

A Letter to the Members of the Capital Area Dental Society

In the October issue, you read Dr. Kavin Kelp's article about the growth and changes in the dental program. We agree with Kavin's perspective and we want to say that we haven't done a good job of communicating our appreciation for your past contributions, along with the recent changes that have occurred. The dental program could not have made it this far without your help and CADS is integral to our operation.

The past year has brought many changes. The founder, Dr. Dave Jackson, is no longer with us. We miss him and will always appreciate his role in making this program a reality. In order to accommodate our growth, the St. David's Community Health Foundation has hired Marsha Cook (previous Chief Operating Officer of Texas Monthly) as Director of Operations and Dr. Dianne Forbes (3-year Theo Dental Staff Dentist) as Clinical Director.

Our goal to reach the children of low-income families in the Central Texas region has continued to expand, and we hope finally to be able to get all the children under our banner in Travis County, as well as begin to reach farther into Hays and Williamson Counties. With our van fleet increasing to 4-1/2 mobile clinics in early 2007 and potentially more after that, St. David's faced the need to increase the paid dental staff and to standardize procedures and protocols. Initially the emphasis was to change the volunteer dentist role back to an in-office referral basis only. Our rationale was that it would be easier for the dentists to volunteer and the referral process would significantly increase the scope of care that the children receive. Since realizing that some of our loyal volunteers would rather come to the van, St. David's Dental Program will resume welcoming on board CADS members to volunteer on Fridays, starting early 2007.

For all of you who we have confused, neglected or simply lost in the midst of our change and growth during the last year, we say a sincere – *"We are sorry. Please forgive us!"* If you would like to personally speak with someone regarding a specific incident or just have questions, know that you can call Marsha Cook anytime at 879-6226.

We are excited about going forward together. As the program expands, there are three ways that you can continue to partner with us to directly impact a child's life and offer dental care, through:

- volunteering on the van
- treating a more complex case in your office, or
- accepting the Lanier Challenge.

Best regards,



Marsha Cook
Director of Operations



Dianne Forbes, D.D.S
Clinical Director

