



**2020 - 2021
Dental Program
Annual Report**



**Children's
FRIEND**



Dear Friends,

COVID-19 has continued to cause challenges for all and has affected children and families in so many ways. Each year, we report the great accomplishment we achieve as part of our dental Program; however, during these unprecedented times, we could not have Samuel's Sinclair Dental at our buildings. This decision was to ensure the safety of the children and staff. To mitigate the lack of services, nursing and teaching staff ensured oral health education became a priority in the classrooms. All families were encouraged to seek dental care in the community when available and needed.

Children's Friend prides itself in providing high-quality services and the best dental care possible to the children we serve, and this is possible due to the great partnership with Samuels Sinclair Dental Center. We take every safety precaution and strictly adhere to the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Department of Human Services guidelines.

Providing comprehensive dental services takes a lot of work and leadership. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Samuels Sinclair dental team, our Board of Directors, our talented teaching and nursing staff, and our President and Chief Executive Officer, David Caprio, for their dedicated efforts to ensure children in the classrooms are receiving the necessary care to ensure good oral health and overall wellness!

While our services were limited, we want to ensure this report highlights what was made possible. As we look towards the future, we will continue to strive to offer excellent services to the children we serve.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Brannon

Lindsey Brannon
Health and Nursing Manager
Children's Friend



A Comprehensive Dental Program – A Wonderful Partnership

We all know that teaching children at an early age about the importance of good oral hygiene is essential in promoting healthy teeth throughout their lives. Children who practice good dental habits such as brushing twice a day, flossing between teeth daily, and limiting sugary beverages and snacks will have a lesser chance of developing problems such as plaque, gum disease, and cavities later in life. Educating young children about the importance of good oral hygiene is an essential part of the curriculum at Children's Friend. Through our partnership with Samuels Sinclair, Children's Friend ensures that children receive the critical dental care that is so important for our overall good health.

One way Children's Friend typically promotes good oral health is the continuation of our Dental Sealant Project. Children in Head Start and Pre-K classrooms are screened for sealants. Dental sealants, applied by a licensed dentist, form a protective barrier that helps to prevent bacteria from developing, which causes cavities. Our Dental Team, comprised of our health manager and health project coordinators, continues to promote awareness regarding the benefits of dental sealants. The Health and Nursing Manager at Children's Friend, Lindsey Brannon, RN, BSN, and her nursing team continually focus their efforts to ensure that the number of children who have access to a licensed dentist increases each year.

Our partnership with Samuels Sinclair continues to raise awareness of how critical it is to have dental care provided by a licensed dentist in a comprehensive, accessible, coordinated, and family-centered manner. A successful, positive upward trend within our dental program over the past three years indicates that more families now make dental arrangements with a private dentist. We also see a low percentage of families with no dental home.

Key Accomplishments And Continued Progress

The 2020-2021 school year proved quite a challenge throughout the pandemic. Children's Friend worked diligently to ensure children were able to be seen at their dentist offices and continued to provide education on oral health. Although the numbers reflect the difficulties our families faced, the work was still done to ensure we could help families see the dentist. As mentioned previously, due to the pandemic, no children were seen on-site by Samuels Sinclair.

53 children received a cleaning and fluoride treatment from a dental hygienist

264 Head Start children have a dental home, with 73 using Samuels Sinclair and 191 using another dental home

From The Good News File: For the 2021-2022 school year, we plan to welcome Samuel's Sinclair Dental Center back to our buildings! With all dental and nursing staff being fully vaccinated and following all recommended protocols to keep children and staff as safe as possible, we have booked our fall schedule and look forward to providing dental care inside our buildings once again.



Children's FRIEND

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