



IT'S TIME TO BUILD A DENTAL CLINIC





KIM WAS ON DEATH'S DOOR

She was in pain and her face was swollen beyond recognition from a tooth infection.

She had put off going to the dentist because she had no dental insurance.

Paying out of pocket would mean another bill would go unpaid. But she no longer had a choice.

Kim's story is a common one in poverty-stricken Appalachia Virginia.

You can help Kim and others like her.

Just in time, Kim's friend told her about the free dental clinic at the Health Wagon and she made an appointment.

When the Health Wagon's dentist, Dr. Olivia Stallard, walked into the treatment room, she knew Kim was in trouble. That sort of infection can be life threatening.

Dr. Stallard also discovered Kim had diabetes. She checked her blood sugar, knowing that infection can cause a serious rise.

Kim's blood glucose level was 528 - also life threatening!

Kim spent 5 days in the hospital for treatment for her infection with IV antibiotics and for diabetic ketoacidosis.

Kim went to the Health Wagon after she left the hospital where Dr. Stallard removed her abscessed teeth. Once she heals, she'll get new dentures and have her beautiful smile back.

If not for the care of Dr. Stallard at the Health Wagon, Kim could have very well lost her life.



Kim with Dr. Stallard after her hospital stay.



Health Wagon and partners providing dental services at the largest health outreach of its kind in the nation.

The precious people in Appalachia Virginia are in desperate need of affordable dental care.

92% of our patients are unable to meet basic needs.

And with very few of them having health insurance, much less dental insurance, you can imagine that going to the dentist is a luxury.

It's time to build a stationary dental clinic where we can treat children and adults consistently.

We're looking for some good people to make it happen.

WILL YOU HELP?

1,085 dental patients were treated in 2020 through a three-chair mobile unit and at borrowed stationary sites throughout our service area. But many, many more need to see a dentist and can't afford it. It's time to build.





The Health Wagon's ability to treat dental patients is currently limited due to lack of space.

The new facility will have ten dental chairs, sterilization/disinfectant center, radiology, denture lab, two classrooms for partnerships with dental schools and support offices and space for dentists, hygienists and dental assistants.

But that's just a start because the need is so great.

Patient to Dentist Ratio in Health Wagon Service Areas

Lee County
4,680:1

Scott County
4,310:1

Wise County
4,150:1

Buchanan County
5,250:1

Russell County
6,260:1

Dickenson County
14,320:1

THE DETAILS

3,500 square ft.

10 Exam Rooms

2 Classrooms

Support Offices

Disinfecting Room

Denture Lab

Radiology

Cost to Build: \$1.25 million

Cost to Equip: \$975,000

Property adjacent to the Smiddy Clinic in Wise, Virginia has been donated by Wise County Industrial Authority and Wise County.

YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT WILL SAVE LIVES.

To make a donation or to inquire about naming opportunities, please contact Rachel Helton at (276) 328-8850 or rhelton@thehealthwagon.org.

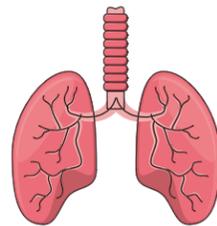
TOOTH AND GUM DISEASE CAN LEAD TO OTHER LIFE THREATENING HEALTH PROBLEMS



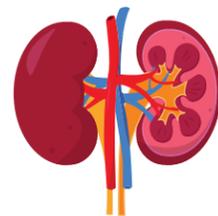
**Heart
Disease**



Dementia



**Lung
Infections**



**Kidney
Disease**

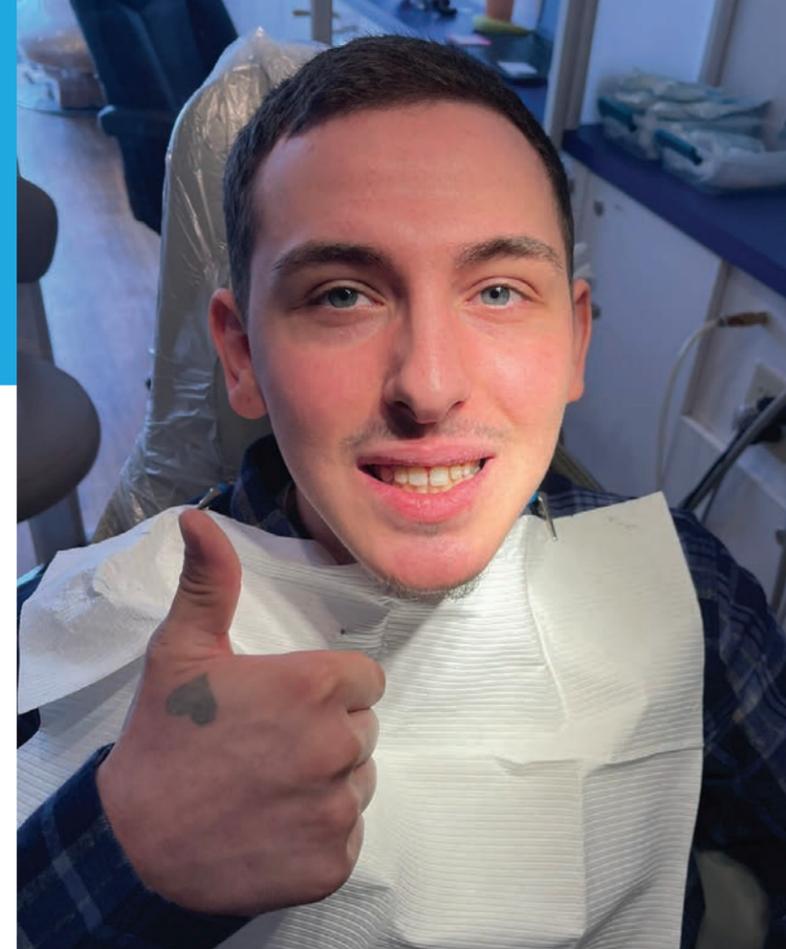
PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS - Oral health problems in the mother such as periodontitis and gingivitis have been known to lead to premature birth and low birth weight in infants. Gum disease puts both mother and baby at risk for experiencing serious health issues.

DIABETES - Infections in general are harder to treat in diabetics. Gum and tooth disease are no different. Poor dental health can also cause spikes in glucose levels in diabetics, making the disease harder to control.

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS - According to the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, people with gum disease are four times more likely to have Rheumatoid Arthritis.

CANCER - Risk for kidney cancer, pancreatic cancer, and blood cancers is much higher for people who have poor oral health.

In a region where overall health is significantly lower than the national average, families have less access to health care facilities and low rates of insurance, it's never been more imperative to make sure they have access to dental care.



Jordan, 22, didn't have dental insurance and couldn't afford to see a dentist.

He visited the mobile dental clinic thinking he would be losing his four front teeth due to serious decay.

Dr. Olivia Stallard was able to not only save his teeth, but gave him a beautiful smile.

Studies show that people with decaying teeth have a harder time finding a job, getting promotions, and even receive lower salaries.



It's hard enough to find a job in Southwest Virginia. Providing free dental care could significantly increase the overall well being of the families in the area.





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