



Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness
P.O. Box 330
Vashon, Washington 98070

August 30th, 2020

Health Center Volunteers
Granny's Attic

Re: Dental Care for Seniors

The Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness (IFCH) thanks Granny's for being committed to senior health for dental care with last years grant of \$7,893. We had helped eight seniors get exams at Dr Marc Langland's office before the Governor's "Stay-at-Home" order closed the dental office for two months. Since Dr Langland reopened in May seven more seniors have been seen. Due to Dr Langland's closing, all appointments had to be rescheduled and are backed up. We have promised follow up procedures at an estimated cost of \$2,500 and have a wait list of seniors wanting to have their initial exams.

Many of our low income seniors no longer visit the dentist because Medicare does not cover dental care and they cannot afford to pay the out-of-pocket cost. Good oral and dental hygiene can help prevent tooth decay and gum disease—and can help maintain healthy teeth as people age. Poor oral hygiene has been linked to heart disease, cancer, diabetes and other diseases. Maintaining healthy teeth and gums is a lifelong commitment.

Marc Langland, DDS, has offered to give us a 20% discount for IFCH clients. For people who have not seen a dentist for long periods of time, more than routine dental care is often required such as deep cleanings. Treatment of other dental conditions may also be needed.

In keeping with IFCH's mission of having people move toward independence and be responsible for themselves, where possible, we are asking our clients to pay up to 20% of their dental needs.

The seniors who have taken advantage of this program have been so grateful. None of them had seen a dentist in years because the cost was prohibited. Dr Marc Langland is very pleased to be able to provide care for these new patients.

IFCH is asking for \$10,000 to cover dental care for low income seniors and another \$2,000 for emergencies for other low income people. Emergency dental care can mean extractions, fillings or root canals. There is an endodontist in West Seattle who will give IFCH a good discount on the root canals.

We thank Granny's for caring about the health of island residents. Helping seniors get back on track with good oral care will make a big difference for those we serve.

IFCH has no paid staff. Every dollar we receive from this grant will be used for dental care.

IFCH is asking for \$12,000 to allow us to afford seniors the opportunity of good dental hygiene and to allow for emergency dental care for other low income people.

Thank you for considering our request for grant money.

Senior Dental Grant by the Numbers:

Granny's Grant	= \$7,893	People Seen	15
Spent	= \$4,806	Complete Exams	8
Remaining	= \$3,087	X-Rays	10
Promised	= \$2,500	Cleanings	3
Unallocated	= \$587	Fillings	4
		Extractions	5
		Root Canal	1
		Added tooth to dentures	4