



*Adopted by the Board of Directors  
February 14, 2012*

## **Vision**

***...a non-competitive dental service for the underprivileged and underinsured, providing oral health education and access to emergency and preventive dental care for people of all ages.***

## **The Mission**

***... to provide access to a dental home for those in need***

*The American Academy of Pediatric Dentists defines a dental home as “a place where oral health care is managed in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated and family-centered way.”*

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## **Core Values**

Core values are the beliefs and actions that embody the character of our organization. Core values remind us of who we want to be, in the very best of circumstances. Core values are the touchstones, against which we gut-check our actions.

- A culturally-competent approach to services is key to our identity. Rooted in the Ruby Payne Framework for Understanding Poverty, we strive to understand, accept and meet patients where they are and provide a nonjudgmental and welcoming place for them to receive care.
- Our approach to public health requires that we treat more than just a person’s mouth—that we honor their circumstances and personal stories to identify any barriers to success, and we then provide linkages to resources to overcome those barriers.
- We believe that partnerships with community people, agencies, policy makers, educational institutions and employers bring strength to the services we can provide to the people we care about. We remain open to new partnerships that will ultimately benefit our patients and the community.
- Our role in the professional development of health care professionals is very important to us. We work to allow future dentists, dental assistants, nurses and others to observe, shadow, intern and practice here whenever possible.
- We are especially attentive to children, helping them to feel comfortable here, to have fun while they wait, and to listen when they speak. Motivating them to break the cycle of oral neglect requires our full attention and compassionate education.
- We believe that everyone has a right to a dental home and we are committed to not competing with the private practice community. We are here to serve people who do not have access to care, and we encourage people of means to work within the private practice dental community for their care.
- We believe in abundance. That when we work together within our community, there will be adequate resources to get the job done. Fear, competitiveness or a sense of scarcity only breeds further scarcity and we will not forget the lessons we have learned about the wealth of resources that collaboration brings to the table.
- We hold firm to the business practice of buying local whenever possible, to support our local and regional community to the best of our ability.
- We believe poverty is a condition of economics, not race or ethnicity.