Let's call him John Doe. John and his family came to the US over a decade ago. His family came to the US for economic opportunity, leaving behind their country and its sudden economic crisis. His family wanted John and his siblings to receive a good education and have all possible opportunity to thrive. They entered the US legally and immediately began the process of applying for a green card. It’s a long and difficult process, so they hired an immigration firm to assist them. Years later, still without a green card, they learned that this firm had been taking their money for years and doing nothing. The family had lost their legal status years prior due to this firm’s unethical behavior. Without any warning, they had become undocumented immigrants.

Fortunately for John, he was given legal status under DACA. He is a Dreamer. He finished high school and entered college. Due to his DACA status, he wasn’t allowed to receive any financial aid or loans to attend school. Instead he worked 40+ hours a week while attending school full-time. He graduated college in four and a half years, a remarkable feat for any student, much less as a student putting in so many hours of work.

Once John finished college, he recognized that he had a passion for dentistry. “I wasn't aware of Good Shepherd during college. I was too busy! But after college I began to volunteer 2-3 days per week at the clinic. Now my schedule has changed and I volunteer one day per week. Good Shepherd is a really great place. I love seeing patients in pain who are relieved of their pain after seeing the dentists at Good Shepherd. I feel fulfilled serving others as Dr. Bath and the other dental providers do.”

Dr. Bath says of John, “The lack of healthcare access and poverty his patients experience is not an abstract concept to John, but has been his life’s reality. Unlike most of our volunteers, his volunteer efforts are not supplemented by his family’s income. While working his tail off to pull himself out of the poverty he inherited, he compassionately gives his valuable time to help others in need.” John is one of our star volunteers and the reason that Good Shepherd Clinic is so successful. He has a heart for the vulnerable members of our community and a passion to see them experience health. Volunteers like John Doe are key to the success of Good Shepherd and bring reality to our mission to provide consistent,
quality medical and dental services for the vulnerable members of our community.

OK's health is not OK.

Support the most vulnerable - give today!

Oklahoma's Uninsured Rate is the second highest in the nation

A Need for Extraction

Every Monday morning, Good Shepherd phones begin to ring. Our clinic provides extraction appointments on Monday evening, removing diseased teeth. Patients call in between 8am and 9am that morning to get one of 16 spots. Good Shepherd receives from 450–1000 phone calls every Monday morning from people needing teeth extractions. Most patients need more than one tooth removed. So far in 2018, we have provided 446 extractions.

The need is obviously great. Unhealthy teeth are the cause of many health issues and ER visits. The only cure is extraction and this is not available at a hospital. When we remove an infected tooth, we remove a source of disease and bacteria. Removing a diseased tooth can eliminate headaches, allow proper nutrition, and help a person live and work normally. Your support of Good Shepherd provides funds to support this essential service. You are helping people achieve health by providing one simple service that truly changes lives. $50 a month can provide an exam, x-ray, and extraction. Become a Healthy Donor today.

Christmas is Coming!

Gifts and cookies and gifts and family and gifts and friends and GIFTS. It's that time of year! Consider how your Christmas can be full of gifts that benefit Good Shepherd. Here are three great ways to help us celebrate the priceless gift of health.

Sign up to support Good Shepherd on Amazon Smile. Amazon will give a portion of your shopping dollars back to Good Shepherd. This is an easy way to shop and to give two gifts at once! Visit Amazon Smile and choose Good Shepherd as your charity of choice.

While you are at Amazon Smile, add an item to your cart from the Good Shepherd Wish List. These are items we use constantly at the clinic. We'd love to get gifts from lots of elves! Good Shepherd Wish List
Most of us already have more than we need. Many people choose to ask for donations to a favorite charity rather than to receive gifts. A donation to Good Shepherd will last far beyond December 25th. Give the priceless gift of health this year by clicking here. Give the Gift of Health.

Our Amazing Team

Fun Friday

One of our volunteers for October’s Fun Friday was Dr. Brent Haynes who has been selected for the University of Nebraska Postgraduate Endodontics class of 2021! We want to celebrate his achievement by sharing the recommendation Dr. Bath gave in his endodontic school application. OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE SIMPLY AMAZING!

"Brent Haynes’s chairside manner and dental knowledge made him stand out treating patients at Good Shepherd Ministries, both as a volunteer student and as a volunteer dentist. As a dental student, Brent Haynes volunteered to treat patients over Christmas break. Brent’s classmate was stuck out of town during a Good Shepherd externship. His first call was to Brent Haynes, who stepped right up to meet the need. Why? In part to gain additional experience, but even more so that the Good Shepherd patients, our Oklahoma City neighbors in need, would receive their scheduled treatment without delay. I supervised his treatment, and it was excellent.

As a volunteer dentist, Dr. Haynes both treated patients and supervised dental hygienists and dental hygiene students. His voluntarism kept the clinic open on days it would otherwise have had to close, and provided many patients care who would not otherwise receive it. At this point, I did not supervise his treatment, but often provided care for his patients later. Dr. Haynes’ patients’ oral health clearly benefited from his treatment, while I benefited from his clear, thorough documentation. Both Dr. Haynes’ clinical skills and the way he provides them are excellent.

Brent Haynes’s dental knowledge is completely untainted by arrogance which allows him to easily absorb and apply new information. He works for his patients’ benefit, and he works well with any team doing the same--no drama! He leads by demonstration, not dictation. He is compassionate and humble in treating underserved populations."

Miles for Smiles 5K Is Almost Here!

The Oklahoma ASDA chapter is proud to announce the annual Miles for Smiles 5K to be held 11/3/18. This is a race that seeks to encourage not only a healthy body, but also a healthy mouth. All benefits will go to Good Shepherd Ministries. Our goal is to ensure that Good Shepherd remains a staple in the OKC community, with adequate funding and assistance for many years to come.
What are you waiting for? Lace up those running shoes to help contribute to a deserving cause.

**Sign Up for Miles for Smiles**