice, Wayne State University Pharmacy, and Baker College dental hygiene students. Together, students gain hands-on public health experience and a better understanding of how their disciplines can work together and be informed by one another. Cross-training helps them bridge the gap between oral and overall health, learning how oral health issues can point to deeper medical issues, such as heart disease and adverse pregnancy outcomes.



Connecting Pregnant People to Dental Care

Dental care is a critical component of good health during—and after—pregnancy. But for many, dental care can be inaccessible or unaffordable. To help bridge the gap between prenatal care and good oral health, the DDF helped fund the multi-agency Michigan Initiative for Maternal and Infant Oral Health (MMIOH).

The MMIOH program embeds a dental hygienist, with their own dental room, in a community health center. When pregnant people come in for their prenatal care, they also visit the dental hygienist, who is working out of the same area. It's bringing dental care to the patient rather than trying to get the patient to the dental provider.

Although program data is still being evaluated, initial results demonstrate a correlation between receiving prenatal care at a MMIOH site and seeking prenatal and infant dental care.

“Getting those silos broken down between disciplines in medicine and dentistry has a huge impact. The [MMIOH program] is pretty simple and straightforward to replicate. It leads young people to a dental home, and that may lead them to an oral health disease-free life.”

Dr. Kevin Steely, Grace Health's dental director



Looking Ahead

This is a moment unmatched in history, fraught with the pain of systemic inequalities laid bare, economic distress, and human suffering. But there've been good things, too. Spots of brightness. We've renewed our commitment to health equity by investing in the people and programs dismantling barriers to care, especially in the disabilities community. We've found that flexibility is key in this new normal, that even when a pandemic burns down your best-laid plans, something even better can rise from the ashes.

As we move forward into an uncertain future, we know these things to be true: our purpose of increasing optimal oral and overall health will remain the same. We will revisit many of the plans and programs that were put on hold in 2020 and see them come to fruition. And importantly, we'll build on our past success to ensure that future funding endeavors have the greatest possible impact.

The Delta Dental Foundation Team

2020 Grantees

Advent House Ministries
 Affirmations LGBTQ+ Community Center
 AgeWell Services of West Michigan
 Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana
 Akron Children's Hospital
 Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
 Angels' Place
 Area Agency on Aging 1-B
 Ashtabula County Community Action Agency
 Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County
 AxessPointe Community Health Centers
 Barry-Eaton District Health Department
 Benzie Senior Resources
 Bertha's Mission, Inc.
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth
 Bridging Communities
 Brookside Community Development Corporation
 Canal Winchester Human Services
 Care Free Medical and Dental
 Case Western University School of Dental Medicine
 C-ASIST
 Catherine's Health Center
 Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties
 Center Street Community Health Center
 Centerpoint Health
 Central Elementary Parent Teacher Organization
 Child and Family Charities
 Children's Oral Health Network - Aiken
 Cincinnati Health Network
 City of Euclid
 Clermont County Community Services, Inc.
 Cleveland Clinic

Columbus Public Health Dental Sealant Program
 Columbus State Community College
 Communities In Schools of Michigan
 Community Action Agency
 Community Action House
 Community Action Program
 Commission of the Lancaster-Fairfield County Area, Inc.
 Community Dental Center
 Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc.
 Community Learning Center Institute
 Community Transportation Network
 Compassionate Care of Shelby County, Inc.
 County of Kent
 Covenant Community Care
 Cristo Rey Community Center
 Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry
 Damar Services
 Dégagé Ministries
 Delta College
 Dental Lifeline Network
 District Health Department #10
 District Health Department No. 4
 Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana, Inc.
 Eastside Community Ministry, Inc.
 ECHO Community Health Care
 Eskenazi Health Foundation
 Faith Mission
 Family Health Care
 Ferris State University
 Flint Children's Museum
 Food Gatherers
 Forgotten Harvest
 Fountain Clinic
 Franklin Avenue Mission
 Futures Foundation
 Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community Head Start and Early Head Start
 Genesis Center of Excellence
 Gennesaret Free Clinic, Inc.

Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan
 Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana
 Good Neighbor House
 Good News Ministries
 Good Samaritan Foundation
 Grace Clinics of Ohio, Inc.
 Grand Rapids HQ
 Great Lakes Bay Health Centers
 Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services
 Greater Lansing Food Bank
 H.A.W.K. Foundation
 Harbor Impact Ministries
 Health Department of Northwest Michigan
 Health Emergency Lifeline Programs/Corktown Health Center
 Health Net of West Michigan
 Health Unit on Davison Avenue
 HealthLinc, Inc
 HealthNet
 Bloomington Health Center
 Healthy Beginnings
 Healthy Smiles of Indiana, Inc.
 Helping Hands of Eaton County
 Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan
 Henry Ford Health System
 Highland County Community Action Organization, Inc.
 HOLA Ohio
 Holland Free Health Clinic
 Holt Community Food Bank
 Homebound Meals
 Hoosier Hills Food Bank
 Hope Healthcare Services
 Hope Medical Clinic, Inc.
 Hope Network Foundation
 Impression 5 Science Center
 Indiana Primary Health Care Association
 Indiana University School of Dentistry
 Inter Parish Ministry
 Ironton Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization

Islamic Center of Detroit, Inc.	Ohio Department of Health	The Baldwin Center, Inc.
Ivy Tech Community College	Ohio State University	The Buckeye Ranch, Inc.
Ivy Tech Foundation	School of Dentistry	The City Mission
KidSMILES Pediatric Dental Clinic	On My Own of Michigan	The Color of Autism Foundation
Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Community	Opportunity Enterprises	The Fountain Clinic
Action Commission	Ottawa County Health Department	The HealthCare Connection
Lake County Free Clinic	Owens College	The Salvation Army Lansing
Lake Health Foundation	Oxford/Orion FISH	The Salvation Army Owosso
Lansing Community College	Physicians CareConnection	The Spanish-American Committee
LifeCare Alliance	Pope Francis Center	for A Better Community
Love in Action of the Tri-Cities	Portland Community	The Torch
Macomb Food Program	Fund Association	The United Way of Fairfield County
Madisonville Education and	Primary Health Solutions	The Viscardi Center
Assistance Center	Regents of the	The Way of Rockport Indiana Inc.
Malta Medical and Dental Clinic	University of Michigan	Toledo
Maple City Health Care Center, Inc.	Robert K. Fox Family YMCA	Northwestern Ohio Food Bank
Matrix Human Services	Rocking Horse	Transition Resources Corporation
Matthew 25	Community Health Center	Travelers Aid Society of
McCurtis Outreach Ministry	Ross County Community Action	Metropolitan Detroit
McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation	Commission Inc. Head Start	Tri County TRIAD
McLaren Macomb Foundation	SECOM Resource Center	Tri-County Office on Aging
McMillen Health	Second Chance at Life, Inc.	Trinity Free Clinic, Inc.
MDHHS	Shelter Association of	TrueNorth Community Services
Medworks	Washtenaw County	Turnstone Center for Children and
Mel Trotter Ministries	Shelterhouse	Adults with Disabilities
Mercy Medical Center	Sloan Museum	United Way Montcalm-Ionia Counties
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries	Smart Development Inc.	University of Cincinnati Foundation
Miami County Dental Clinic	Smile Savers Mobile	University of Detroit Mercy
Michigan 2-1-1	Dental Health Service	School of Dentistry
Michigan Primary Care Association	Smiles on Wheels	University of Michigan
Mid-Ohio Foodbank	Society of St. Vincent de Paul,	School of Dentistry
Muskegon Rescue Mission	Indianapolis Archdiocesan Council	VINA Community Dental Center
Muskegon Young Mens	Sparrow Foundation	Viola Startzman Clinic
Christian Association	Special Olympics	Volunteer for Dental
My Community Dental Centers	Special Olympics Michigan, Inc.	Wayne Metropolitan
National Network for	Spectrum Health Foundation	Community Action Agency
Oral Health Access	St. Martin's Healthcare, Inc.	Weekend Survival Kits
North Kent Connect	St. Patrick Senior Center Inc.	Westerville Area Resource Ministry
Northern Ohio	St. Thomas More Free Clinic	Wood County
Hemophilia Foundation	St. Vincent Catholic Charities	Community Health Center
NorthWest Initiative	St. Vincent de Paul Society	YMCA of Greater Cincinnati
Northwest Michigan Community	Stark State College Foundation	YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne
Action Agency INC Food Coalition	Stone Soup Food Bank	YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit
and Food Rescue	Summa Health	Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels
Oakland University	Sunshine Communities	YWCA Mahoning Valley
Ohio Association of	Sylvania Area Family Services	
Community Health Centers	The Arc of Mid-Michigan	

Delta Dental Foundation
4100 Okemos Rd | Okemos, MI 48864
www.deltadental.foundation

