Thank you.

Your support has a tangible impact on the public’s oral health. You are part of a group of committed dental professionals, scientists, caregivers, industry leaders, and community members who are creating an even brighter future for everyone who deserves quality oral healthcare. Which is to say, everyone.

In this year’s Impact Report, we are proud to share highlights of what we have accomplished together and some glimpses of where we are headed next.

Together, we are ... **advancing oral health**.
Your commitment allows us to improve each point in the oral health chain, create new technologies, and provide care to those who need it. Together, we create innovative, data-driven partnerships to find new and effective solutions in oral healthcare.

Together, we are ... **expanding access to care**.
You are working with us to close longstanding gaps in the continuity of care for underserved populations. Together, we change the lives of those in need.

Together, we are ... **driving game-changing research**.
The Volpe Research Center has developed some of the most important scientific milestones in the dental profession. Together, we are working to find and develop the next breakthrough solutions in oral healthcare.

Our entire ADA Foundation team – including Board, staff, and volunteers – is grateful for the difference you have made in advancing both the heart and science of oral health. Thank you for your trust in us. We look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

William R. Calnon, D.D.S.
President and Interim Executive Director
“We met nine-year-old Heather at our first Give Kids A Smile event. She was a trouper throughout a few extractions and sealants. After the treatment, our dental hygienist, Deborah, gave her a toothbrush to take home. This brave little girl shocked us by bursting into tears. Fearing that she was in pain, Deborah anxiously questioned her about what was wrong. Eventually Heather explained that her tears were not tears of pain but of happiness, as she had never had a toothbrush before and had always wanted one. Several years later, Deb still has Heather’s picture on her bulletin board in her treatment room to remind us all that there are children in our community who need help and they are getting that help through the care and compassion of local dentists.”

Linda K. Himmelberger, D.M.D.  
Member, ADA Foundation Board of Directors 2014–2017

Advancing Oral Health

Together, we strengthen the full continuum of care. We fortify the efforts of countless professionals and organizations who are partnering – with patients and each other – to lead the way toward better oral health outcomes. Through scientific research, professional training, patient and caregiver education, and mobilizing volunteers to provide care, we aim to ultimately make a difference in everyone’s health.

Our Investments Make an Impact

Each year, the ADA Foundation provides support to dental professionals, dental students, and community volunteers, benefitting hundreds of thousands of people across the country.

In 2016, the ADA Foundation:

Made 187 GRANTS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS totaling $892,147.54 to support efforts to improve the public’s oral health

Facilitated $1,536,090 IN-KIND PRODUCT DONATIONS for use by dental professionals in providing free care to underserved children

Mobilized dental professionals across the U.S. to PROVIDE 300,000 children WITH FREE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES through Give Kids A Smile®

32% OF ADULTS aged 20–44, and 19% OF CHILDREN aged 5–19, have untreated dental caries (tooth decay or cavities).¹

Approximately 1/3 OF ADULTS have not had a dental visit in the past year.¹

We are working to address the barriers that prevent individuals from receiving the care they need, from expanding access to care to continuing to work on new innovations that improve patient outcomes.

Expanding **Access to Care**

No person should go without preventive oral healthcare – let alone needed dental treatments – because of removable barriers.

We are addressing gaps in care through our signature Give Kids A Smile program and our international programs. Each time a dedicated volunteer provides needed care, they embody and elevate the dental profession’s promise to balance the human, technical, and cultural dynamics present in every patient interaction. Together, we are proud to facilitate hundreds of thousands of such patient interactions annually.

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**Improving Global Oral Health**

The ADA Foundation educates, and provides resources for, dentists who are interested in using their professional skills to increase access to care for underserved communities outside the U.S. We sponsor educational courses on international volunteerism, and our website internationalvolunteer.ada.org offers information on international volunteerism including how to connect with over 125 organizations. The site had almost 23,000 visitors in 2016.

In partnership with Health Volunteers Overseas, we provide dentists with opportunities to work around the world to teach and train local oral health providers. In 2016, HVO Oral Health volunteers completed assignments and trained 226 providers in Cambodia, Laos, St. Lucia, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Tanzania. 100% of volunteers agreed that their assignment broadened their perspective, strengthened their professional network, and enriched their commitment to global health and service.4

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**Give Kids A Smile**

Since 2003, more than 5.5 million children have been cared for by more than half a million volunteers.

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Nearly **one in four** children **under the age of five** already has a cavity.2 Tooth decay is one of the **most chronic conditions of childhood** in the U.S., affecting **42% of children aged 2 to 11 years old.**3

Dentists and dental team members volunteer their time to provide free oral health services to underserved children throughout the United States. In 2017, the 15th anniversary of GKAS, we are directing our focus toward educating parents and caregivers of children ages 0 (birth) to 5 about the importance of optimum oral health. We are sharing oral health education resources interprofessionally with pediatricians, obstetricians, and early childhood educators.

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4 Health Volunteers Overseas. Volunteer Feedback Survey and Annual Site Coordinator Survey, 2017
Driving **Game-changing Research**

The ADA Foundation’s research enterprise, the Volpe Research Center (VRC), has long been at the forefront of science seeking to advance the oral health of the public through basic and applied research on dental restorative materials and treatment therapies. Our goal is not only to create new and improved materials to restore the effects of dental caries, but also to understand complex biological, chemical, and mechanical phenomena that lead to oral maladies and develop treatments that will prevent, arrest and, possibly, reverse these conditions.

15-20% of **MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS** (35–44 years old) have **periodontal disease**, which may result in tooth loss.5

Dental cavities and periodontal disease are leading causes of tooth loss. Complete loss of natural teeth is widespread and particularly affects older people: globally, **about 30% OF PEOPLE AGED 65–74 HAVE NO NATURAL TEETH**.5

The public-private partnership between the VRC, ADA Foundation, ADA, and governmental research agencies is one of the longest lasting, if not the longest, in the United States to date. We will celebrate 90 years of collaboration between ADA and ADA Foundation researchers and government scientists in 2018.

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Did You Know?
Our 90 years of research have produced:

A portfolio of NEARLY 100 patents

Many patents licensed to dental/medical manufacturers, resulting in over 200 PRODUCTS on the market

Development of the HIGH-SPEED HANDPIECE, FRONT SURFACE DENTAL MIRROR and PANORAMIC X-RAY (essential resources in every dental facility)

New generation of RESTORATIVES and REMINERALIZATION THERAPIES with the ability to restore mineral lost to tooth decay: fluoride mouthwashes, chewing gums, etc.

Development of new generations of biocompatible restoratives: ADHESIVES, TOOTH-COLORED COMPOSITES, and SEALANTS

CALCIUM PHOSPHATE CEMENTS capable of general bone regeneration

STANDARD MEASUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS and CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIALS for standardized, improved testing of dental materials

Together. We can’t do it without you.
Corporate and Industry Supporters, 2016

Volpe Research Center
Together. We can’t do it without you.

Individual Supporters, 2016

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