

Torrance Dental Health Assn. Reviews Seven Years of Effort

"We are proud of the work we have done," states Mrs. Ralph McBee, executive secretary of Torrance Dental Health Assn., Inc.

Founded in 1952 as a non-profit, philanthropic, community-sponsored program to give the Torrance school children, who have a need, but who are not on public assistance, proper dental care, the organization is completely financed by gifts.

"Unfortunately we can take care of only about 10 percent of those applying because we can commit only the money we have on deposit. There are no salaries paid. Every dollar given is used to help a child," says Mrs. McBee.

Patients accepted make repayment through a long term, low rate, interest free plan. The money is then re-allocated for other children.

ALL DENTAL work is done in the offices of the participating dentists and moderate fees are charged for services rendered. In the past seven years the organization has paid out more than \$17,000 which actually represents more than \$25,000 worth of dentistry having been completed.

"I go along with the adage that Charity begins at home. Torrance Dental Health Association is a local charity, for students of the Torrance Unified School District and all monies contributed to it remain locally to help solve a local problem," states Jim Becker, president of the organization.

All applications made are checked out and the applicants are personally visited and interviewed. Then, according to dental need and financial need, the patients are selected.

"I PERSONALLY feel that our greatest need is for a bet-



JIM BECKER
... Heads' Association

ter understanding of Dental Health Assn. Only through this understanding can we receive the proper place in the individual's contribution budget and hope to expand our organization to take care of all the Torrance children in need," states Mrs. McBee.
Torrance Dental Health Assn.

has received financial help from PTA organizations, Torrance Educational Assn., Torrance Lions Club, and the Torrance Kiwanis Club, and the Marjorie Peterson Ballet Benefit as well as others.

All business of the association is carried on by the Executive Board which consists of elected officers, chairmen of standing committees, and a representative from the Torrance Unified School District, the Torrance Council of Parents and Teachers and the participating dentists.

"AS ANOTHER step in Dental Health we have promoted dental health education. Education is stressed because we know that a large percentage of tooth decay is preventable. Each spring our dentists go into the schools and examine

(without charge) certain grade levels as time permits. We believe this has provided a high motivation for dental health education in the classrooms," says Mrs. McBee.

A total of 4743 individual units of work have been accomplished during the seven

years the organization has been in existence. These included X-rays, 466; cleanings, 254; extractions, 673; fillings, 3,175; specials (dentures, partials, crowns, orthodontia, etc.), 175. The need is great, the funds are low, your help is needed. If you wish further information or wish to contribute contact Torrance Dental Health Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 152, Torrance.

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