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All Smiles

As they pulled their mobile dentistry unit through the gates of Rose Brooks Center, you could immediately sense something remarkable was going to happen. Eva Vlach, Rose Brooks Center’s Health Services Coordinator was all smiles, “because we know our residents have a tremendous need for dental work!”

On a sunny afternoon last fall, Pacific Dental Services Foundation’s mobile unit stopped at Rose Brooks, along with four dentists and a team of hygienists, dental assistants and Generation Smile support staff to provide full dental services for our residents. The Foundation’s Regional Manager, Melissa Lowry explains, “The bus is stocked with everything we need, including x-ray machines, to perform dentistry as if we were in the office.”

She was right, it felt like we were at the dentist! The dental crew was able to take x-rays, perform delicate dental work, and even create crowns in their mobile lab. In all, 25 residents received cleanings, periodontal root scaling, root canals, crowns, and/or fillings depending on their needs. One woman even had two root canals, with crowns, while another had seven cavities filled.

As with any visit to the dentist, there was some anxiety. For some of the residents it was because they hadn’t had this care in so long, and they were afraid they would be told it was hopeless. For others, it was triggering past trauma of being assaulted in the face or mouth by their abuser, leaving damage. But the dentists and their team were kind and gentle with every single patient. We call that being trauma-informed!

Later the patients reported being grateful for the service and glad they had attended. One said, “It’s going to feel great not putting my hand over my mouth every time I smile or laugh.” Then another woman said, “This is a really big day for me. Ten years of not smiling is a long time.”

We are thankful for Pacific Dental Services Foundation and their amazing Generation Smile staff. Because of them, we can’t stop smiling.

Left in the Dark

Most of us can relate to that very particular feeling of dread when the power goes out. You instinctively reach for candles, or comfort your children as you prepare for your new reality. Now, imagine you are not in your familiar home, but in a shelter because you recently escaped a violent relationship. Although it may be difficult to imagine, that is what happened to the families living at Rose Brooks Center during the wide-spread power outage in January of this year.

“The same concerns a hospital may have, are the same concerns Rose Brooks would have,” explained Medical Advisory Board Member, Lou Loescher-Junge. “You both are responsible for the lives of those living with heightened emotional, medical, and safety needs because of recent trauma.”

Because of this experience, Rose Brooks is looking at the feasibility of generators capable of allowing us to provide critical care in spite of an extended power outage. This care will not only include the basics of climate control, but the very crucial need of safety for residents and those trying to reach us for support.

As you might expect, these types of generators, along with operating and maintenance are very expensive, but we are committed to doing what we have been doing for over 40 years - meeting the needs of those escaping unspeakable violence in order for them to heal, move forward, and live a life free of violence. Stay tuned as we continue our research!

Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.
A 10-Year Anniversary

Implemented ten years ago between Rose Brooks Center and the Kansas City Police Department, The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) provides a crucial point of access for domestic violence victims who need the most help - those with a high risk of being killed by their partners.

The LAP is designed to encourage and enable victims to utilize the community’s domestic violence services, thereby reducing risk of re-assault. Based on the screening completed by the officer at the scene, if a victim is identified as high-risk, officers take steps to connect them to Rose Brooks Center immediately. This action essentially re-directs the victim’s path to safety.

The LAP has had substantial impact on Rose Brooks Center’s services, and an even greater impact on the lives of survivors. Last year, advocates answered 9,986 hotline calls. Of those, 2,623 were LAP referrals made by law enforcement. The hotline advocates then give further education and support to the victim, as to how to remain safe, what options are available, and what resources are in the community and within Rose Brooks. The victim is not only more aware of help available, but is empowered to make choices that will increase their personal safety, and decrease further risks.

To date, 19,240 individuals have been referred as high lethality through LAP and have received support from Rose Brooks Center staff. We thank the Kansas City Police Department for their use of this tool. They are making a tangible and lasting difference in the lives of victims and their families.

Because domestic violence homicides are predictable based on the behavior of an abuser, they are preventable. It is for this reason we continue to answer the call for those in danger, and celebrate this 10-year achievement.

Medical Advisory Board

Allow us to introduce you to a group of professionals who have been donating their time, talent, and health services knowledge to better meet the medical and health care needs of Rose Brooks Center’s clients. They are the CARE in our aptly named on-site Safe CARE Health Clinic.

The Medical Advisory Board, led by Rose Brooks’ Health Services Coordinator, includes medical and academic professionals who provide structure, guidance, and oversight to the health services program, primarily through Rose Brooks’ Safe CARE Health Clinic. The program is further supported by an outstanding network of volunteer doctors who allow the Safe CARE Health Clinic to be open each and every week, meeting the medical needs of those who have had little or no access to health care.

The advisory board understands the work it takes to provide a patient-focused environment that treats every person with dignity and respect. They work to procure donations of supplies and equipment, evaluate forms and processes, and make recommendations that further the mission of the program. As their charter states, they “are committed and engaged in the success of the health services program and in improving the lives of the adults and children served by Rose Brooks Center,” and for this we thank them for their extraordinary work.

Pictured from left to right: Obie Austin (UMKC Student Health), LeAnn Beluw (GEHA), Lou Loescher-Junge (University of Kansas School of Health Professions, retired), Eva Vlach (Rose Brooks Center), Mark Van Blaricum (Pita for Good, LLC), Dr. Carrie Francis (Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, Kansas University Medical Center), Karen Lea (Saint Luke’s College of Health Sciences, retired), and John Frick (Innovative Pharmaceutical Services).
They Are The Champions

Rose Brooks Center’s Champions program describes a multi-dimensional partnership highlighting both organization’s commitment to being champions for families and pets escaping domestic violence.

Champions for Empowerment

Allstate, because of your support, Rose Brooks has provided nearly 2,600 adults with critical tools to gain economic independence.

www.allstate.com

Champions for Pets

Over 28,500 nights of safety have been provided to family pets throughout Bayer’s 8-year giving history.

www.bayer.com

Random Acts of Kindness

At Rose Brooks Center, we like to lead by example. We believe children are like a mirror, they reflect what they see and hear to others. We found that a good way to teach kindness is to not only be kind but use a bit of positive reinforcement.

In 2015, Rose Brooks Center created the “kindness closet” to reward children in shelter for their random acts of kindness. When a staff member observes a child doing a random act of kindness, whether that be opening a door, giving a helping hand, or just saying thank you, they are rewarded with kindness cash. With the kindness cash a child can buy a gift for themselves or for a family member. Children get excited to pick out their gift and proud to show off their reward.

Our kindness closet could not be successful without the generous donations from our wonderful donors. Thanks to the donations we receive, we are able to teach children the benefits of kindness and leading by example.

Cheers to Volunteers in 2018!

Volunteers contributed 14,328 hours of their time to support Rose Brooks Center’s mission. Because of their kindness, they helped survivors and their pets heal from trauma in 2018. THANK YOU!

Be A Game Changer

CASINO NIGHT IS OCTOBER 5TH!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019   OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CENTER

www.rosebrooks.org/casino | events@rosebrooks.org | 816-605-7113

TICKETS START AT $125!

socialize with us.