



## Executive Summary for Impact 100

### Mission

**Dentists on Wheels (DOW)** was incepted to address the growing problem of dental issues in the impoverished community in and around Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Our non-profit organization provides dental hygienists, dental assistants, dentists, dental specialists, and various stakeholders with the opportunity to assist in our mission of providing accessible dental care to underserved communities. We recognize that there are multiple barriers that can exist preventing a patient from seeking dental care. DOW is committed to breaking down barriers for patients without financial means, with dental phobias or religious concerns such that the population currently defined as vulnerable and underserved can find quality dental services at DOW.

### Project

The clinic, staffed by volunteer dentists and specialists, offers the following free services: screenings, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings, root canals, crowns, bridges, partials, extractions and dentures. In addition, DOW educates families about oral healthcare to inspire good home care routines. By providing restorative dental work instead of only tooth extraction, DOW creates life-changing, lasting impacts. The broadening trend of utilizing extractions to treat dental pain, due to its cost-effective nature, exacerbates this problem. Unfortunately, extractions leave patients without full functionality which can negatively impact their oral, systemic, and social health. We utilize the funds from this grant to cover the cost of lab work in order to fabricate bridges, dentures and partials so that the patient can have a functional and confident smile. We have received funds already to purchase a crown milling machine to create crowns in house which would enable us to utilize the \$100k from this grant for all the complicated lab work outsourced.

### Community Transformation

DOW has successfully secured grants for the expenses of the clinic for serving with one doctor per week. We have a waitlist of 400 patients and have been able to serve 80 patients thus far. We are seeking the \$100K to transform the lives of those in pain and infected. This grant would transform our capacity from 1 doctor a week to 5 doctors a week since it would pay for all the incremental lab fees per patient. This grant would secure the healing of our entire wait list and restore and heal their oral dental needs. Gum disease and oral cancer will be detected while repairing their teeth and eliminating dental infection and abscess. Most of our patients have not seen a dentist for over 10 years and have chosen to feed their families over healing their tooth pain. Many of them live in shelters and have no means to pay for dental treatment. The free dental service enables them to chew food properly which impacts their overall systematic

health. These funds would also enable 400 patients to be connected with St. Vincent de Paul Family Resource Center where people can not only receive free dental care but additional services including food and hot meals daily, free medical care, employment & training, referral to rental & utility assistance, clothing & furniture, free hot showers, and more. What's more, the dental students receive hands-on experience with very difficult cases which they would have never come across in dental school since most of the patients have not seen a dentist for years. Together we are forever transforming the lives of 400 people (5 times the number of patients we have been able to see thus far) while training the future dentists with deep skills and compassion.