

## ***La Clinica de Tolosa — a non-profit children's dental clinic***

Total Dollars Awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: \$500,000

Grant Period: August 1, 2002 through July 31, 2006

Grantee Organization: **The Partnership for the Children of San Luis Obispo County**

Contact: Michele A. Vanderlinde PhD/CEO, 805-238-2216 [michelealexis@fix.net](mailto:michelealexis@fix.net)

August 2005

### **Primary Objective:**

La Clinica de Tolosa Dental Project establishes a dental home for dental treatment, prevention, emergent care, oral health, education, outreach, referral and linkage for children ages 3 through 13 in San Luis Obispo County.

### **Funding Partners:**

The California Endowment, The California Dental Association, San Luis Obispo Community Health Foundation, United Way of San Luis Obispo, Wells Fargo Foundation, Delta Dental, County of San Luis Obispo, Mid-State Bank and Trust Foundation, Gianinni Foundation, The Society Group Foundation, Exchange Club of San Luis Obispo, Promega Biosciences, Kiwanis Club of San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, Central Coast Wine Classic, Women for Community, City of El Paso de Robles, City of Astascadero, The Hock Foundation, Central Coast Fund for Children, City of San Luis Obispo, Blakelake Realty, Inc. and private donations.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Total cumulative comprehensive dental visits for children since the inception of the clinic to the present: Over 8,000
- Tolosa Dental Clinic is open 6 days per week with multiple dentists providing dental treatment including oral health education and screenings provided to Head Start participants.
- Tolosa emphasizes improvement of the total health of the child. There is less absenteeism from school due to the dental treatment the child receives so that she/he can better concentrate pain free. Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body.
- Tolosa has increased the scope of dental services, referral and education - including general anesthetic that is offered on a monthly basis for children needing more comprehensive and complex full mouth dental treatment.
- Tolosa Dental Team follows clinical guidelines that give clear direction regarding more efficient and accurate protocols to achieve improvement in patient care as well as continually being culturally competent in the community.
- Tolosa Dental Team collects and maintains data to track patient activity, providing the opportunity for on-going assessment of dental and oral health services.
- Tolosa promotes effective collaboration among the public, private and community-based agencies to ensure maximum coordination of outreach, education, linkage, services and funding among local and State Dental Programs, implemented a volunteer dentist and dental hygienist program through the Central Coast Dental Society and Dental Hygiene Society.
- Tolosa actively seeks grants and community support toward clinic sustainability.

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Strong management requires dental clinical expertise and awareness that balance a need for an organization with compassion, cultural competency and technical expertise in dental care, billing, grant writing, outreach and finances
- Dental resources are scarce
- Plans take longer to implement than originally determined

### **Future Plans:**

- Expansion of a South County Dental Clinic in San Luis Obispo County
- Financial Sustainability
  - The clinic anticipates generating 75-80% of its revenue needed to run the clinic through patients payments and insurance reimbursements
  - Annual fundraiser(s) are anticipated to bridge the gap between revenue and expenses

717 Walnut Drive • Paso Robles, CA 93446 •PHONE 805/238-5334 • FAX 805/238-6470