2021 Impact Report to the Community
**COMMITMENT TO KIDS**

KIND is a 110-year-old non-profit committed to serving children across Colorado. We are a scrappy team of true health-equity warriors most concerned with increasing access to oral health care that is judgment-free, positive, prevention-oriented and available for disease treatment when needed, regardless of whether they are able to pay for the cost of care.

At KIND, we believe:

- Every child has the right to a healthy smile and body.
- Preventative oral health habits positively impact a child’s overall health and the trajectory of their lives.
- Improving access to and perceptions of oral health will increase health equity and the future landscape of healthcare in Colorado.

**OUR GOALS**

1. Improve perceptions of dental care, in order to improve behaviors, by embedding oral health as integral to a child’s overall well-being.

2. Increase health equity for youth in underserved communities by providing dental care that utilizes innovative and collaborative models.

3. Empower oral health advocacy in and by the communities KIND serves through education and activation of stakeholders.
IN 2021 KIND...

IMPROVED PERCEPTIONS OF ORAL HEALTH’S ROLE IN OVERALL WELLNESS.

Through Community Outreach
KIND is out in the community each week and gives out tons of oral health products including toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, etc. New learning partnerships with peer promotora-based organizations, such as The GrowHaus and Cultivando, has helped KIND’s team increase the quality and reach of our services!

Events KIND participated in included Operation Freebird put on by the Adams County Sheriffs Office, Anythink Libraries Drive Thrus, Trick or Treat Street in Commerce City, and more!

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INCREASED HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE CARE MODELS.

KIND was one of 3 organizations to serve as the leadership of the C4: Commerce City Community Campus, an innovative health neighborhood concept, establishing integrated health care and social services as a hub for family support.

KIND’s Community Partnership Manager, Erin Metz, spearheaded a new digital education tool through a unique collaboration with Clear Choice Dental Implant Centers and Hey-Yo Studio to create educational videos help make the connection between dental health and whole-body health. This 3-part video series in both Spanish & English offers fun animation & interactive health tips.


Health Neighborhoods
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Tele-Oral Health
KIND’s school-based program, Chopper Topper, was able to resume after COVID closures in 2020. And, because of KIND’s teledentistry innovation during COVID, our school-based providers have integrated asynchronous teledentistry appointments into their classroom services!

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KIND Serves As One United Team of Health Equity Warriors.
We all do so to serve KIND’s mission and champion every child’s right to healthy smile, body, and mind. EVERY team member has given generously of their time, resources, and own finances in support KIND’s timeless mission. Each of us have chosen to support and serve KIND’s mission in different ways and for different reasons.

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"I have a passion for helping others, as I was an undocumented kid. I was a kid that was homeless at times - didn’t have food, water, or proper clothing. But in the end, I would no the who I am if I didn’t through everything that I did."

And who is Anid? Anid is courageous, determined, and fiercely caring. Anid is KIND’s first bilingual Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC). In her role, Anid uses her talents and experiences to help KIND become of the first dental non-profits in the country to build a promotora-based model of care.

Anid recalls a moment in her life that shaped the person has become today: During her freshman year of high school, Anid was excited to be asked to go on a school trip with a mentor. She asked her parents for her birth certificate and social security card, so travel arrangements could be made. Her parents didn’t want to disappoint their daughter, but she remembers hearing devastating words: “You’re not legal here. You can’t go.” This was a shock. “What do you mean I’m not legal? I’ve gone to school here my whole life?” she remembers asking, feeling crushed.

Born in Mexico, Anid came to the U.S. at age 2. Her mother became a permanent resident in Colorado and Anid grew up in Denver and attending DPS. After she found out about her school trip, she set out on a mission to become a legal U.S. citizen. She was told that, as a high-school student, she could apply for the Child Citizenship Act. This meant if she was adopted by a U.S. citizen and went to school for more than 10 years, she would become a citizen. “So, I went to work. I worked waiting tables after school, washing dishes for local businesses and cleaning offices at night. During that summer I worked with my grandparents at their local restaurant too,” she said reminiscing on this busy time in her life. She went on to apply for the Child Citizenship Act in 1997. However, the law had changed, and she could no longer apply. Things intensified the following year as her mother became very sick and went through chemotherapy. Her parents divorced and Anid was left to take care of herself, her mom and her sister. “I worked and tried to go to school, but it was harder every day, so I stopped going.” In 1999, Anid was pregnant and didn’t know what to do, as she was on a list to be deported to Mexico. When her boyfriend found out, he proposed. The law said if she married a U.S. citizen she could stay and apply for residency through an interview. After they were married, Anid spent three days outside of immigration waiting just to apply and interview. Her hard work eventually paid off. She was a permanent resident for 10 years and, in 2010, she became a naturalized citizen.

Anid brings this same sense of determination to her work at KIND. For 5 years Anid was the first face KIND patients and families saw when they entered KIND clinics. In 2021, she became KIND’s first bilingual CDHC. In this position she not only helps with patient oral health access, but digs into any resources the child or family may need – including clothing or food.

Anid truly has come full circle and is now channeling her tough experiences into helping patients, families and the KIND community.
TELE-ORAL HEALTH FOR EQUITY: KIND LEADS THE WAY

Chopper Topper is KIND’s mobile school-based program that provides basic oral health screenings, preventive dental sealants, fluoride, oral health education, and dental referrals at no cost, right inside kids’ schools. Our approach increases access to these important disease prevention services at no cost or inconvenience for families to receive care. And in 2021, we added teledentistry services so our hygienists could connect families directly to a dentist from a school site!

As a result of the pandemic, KIND has seen an increase in the frequency of severe cavities and oral health needs in children. This may be the result of the need to delay or forgo treatment during COVID and changes in dietary habits/oral hygiene while at home. Much more than any other year, the decay seems to be more prevalent throughout the entire mouth and also larger in size. We have also noticed more stains, the need for more cleanings, and increases in tartar buildup along the gums line – contributing to unhealthy gums and tissues. This seems to be the tip of the iceberg in terms of a severe decrease in children’s oral health in Colorado. It is both shocking and tragic as the vast majority of the disease witnessed is preventable! And why Chopper’s Topper’s work so important!

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As the pandemic raged on, Teledentistry helped enhance school and community-based health services by improving patient engagement and resource support. This utilized unused clinic locations, our dental hygienists and our Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHC’s)!

When COVID shut down our elementary school treatment program, Chopper Topper, in 2020 and early 2021, Director of Outreach, Lisa Valdez and KIND dentist Dr. Maes led the KIND team in establishing hygiene-based Wellness Appointments to provide teledentistry offerings and resource support. This utilized unused clinic locations, our dental hygienists and our Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHC’s)!

Teledentistry saves time, money, and anxiety for everyone! When Dr. Maes participates in virtual consults, kids, and in the case of community events, caregivers too, get to meet him and find out that he is not scary! This relationship building improves the rate of successful referrals for those who do still need to come to the clinic.

As the pandemic raged on, Teledentistry helped enhance school and community-based health services by improving patient engagement while mitigating care-access challenges while simultaneously offering cost efficiencies and prioritizing patient safety.

Now that Chopper Topper has headed BACK to school, we can offer enhanced services by adding teledentistry integration into our model!
Persistent inequities continue with relation to oral health numbers locally, nationally, and globally. And our community sits in a distinct position to actively engage in promoting oral health equity.

KIND and Dr. Kevin Patterson, DDS, MD were on the front lines of this effort helping immigrant college students who were out of options and in pain. Many resorting to utilizing unlicensed dental care, without proper tools or care. Through the generosity and volunteerism of Dr. Patterson and Denver Metro OMS, KIND was able to coordinate donated surgical care for seven first-generation CSU students – some of whom had never visited a dentist before in their lives. You read that correctly, seven!

Dental care can be a hurdle, especially with complexities surrounding insurance for costly procedures such as wisdom teeth extraction.

Because of this, CSU Professor, Dr. Eric Ishiwata, said he reached out to more than 30 organizations, over several years, to try and find help. All were dead ends until October 2020, when KIND became involved. In October 2021 we heard their stories, and you can too by scanning the QR code.

Every Kid Deserves A Smile

We want you to see these videos of these wonderful kids. So many families and kids put dental needs on hold during the pandemic and we are overwhelmed with the amount of care needed. With people like you behind them, the sky really is the limit. And the smile bigger!


Scan to Meet Alan, Issie, and more KIND kids!
Permitting and construction began on the KIND clinic in C4: Commerce City Community Campus in 2021. This area is often referred to as the heart of the “poverty belt.” The C4 KIND clinic opening, (May 2022), marks a revolutionary melding of government, nonprofit and social service solutions; all within a repurposed, landmark building.

The C4 KIND clinic will be next door to the Kids First Health Care clinic, as part of this co-location project, to provide pediatric medical-mental-dental health care integration, alongside social services. For instance, in the same building, KIND families will be able to visit the motor vehicle department, pick up WIC supplies from Tri-County Health, or take parenting classes from the Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County.

And this is truly a labor of love from KIND’s supporters: In addition to grant funding, this project is supported by 100% donated in-kind services to complete the funding, from the following: BVB general contractors, architect Bloom Studios, Hutchison - Papesh Engineering Corp., McDonald Consulting + Design, Inc., Tower Realty, legal services from Mastin Bergstrom, Patterson Dental supplies, and Rocky Mountain Tech Team - valuing at over $100,000 of the total project cost!

KIND has been part of this community for over 100 years, and we’re proud to partner with our neighbors to build a dental home that increases oral health equity by empowering the community to decide what that means and needs to look like for them” said KIND’s Executive Director Ellie Burbee. “This is more than a clinic. Every room we design, every service we offer, will continue to be informed by the voiced needs of client families. That is what makes this project special; it belongs to the community.

An important fundraiser that allows KIND to impact thousands of children each year, our annual golf tournament had a unique style in 2021, due to the pandemic: Topgolf style! While we’ll return to 18 holes in ’22, this relaxed golf style of convening for KIND proved such a popular success, that KIND has permanently added a putt-putt component to their normal golf tourney! In addition to Topgolf fun, the event included a visit from some of our favorite patients – the Martinez family! I wish I had a quick solution for the inequity in health care that has taken hold in this country,” he said. “For now, I am committed to do as much as I can to ensure access to care for as many people as possible, even if it means only seven at a time. The long-term solution is very simple: if everyone did just a little to help those in need, then the need would quickly disappear.

- Dr. Kevin M. Patterson Denver Metro OMS
Partners for Change

Thank you to our impact partners

Thank you to our health equity heroes:

Program to Fundraising Expense Ratio
85% or higher is considered excellent across non-profit rating systems like Charity Navigator and Guidestar

20% of Budget is In-Kind
KIND consistently exceeds industry averages of donated goods, services, and expenses, thanks to our community of supporters!

Employees
KIND’s staffing model relies on a mix of volunteer support, contracted professional services, and talented team members in order to keep overhead low. Of our 15 employees, 7 are full-time, 3 are part-time/seasonal, and 11 are programmatically-focused!

2021 KIND Board
The Kids In Need of Dentistry Board consists of individuals from many local professional industries, with a shared goal of keeping KIND’s mission intact and providing the best guidance and support to the staff members and patients. Each board member brings a unique perspective to KIND and is committed to increasing support throughout the local community.

Elliott Carson, Chair
Kevin Patterson, DDS, MS, Chair-Elect
Paul Jerez, Immediate-Past Chair
Josh Austin, Treasurer
Rosa Melendez-Nguyen, Secretary
Cindy Kelly
Clarisa Hernandez
Pam Sletten
Jason Langley
Isaac Chung, DDS
Lisa Phillips, DDS
Doug Lazure
Ellie Burbee, Ex-officio

Thank you to our 2021 health equity heroes:

KIND Volunteer Providers

5,917 Total served by KIND 2021

Board Chair-Elect Cindy Kelly volunteers with KIND staff at Commerce City’s Operation Freebird

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HELPING CHILDREN GET THE DENTAL SERVICES THEY NEED SINCE 1912

KIND is committed to providing dental care that is respectful of and responsive to the specific cultural needs of the communities we serve.

Please note our new address!
KIND’s business offices have moved to become integrated with our Commerce City Clinic at the C4!
(Learn more on page 12)

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