

JULY 2022



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IMPROVING DENTAL HEALTH

## IMPACT REPORT

### It's Foundation Student Scholarship Time! Applications Due Sept. 30

Each year the MDA Foundation gives scholarship awards to dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting students. The scholarship website at [foundation.michigandental.org](https://foundation.michigandental.org) is now open, and it's ready for students to be applying.

Do you know or work with a dental, hygiene, or assisting student who would be a great candidate for a scholarship? Let them know about the MDA



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Foundation scholarship program! All they have to do is go to the website's scholarship section, read the description of each scholarship available, then use the online application to apply.

It's an easy application that should take no more than 20 minutes to complete and submit. Last year the Foundation awarded \$17,000 to 14 of the best and brightest dental, hygiene and assisting students — and we look forward to doing the same this year.

The application deadline is Sept. 30. Visit [foundation.michigandental.org](https://foundation.michigandental.org) to apply.

### Sparkling Smiles Celebration Attendees Give \$67,197 at Annual Session Event

The Michigan Dental Association Foundation is proud to announce that *you* helped make the Sparkling Smiles Celebration during the MDA Annual Session a success! With the generous support of sponsors and donors we were able to raise a grand total of \$67,197!

The MDA Foundation is incredibly grateful for all our supporters. This year the Foundation welcomed eight grant recipients and three scholarship recipients to the event, the first in-person Sparkling Smiles event since 2019. In attendance were 174 guests, including both previous donors and new donors alike.

Your Sparkling Smiles gifts will provide for students to receive much-appreciated scholarships and will also help those in need to receive access to dental care. Your donations will also provide confidence and pain relief to residents all over Michigan.

The MDA Foundation was able to give a mini grant at the event, which was received by Catherine's Health Center. This mini grant was supported by your generous gifts!

The MDA Foundation is extremely grateful for all your gifts and would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who was able to help us meet — and exceed — our goal.



**Mini-Grant winner** — Catherine's Health Center was the recipient of a \$2,500 Mini-Grant at this year's Sparkling Smiles Celebration. Pictured are Megan Erskine, CEO, Sara Brooks, operations director, and Dr. Beth Rosenberg, Foundation vice president.

# Foundation News

## Foundation Welcomes New Director of Development

The MDA Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Anne Berquist, of Lansing, as its new director of development. She will begin working for the Foundation on July 11.

“Anne has extensive experience in fundraising, communications, and foundation management,” said MDA CEO/Executive Director Karen Burgess.

“Anne emphasizes building positive personal relationships, and I know she looks forward to building great relationships to grow our Foundation in the months and years ahead.”

Berquist has held leadership positions at Opera Grand Rapids, the Ann Arbor School for the Performing

Arts, the Arts Council & Cultural Center in Kalamazoo, as well as elsewhere. She has an extensive track record of helping organizations innovate, thrive, and grow, with a strong background in development. Her impressive resume includes a master of business administration degree from the University de Paris La Sorbonne in Paris, and a master’s degree from the University of Missouri in Kansas City.



Berquist

Welcome to the MDA family, Anne Berquist!

## Meet Your New 2022-23 Foundation Board Members

The MDA Foundation recently welcomed three new Foundation Board members: Dr. Reem Al-Abbousi, Dr. Elizabeth Knudsen, and Dr. Shanelle Pearse.

Dr. Al-Abbousi is a general dentist in Dearborn Heights and a clinical associate professor at Detroit Mercy Dental. She is interested in dental pain research and has been a published co-author on the subject. Dr. Al-Abbousi received her DDS from The Ohio State University. She says she’s inspired by how the MDA Foundation works collaboratively to fund clinics providing care to patients who are underserved and uninsured. She shares a passion for ensuring care for the underprivileged, as well as advancing the dental profession by supporting the education of the next generation of health care professionals.



Al-Abbousi

Dr. Knudsen is a general dentist in Escanaba. She’s excited to join the MDA Foundation Board. She



Knudsen

received her DDS from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. As a resident of the Upper Peninsula, she brings a unique perspective on the needs and opportunities in rural settings. Dr. Knudsen is enthusiastic about getting involved with the MDA Foundation and helping ensure Michigan dentists have a platform to further promote oral health through charitable giving.

Dr. Pearse is a general dentist in Royal Oak. She received her DDS from the University of Detroit Mercy as well as a master’s degree in Biomedical Sciences from Wayne State University. Dr. Pearse learned about the MDA Foundation through her volunteer work at Malta Clinic and got involved with the Foundation initially as a member of the Foundation Events Committee. She says she loves what she does as a dentist: changing lives by creating healthy, functional, radiant smiles. And she’s excited about influencing and improving the dental health of Michigan residents through service on the MDA Foundation Board.



Pearse

# Foundation Grant News

## Meet Our 2022 Grant Recipients

Thanks to your generous philanthropy, in 2022 the MDA Foundation is able to provide \$95,275 in grant awards to 13 organizations all over Michigan. They're shown on the chart on this page.

New this year is the Foundation's Diversity and Inclusion Fund. In partnership with the MDA and several diverse dental organizations, the MDA Foundation launched the fund in 2021. Through that fund, awards

are given to support programs that enhance diversity at Michigan's dental schools.

Other access-to-care grants support clinics in their efforts to provide care to uninsured or underinsured Michigan residents, allowing each of them an opportunity to lead a pain-free life with a healthy smile.

Thank you for your donations that allow us to provide these impactful grant awards in 2022!

Grant Recipient	Grant Type	Use
Catherine's Health Center, Grand Rapids	Access-to-Care Sparkling Smiles Mini-Grant	Hand-held X-ray machine to increase dental care for those with disabilities
Detroit Mercy Dental, Detroit	Diversity & Inclusion	Support for Summer Enrichment Program, providing education and experience for underrepresented pre-dental students
Gary Burnstein Clinic, Pontiac	Access-to-Care	Support toward cost of dentures and dental supplies for care provided through dental student programs at the clinic
Holland Free Dental Clinic, Holland	Access-to-Care	Reduce wait list and serve 35% more patients
Hope Clinic, Ypsilanti	Access-to-Care	Expanding volunteer support and adding a full-time dentist to decrease wait list
Love in Action, Grand Haven	Access-to-Care	Support dental manager salary to allow for focus on increasing dental volunteers to serve more patients
Malta Clinic, Detroit	Access-to-Care	Cover the cost of dentures for the homeless, poor, and military veterans
Silver Creek Church, Marquette	Access-to-Care	Provide dental hygiene kits to Marquette's underserved children
Special Olympics of Michigan, Mt. Pleasant	Access-to-Care	Provide dental hygiene products for Special Olympics athletes as part of Special Smiles Program
Trinity Community Care, Shelby Twp	Access-to-Care	Support for dental supplies and salaries to provide dentures to those in need
University of Michigan School of Dentistry, Ann Arbor	Diversity & Inclusion	Support for Profile for Success program, providing education and experience for underrepresented pre-dental students
Victors 4 Veterans, Ann Arbor/Brighton	Access-to-Care	Partnering with VINA clinic to serve Livingston County Veterans and their families
VINA Clinic, Brighton	Access to Care	Provide discounted hygiene appointments to patients

## Focus on People



### She Got What She Wanted for Christmas

One of Hope Clinic's dental patients, Jeannette Sanders, had a problem— her denture was damaged, and she was very conspicuously missing a front tooth. She felt self-conscious being seen at Christmas without her tooth.

Hope's dental clinic partnered with Ward Dental lab to source the missing tooth quickly, and Dr. Mark Cooks performed the repair successfully. Jeannette got what she wanted for Christmas — her front tooth!

In 2019, the MDA Foundation awarded Hope Clinic \$50,000 over five years (\$10,000 annually) to support their plan for permanent expansion of staffing and patient services.

*(Pictured: Jeanette Sanders and Dr. Mark Cooks)*

### MDA Foundation Supporter Spotlight: Dr. Tamika Thompson

The MDA Foundation can improve Michigan's dental health only because of the generosity of our donors. Every so often, we like to highlight these amazing individuals and organizations. Today, we're featuring Dr. Tamika Thompson, a native of the Detroit area who made her first gift to the Foundation at the April 2022 Sparkling Smiles Celebration.

Dr. Thompson graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry in 2002, completed a general practice residency at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, and went on to practice as a general dentist for six years. She returned to Detroit Mercy Dental to study in the Graduate Periodontal Program, which she completed in 2011. She's currently a full-time clinical associate professor teaching periodontics via clinic and/or didactics to the dental and dental hygiene students, accelerated dental students, and the graduate periodontal residents.

**MDA Foundation:** Why are you passionate about dental health?

**Thompson:** First and foremost, it's because I love to see people smile. I believe that having a healthy dentition helps to shape one's personality and ability to effectively communicate. Finally, I think we should also strive towards total wellness, which includes oral health.

**MDA Foundation:** How did you first become aware of the MDA Foundation and choose to support our mission?

**Thompson:** I became aware of the MDA Foundation as an MDA LEAD program participant. I really enjoyed the presentations of the organizations that benefitted from the grants of the MDA Foundation. The grants enabled the organizations to treat people facing challenges to

receiving optimum oral health care.

**MDA Foundation:** Do you have a special focus of your support?

**Thompson:** I'm passionate about access-to-care grants, because I believe that everyone should have access to quality comprehensive oral health care. I'm very service-oriented and give my time freely to mentor students, participate in events like Men's Health, University of Detroit Mercy oral cancer walks, Making Strides breast cancer walks, and as a Virtual Dialysis Support Center advocate. Supporting access-to-care grants, empowers me to give back or pay it forward without additional time commitment. My prayer is that in the future not only will I support these programs, but I'll be one of those individuals who helps bring forth new programs.

**MDA Foundation:** What would you tell someone who was thinking about making a gift to the MDA Foundation?

**Thompson:** I'd tell them that no matter the amount of the gift, every donation goes a long way in ensuring that people less fortunate have increased access to quality comprehensive oral care.

**MDA Foundation:** That's wonderful. So, outside of dentistry, what do you enjoy?

**Thompson:** I enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time with my family. I'm also the proud author of a book entitled *Poems of Purpose and Position*, published in February 2021.



Thompson