



## Enhancing Quality of Life for Individuals and Communities

Since 2004, the Patterson Foundation has been giving back to communities, industries and employees who have helped make Patterson Companies successful. From children in need of affordable dental care, to individuals who have suffered brain injuries and need occupational therapy, to the children of Patterson employees who are following their dreams with the help of college scholarships, the Foundation is touching many lives.

Funded primarily by the generosity of current and former employees of Patterson Companies, the Foundation is separate from Patterson business operations. Its mission is to provide resources to programs that make a distinct contribution to enhance the quality of life and create social and economic value in communities.

The Patterson Foundation's two giving programs include college scholarships for the children of Patterson Companies employees and grants to nonprofit organizations that are operating charitable programs in the oral health, animal health, and occupational and physical rehabilitation fields. The Patterson Foundation Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$1.7 million in college scholarships to nearly 300 students from Patterson families to help them achieve their education goals. With respect to its grant-making, the Foundation's primary interest is in supporting programs where healthcare professionals volunteer their services to disadvantaged people or individuals with special needs

in their communities. Funding is most commonly used to support the work of the volunteers or for costs associated with starting up a new program or expanding an existing one to serve more patients in need.

In the dental field, the Patterson Foundation has provided more than \$4.5 million in grants since 2004. Grants have been awarded to many community-based organizations and several national ones including Oral Health America, National Children's Oral Health Foundation and Dental Lifeline Network. Additionally, the Foundation provides resources to many Mission of Mercy events each year that help thousands of underserved people around the country access much needed dental care.

According to Gary Johnson, president of the Patterson Foundation, "We are so proud to be able to support programs that have a direct impact on the lives of individuals in need. Few things are as important as contributing to a person's ability to lead a full and healthy life."

Cook Children's Save a Smile in Tarrant County, Texas, is one of the community-based organizations the Patterson Foundation supports. Save a Smile provides dental care to targeted low-income children in pre-kindergarten through third grade in pre-selected schools. This nationally recognized, collaborative program within the Cook Children's Community Health Outreach department



provides dental screenings (limited oral evaluations) for as many children as possible who are at high risk for serious dental disease.

Following the screenings, children receive an oral health kit with a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, fluoride for the age appropriate, a tooth fairy box, oral hygiene instructions and a dental resource brochure in English and Spanish. Children in need of further dental treatment are connected with a community health worker who helps connect them with the necessary care. This could include helping a parent complete a Medicaid/CHIP application or arranging dental care from one of the 87 Save a Smile volunteer dentists and specialists who have provided more than \$6.5 million in dental care to date.

According to Tonya Fuqua, DDS, program director for Save a Smile, the program is about establishing relationships and changing behaviors. "We can drill and fill all day long, but if we can't change their behavior or mindset, those we treat are going to end up in the same situation. We don't just put out a fire – we provide comprehensive dental care. We get kids cavity free. We need kids and their parents to understand how to achieve oral health and how to stay there."

Save a Smile uses funding from the Patterson Foundation to transport kids and their families to volunteer dentists' offices to receive free care. Fuqua, who started Save a

Smile and oversees it part-time in addition to running her own dental practice, said that funds from the Foundation have been vital. "I'm thrilled and excited that the Patterson Foundation has been willing to fund the transportation section of our program," she said. "Our community health workers are an important component of Save a Smile and they provide transportation so that children can get their health taken care of. So to fund the transportation is vital. I'm really grateful that the Patterson Foundation continues to support this need."

Scott Anderson, member of the Patterson Foundation Board of Directors and president and CEO of Patterson Companies, said "The Foundation is honored to partner with Cook Children's and many other organizations across the country working to expand access to healthcare for those who need it most. The volunteer healthcare providers that work with programs like Save a Smile are the true heroes. Their efforts are making a tremendous positive impact on their communities each and every day."

The Patterson Foundation awards approximately 25-30 grants per year and is always considering partnerships with new organizations. Programs that relate directly to the Patterson Foundation's mission and guidelines are most likely to receive grant funding. The Board of Directors meets four times per year to review grant proposals. To learn more about the Patterson Foundation and its giving programs, please visit [www.pattersonfoundation.net](http://www.pattersonfoundation.net).