



## SBCHC 75th Anniversary Series "The Dental Clinic"

By: Marsha Swails and Joanie Neumayer  
Board Members

In 1947, local residents dreamed of providing dental care to children whose families needed financial assistance. Modeled after the Tenth District PTA Clinic, established in 1917, the South Bay Children's Dental Clinic was created. State law required that a registered dentist serve as sponsor. Dr. Ernest W. Donlou stepped into that role. Redondo Union School District generously housed the first clinic, and then shortly after, a building was found at 312 El Redondo. Needing to be transformed into an operational clinic, the Sandpipers, a dynamic women's club, donated \$3,500 to buy the necessary dental equipment. Eventually the dental clinic was moved to the main location at 410 Camino Real with two dedicated operatory rooms. There it stayed for more than 35 years.

We interviewed Hilda Amaya, a 30 year employee at SBCHC. She played a significant role in the growth of our dental program and community outreach during her tenure. In 2009, former Executive Director Tina Harris secured a \$210,000 grant from LA Care to expand our services. This grant provided the capital funds necessary to construct our state-of-the-art dental clinic. With Dr. Carl Lungren's vision and the support of Western Los Angeles Dental Society, led by Dr. Michael Schneider, we were able to move to Lawndale. Dr. Lundgren was instrumental to our relocation, having donated the building we still share with WLADS.



Dr. Lundgren also helped strengthen our relationship with the USC and UCLA dental schools. We continue to collaborate and form new partnerships with universities in the area, while strengthening our core services with programs like 'Give Kids a Smile' and 'Crowns for Kids'.



At our clinic opening in September 2010, Tina Harris said "There is a tremendous need for dental care. Dental care is expensive and for many families it falls by the wayside". Dr. Megha Sata currently leads the clinic as our Dental Director. Over the years, more than 50,000 children have been served with dental care and local school screenings. Looking to the future, our hope is to have a larger stand-alone building, so we may provide care for more families.

