

# Bridge to the Future

Department of Dentistry Campaign – Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

## A Tradition of Oral Care

The Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center Department of Dentistry has a 53-year history focused on **servicing special needs and medically complex patients, both children and adults**, with diagnoses including intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and others. We are “bursting” with patients who come from the Chicago metro area and beyond. Our patients require complex treatment in a special needs setting; **without Advocate Illinois Masonic dental program, most would not have access to care as we are one of only a few programs of this kind in the country.**

We work with a team of general and pediatric dentists, dental anesthesiologists, oral surgeons, medical specialists, and residents (general practice and dental anesthesiology) to provide superior quality, safe care for



our patients who often require IV sedation/general anesthesia because they cannot sit comfortably for long dental procedures and/or have anxiety. Treating our patients often requires specialized equipment, strategies, and techniques, in addition to multiple clinicians.

In 2021 we had over 2,300 patient visits, 25% (575) of whom were under age 18 and 95% (2,185) of whom were low income and relying on Medicaid to pay for their oral healthcare. Over the past five-plus decades, we have served more than 100,000 special needs patients.

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“ Thank you so very much for seeing us. It would have otherwise been a two-year waitlist. The peace, compassion, and grace you bless the special needs children, adults, parents, and caregivers with is a true gift and blessing from God. Thanks again for all you do. ”

- *Special Needs Dentistry Grateful Patient Family – Mandy, Deborah, Imani, and Myron Harvey*

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## Our challenge today is two-fold:

- We have **outgrown our current space** which means we have long wait times and scheduling new patients is difficult. **Access to dental care for our patient population is already limited**, with the number of dental rehabilitation cases in under-resourced communities growing over the last two decades, especially in pediatric patients.

Our vision has always been to improve access to oral healthcare and close the gap for both adults and children who are often most at risk for poor oral health, which if left unresolved, can lead to debilitating pain and infection and more serious health problems later in life. Our work helps to alleviate fear, pain and anxiety, and ensures care as early as possible; delays in treatment can lead to more debilitating disease and costly difficult procedures.

- The critical second challenge is **the cost of providing care is constantly increasing** and reimbursements are shrinking, taxing an already strained budget.

## The Future

**W**e are expanding! Generous lead grants from Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation, and the State of Illinois, combined with a federal Congressional allocation, total \$4.9 million and will fund the build out of a **new state-of-the-art Dental Center** on the first floor of the recently opened Pediatric Development Center. The new facility will be designed to both better support and serve a greater number of special needs, pediatric, and dental anesthesia patients. **We are grateful for this funding and hope to relocate by late summer 2024.**

**The new Dental Center will feature 14 operatories including three anesthesia rooms, two procedure rooms and a three-bay recovery area,** significantly expanding our

capacity to provide anesthesia and surgical services and improving patient access to care by reducing both wait time and complexity of care. Additionally, by diverting dental cases from the hospital Operating Room (OR) to the dental anesthesia suites, we are dramatically reducing costs for our dental center, patients, and taxpayers at large. Providing anesthesia services in the outpatient setting costs an estimated \$2,500 per case on average compared to a minimum of \$20,000 per case



*We estimate 50% of the cases in the two anesthesia rooms will be for special needs and pediatric patients so a welcoming space is important. A patient's total experience influences their dental compliance.*

in the OR setting. In 2022 at the current Dental Center, we provided sedation/anesthesia services for 306 special needs and pediatric cases. In the new space **we project doubling our capacity in this service line** to more than 600 cases. While the majority will be special needs, pediatric and medically complex cases, there also will be more capacity for fee-for-service anesthesia and surgical cases which are critical for balancing the Dental Center's budget.

# \$1 Million Campaign Goal

## Building a Strong Base - \$500,000

Raising \$500,000 in philanthropy is essential to securing the **equipment** needed to care for patients in our new and substantially larger space. Our purchase priorities are equipment enhancements for the anesthesia rooms including two surgical microscopes, a scanner for digital impressions, a CAD-CAM milling unit and a soft-tissue laser. This equipment will allow us to provide expanded specialty services for patients undergoing dental rehabilitation under general anesthesia. Currently, a dental rehabilitation patient may need to return for multiple appointments to complete treatment which increases risk and expense.



Additional funds are also needed to cover the ever-increasing cost of care our patients face. We have tracked over the years that **our families, who we anticipate serving in greater numbers, are more likely to be uninsured and/or underinsured** making program funds even more critical to providing the safest and highest quality of care for all.

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## Expanding Our Reach - \$250,000

Beyond our focus on serving more patients, we know many of our patients are unable to travel to the office for care. **In 2021, almost half of the patients served by the Mobile Dentistry program were first-time visits.** The Mobile Program typically operates four to five days a week with 10 to 12 patients



per day. By raising an additional \$250,000, we will be able to increase the number of service days our Mobile Dentistry Program operates. Without additional funding through philanthropy, it is possible **we would need to reduce the number of service days reducing access to care.**



## Training Center - \$250,000

**A**n additional \$250,000, bringing our total Campaign goal to \$1 million, will provide the additional resources needed to grow our inspirational training programs and offer more educational opportunities for dentists and residents. One possibility under consideration is developing a second year two resident special needs/pediatric/public health-focused program in collaboration with the UIC - School of Public Health. **The goal is to expand the network of dentists who are committed to improving access to care and reducing inequities.**



There have been several **studies identifying “dental care as one of the most prevalent unmet healthcare needs among people with special needs.”** According to the CDC, approximately 26% of adults in the United States have some type of disability related to mobility, cognition, vision, and/or self-care to name a few of the categories. In children, recent U.S. estimates show about 17% (one in six) of children ages 3 through 17 years have one or more developmental disabilities. There is an unmet need and training dentists for this care specialty is part of the solution.

From the inception of Advocate Illinois Masonic Department of Dentistry in 1970, we have sponsored nationally recognized General Practice Dental Residency and Special Patient Dental Care programs. In 2019, we added the Dental Anesthesiology program, one of eight in the United States, to train the next generation of dentist anesthesiologists to specifically provide anesthesia to special needs and pediatric patients to safely complete their dental treatment. We continue to be dedicated to education and service.

## YOU!

**Y**ou are family. Beyond patient families, it is our alumni who understand the deep and important impact of our Dental Center programs serving special needs and medically complex patients. We hope you will support the Dental Center Bridge to the Future Campaign with a gift and greatly appreciate your continuing interest. Naming opportunities are available. Thank you for your consideration. **Be the reason someone else has access to life changing dental care today.**

## Making a Gift

Advocate Charitable Foundation is grateful for your interest in supporting the Bridge to the Future Campaign. If you would like to learn more about the Campaign, please contact Ellen Canter at **Ellen.Canter@aah.org**.

To learn more about the options for making a gift, including a donation of cash or securities, please visit our website. <https://www.advocateaurorahealth.org/foundations/ways-to-give>.

## Dental Center Naming Opportunities

Room Name	Minimum Suggested Gift Amount
Department of Dentistry .....	\$3,000,000.00
General Practice Residency Program .....	\$1,000,000.00
Dental Anesthesia Residency Program .....	\$1,000,000.00
Mobile Dental Van .....	\$1,000,000.00
Operating Suite .....	\$250,000.00
Anesthesia Suite .....	\$100,000.00
Residents' Office .....	\$75,000.00
Sterilization Suite .....	\$50,000.00
Anesthesia Room (3 available) .....	\$50,000.00
Recovery Suite .....	\$50,000.00
Reception/Business Office .....	\$50,000.00
Conference Room .....	\$50,000.00
Staff Lounge .....	\$50,000.00
Dental Operatory (11 available) .....	\$25,000.00
Director's Office .....	\$25,000.00
Staff Offices (3 available) .....	\$25,000.00
Lab .....	\$25,000.00
Panoramic X-Ray Room (PAN) .....	\$25,000.00
Recovery Rooms (3 available) .....	\$25,000.00