

# DR. RHYS B. JONES DENTAL HEALTH CENTER (DHC)

In 1976, the Linn County Dental Society led discussions to address the increasing unmet dental needs of low-income children throughout east central Iowa. This led the DHC to be organized by area dentists, dental hygienists and county health officials. **St. Luke's agreed to be the "home" of the DHC** and, for almost 50 years, has donated space and other program support (administrative leadership, fiscal management and in-kind clinical support such as sterilization of equipment).

St. Luke's DHC provides quality, comprehensive, and preventive dental treatment for low-income children and developmentally-disabled children and adults. We provide routine dental care with an emphasis on prevention and education to infants and children through the age of 15 and disabled people (ages 15 and under) who are also eligible for services.

The DHC's service area includes Cedar Rapids and surrounding counties in east central Iowa. For many of the DHC's new patients, we are the first dentist they have ever seen. We treat a large number of emergency patients with severe oral infections, toothaches, and swellings.

The DHC's patient population qualifies up to the 180% level of poverty. Poverty is defined as wages of \$24,000 a year for a family of four. Each year we treat a greater number of Medicaid eligible families because access is increasingly denied in the private sector.



## In 2023:

- 90% of the clients were covered by Medicaid
- 7% of the clients were covered by hawk-i, which is health care coverage for uninsured children of working families in Iowa
- 2% of the clients had coverage by private insurance
- 1% of the clients were uninsured so paid a percentage of the total fee according to a sliding fee schedule, based on parent's income and size of family

## In 2023, the Dental Health Center provided:

- 5,163 patient visits
- 618 new patient visits
- 196 emergency appointments