

LATEST HEADLINES

Dientes and SCCH reach fundraising goal for Live Oak facility



Dientes, SCCH, and CFSCC staff and board celebrate fundraising milestone at 1500 Capitola Road clinic site. (Contributed by Dientes)

By **RYAN STUART** | rstuart@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

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SANTA CRUZ – Dientes Community Dental Care and Santa Cruz Community Health are one step closer to providing service to low-income residents in Live Oak.

Santa Cruz Community Health and Dientes partnered with Community Foundation, Santa Cruz County to fund two health centers. The partnership's fundraising goal was completed this week.



Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Carmel Valley) compounded the milestone with more news. He announced an additional \$1 million in funding for dental equipment for the new Dientes clinic on Tuesday.

The new facilities, at 1500 Capitola Road, will include an 11-chair dental clinic expected to serve around 6,000 low-income residents a year and a 20,000-square-foot care facility primed to serve 10,000 patients a year.

The addition of these clinics is crucial for low-income residents in the area. Many adults in the neighborhood do not have a doctor or a dentist, according to a press release from Dientes.

“We are extremely grateful to Rep. Panetta for his work to secure this critical infrastructure support,” Dientes CEO Laura Marcus said. “This is a significant step in addressing the urgent need for access to health care for our most vulnerable — those who face risks and adversities that pose lifelong threats to health, school success and overall well-being.”

The clinics are also part of an affordable housing project through a partnership with MidPen Housing. It will include 57 units of affordable housing.

The clinic is expected to be completed in the fall with housing nearing completion next year.

“Today we are celebrating the good that happens when people work together to improve access to critical services for all people regardless of circumstance,” Community Foundation CEO Susan True said. “We are honored to have played a part in this latest expansion of services and so grateful for all the community members who have stepped forward to support it.”



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Ryan Stuart

Ryan Stuart came to the Sentinel in October 2020. He was raised in a suburb outside of Seattle and he got his degree in journalism at Washington State University. Ryan moved to California in December of 2019 to cover high school sports at the Santa Clarita Valley Signal. When sports paused, he made the transition to hard news. He moved to Santa Cruz where he reports on schools, businesses, city government and north county activity.

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