

2020 Mars Wrigley Foundation Healthier Smiles Grant Program

FUTURE SMILES/CLARK HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF ORAL DISEASE

Nevada's Future Smiles Program has received several Wrigley grants over the years. This year, its Clark High School Education and Prevention of Oral Disease (Clark HS EPOD) program received the grant. While other programs under Future Smiles are currently in operation providing dental care, Clark HS EPOD has been repurposed as a result of COVID-19.

"Future Smiles has decided to transition the Clark HS EPOD to an administrative facility and will only provide dental and dental hygiene services at the Nevada Women's Philanthropy (NWP) Dental Wellness Center," explained Terri Chandler, RDH. "Future Smiles is doing our best to support our Las Vegas community through food distributions and other student support activities. We have also donated a fair amount of personal protective equipment to the hospitals and to organizations that are supporting our families."

Nevada closed schools and nonessential business on March 16, 2020.



Helping with food security and home oral health care supplies

"As a Las Vegas resident for more than 40 years, the closing of casinos has never been seen in my lifetime," Chandler noted. "While the practice of dentistry is considered an essential service in Nevada, all routine, nonessential dental



Future Smiles provides care at the NWP Dental Wellness Center.

procedures/surgeries were postponed. Our school district allowed Future Smiles to reopen our NWP Dental Wellness Center to see emergency dental patients on May 26."

Chandler said that the Las Vegas Clark County School District is home to more than 320,000 students, half of whom are enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch/Meal program. "During our required closure, Future Smiles has been diligent with calling our families, assisting them with identifying community resources including food distribution sites," she said. "Our team has been at 31 schools to help with the school district's drive-through grocery giveaways, and we included toothbrushing supplies in 'Smile Bags' for more than 7,411 families."

Future Smiles also worked with community partners to donate 1,800 masks, 6,200 pairs of gloves, 100 gowns, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer to University Medical Center Hospital and to volunteers at the grocery giveaways.