



# 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.

Big sister, age 7, “lends a hand” to comfort her 3-year old sister during a dental visit with KIND dentist, Dr. Les Maes.

# 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 Thru, Trick or Treat Street in Commerce City, and more!



Anythink Library Summer Drive Thru



CCSD PreSchool Palooza



KINDcares Bag Deliveries



### ...And Education

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.

View the series at <https://bit.ly/HealthySmilesBodiesMinds>



## INCREASED HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE CARE MODELS.

### Health Neighborhoods

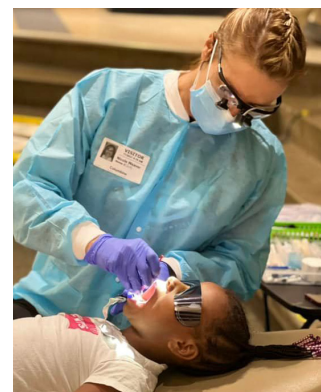
KIND was one of 3 organizations to serve as the leadership of the C4: Commerce City Community Campus, an innovative health neighborhood concept, establishing integrated health care and social services as a hub for family support.



C4 partners, Adams County Government, CO Commissioners, Jessica Sandgren Mayor Pro Tem City of Thornton and many others to tour the future KIND and Kids First Health Care C4 clinic.

### 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!



## EMPOWERED ORAL HEALTH ADVOCACY THROUGH ENGAGING AND ACTIVATING STAKEHOLDERS.

### Dental & Healthcare Professionals



### Community Supporters & Storytellers

9NEWS: NONPROFIT KIND HELPS KIDS IN NEED OF DENTISTRY



A CASE STUDY IN EQUITY WITH CSU STUDENTS



### KIND Patients & Families



KIND is building our first Family Partner Program, whose purpose is to represent and empower dental health advocacy in and by the families KIND serves



Alan Munoz Valenciano at a Black Lives Matter rally in his hometown of Rifle, Colorado is one of seven CSU students to receive major dental procedures through KIND.

## 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.

## ELEVATED THE VOICES THOSE OFTEN UNHEARD, TO STAND FOR JUSTICE AND EQUITY; AND TO STAND AGAINST HATE AND DISCRIMINATION.



# ANID NARANJO HEALTH EQUITY WARRIOR



“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.

## Promotora

Promotoras are Hispanic/Latino community residents and leaders who serve as liaisons between their community, health professionals, human and social service organizations. They often play the roles of an advocate, educator, mentor, outreach worker, role model, and interpreter.

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.



KIND board members and staff worked to raise awareness for child abuse prevention by joining in the pinwheels for prevention campaign. Over one hundred pinwheels were planted at our clinic.

## CDHC’S CARE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY

KIND’s Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHC’s) act as a bridge between the clinic and community agencies, and families, allowing KIND to interact and build relationships with our patients like never before. CDHC’s share knowledge and resources, reaching out to patients in need, rather than waiting for them to walk through our doors. Each KIND CDHC has a dental background and is certified with the American Dental Association to provide case management, healthcare navigation, oral health education, motivational interviewing and community mapping.

### In 2021, KIND CDHC’s:

- Delivered over 1,000 KINDcares Kits in 2021! This means thousands in our community received nutritious food, toothbrushes, clothes and grocery help.
- Developed KIND’s Family Partner Program: Bringing decision-making power to our community in KIND’s program and services design. Stay tuned for more on this exciting collaboration in 2022!





# TELE-ORAL HEALTH FOR EQUITY: KIND LEADS THE WAY



Our Chopper Topper team works some big miracles (from middle row left, clockwise) – George Last not only transports all materials to each school site, he also sets up a mini dental clinic in each school. Janice Eiring and Nikki Alston-Weaver are our hygienist extraordinaires and kid whisperers.

Chopper Topper is KIND’s mobile school-based program that provides basic oral health screening, 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 gum 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!

**24%** OF PATIENTS SERVED BY KIND CARE CENTERS BENEFIT FROM OUR SCHOOL-BASED TELEDENTISTRY.



## HIGHLIGHT ON TELEDENTRISTRY

New Technology to Align with Efficient, Effective, and Lower Risk Dental Care Post COVID



### CariVu

Small, handheld device that uses infrared to detect tooth decay. It avoids the radiation of a traditional x-ray, can be used in a school-based setting, and improves imaging.



### Statim Cassette Sterilizer

Portable sterilization tool that allows the clinical team to sterilize instruments in under 18 minutes; optimizing the ability to safely screen and treat more patients in one day on site.



### Intraoral Camera

Wi-fi enabled micro-camera that sends synchronous and asynchronous still and video images via iOS, Android mobile phone and tablet. Enables review and consultation with off-site dentist for better triage.



## KIND KID

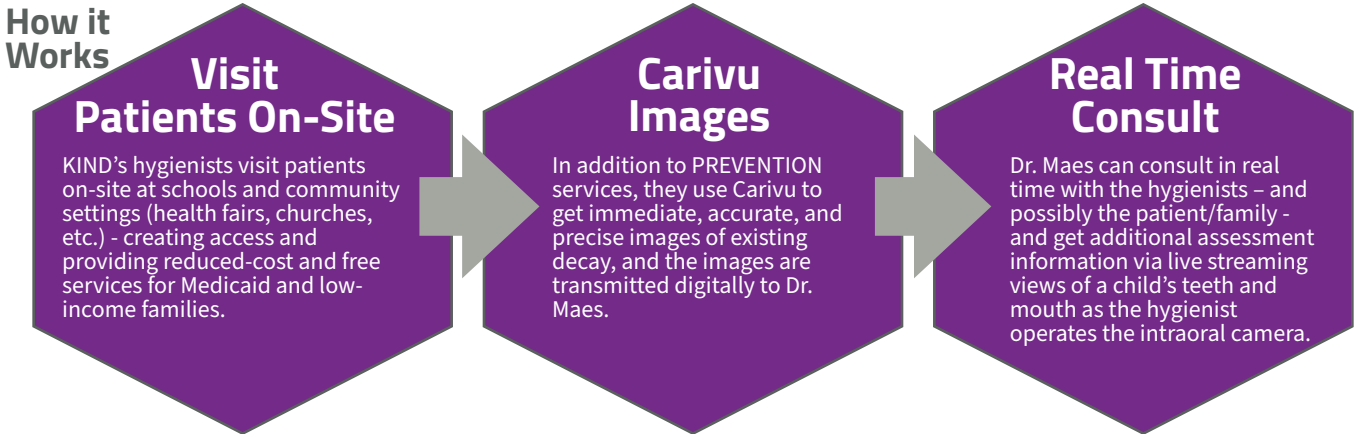
**Drumroll please! Meet 10-year-old Emily! (isn’t she ADORABLE)**

She’s been coming to KIND for awhile now, after being referred by her school nurse, and has had several appointments over many months. Now all treatment is complete!

At times Em was nervous and we talked her through her it. She is less anxious about returning for regular dental appointments in the future. Victory!

# TELEDENTISTRY

Meet Dr. Maes & Lisa: The Dynamic Duo behind KIND’s Teledentistry Innovation!



Teledentistry has demonstrated success nationally, but is underutilized in Colorado. KIND is leading the way towards this innovation in evidence-based care.

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!





# CSU STUDENTS HONORED GUESTS AT ANNUAL KIND GALA

"Growing up with my experiences and talking with other students who are undocumented, a lot of times it seems as if we're doing this stuff on our own. So, when we get stuff like this, where it's a hand reaching out with a gift, it really relieves a lot of the stress, and it makes us feel welcomed and a part of the community."

- Alan Muñoz Valenciano



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!

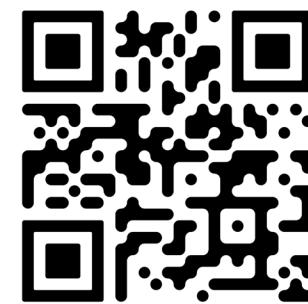
Dental care can be a hurdle, especially with complexities surrounding insurance for costly procedures such as wisdom teeth extraction.

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!

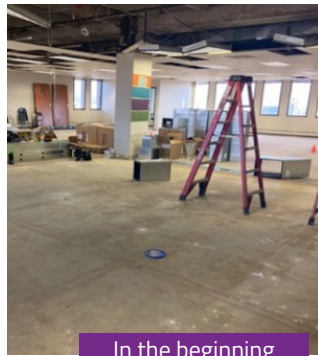
<https://bit.ly/KIND7-CSU>



Scan to Meet Alan, Issie,  
and more KIND kids!







In the beginning



Getting into the guts



In the end



Ready for Patients!

## KIND AT THE C4: HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH COLLABORATION

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

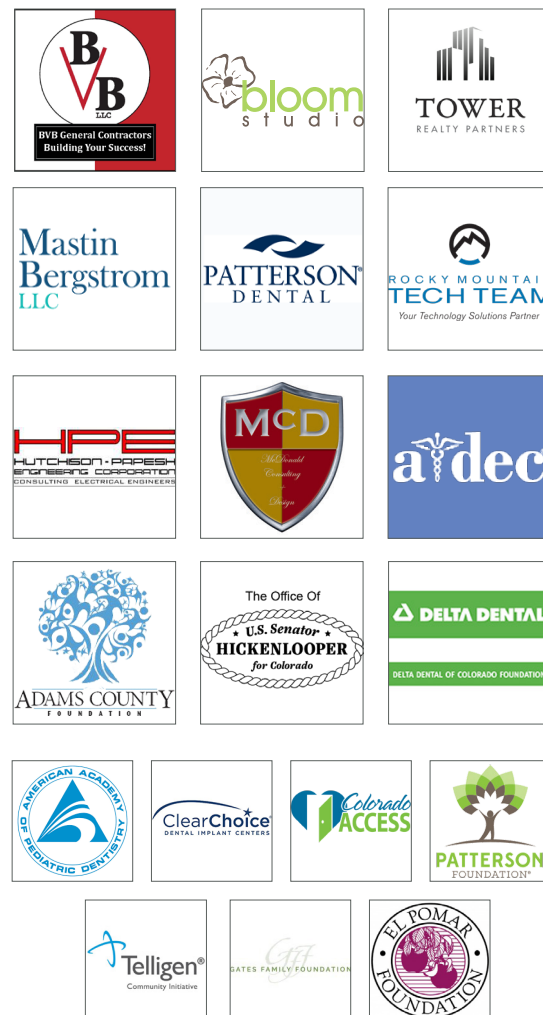
Bergstrom, Patterson Dental supplies, and Rocky Mountain Tech Team - valuing at over \$100,000 of the total project cost!

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.



### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR C4 DONORS

#### Schlessman Family Foundation



# STROKES OF KINDNESS TOP GOLF STYLE

PRESENTED BY LIVE OAK BANK

## Tee-riffic Party Benefitting KIND Smiles!

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!



Fabricio and Arthur were super excited to come into the clinic! We love the excitement the boys have about getting their teeth cleaned!

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



## 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

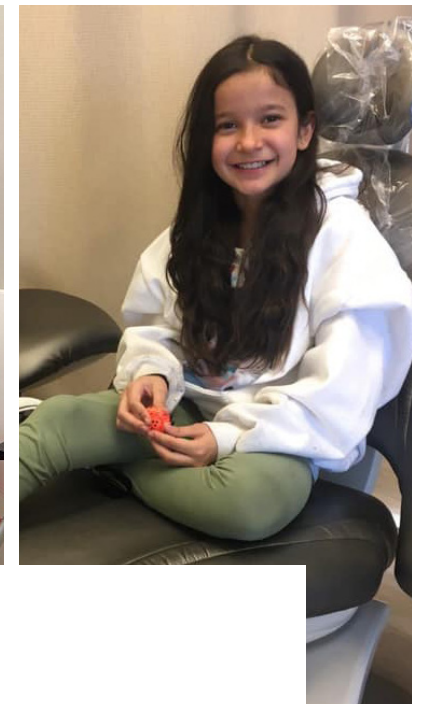


Board Chair-Elect Cindy Kelly volunteers with KIND staff at Commerce City's Operation Freebird

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 HEALTH EQUITY HEROES: KIND VOLUNTEER PROVIDERS

Dr. Kevin Patterson  
Dr. Joseph Dankey  
Dr. Lisa Phillips  
Dr. Elizabeth Crespi  
Dr. Tamara Tobey  
Dr. Jenn Thompson  
Dr. Christine Isaacs  
Dr. Sridevi Kaul  
Dr. Carol Morrow

Dr. Becky Bye  
Dr. Jeanette Courtad  
Dr. Juliana DiPasquale  
Dr. Rebecca Rees  
Erin Metz, CDHC, RDH, MS  
Lisa Valdez, CDHC, RDH  
Laurie VanCamp, RDH  
Nikki Weaver, RDH



**5,917**  
TOTAL SERVED BY KIND 2021

**85%** Program to Fundraising Expense Ratio  
75% 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!

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW





# 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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