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## UCSD Offers Free Dental Clinics

### Volunteer, Future Dentists Provide Free Care

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Posted: 10/07/2004

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Undergraduate pre-dental students from the University of California San Diego and volunteer dentists are working to help underserved people in San Diego.

"We have people come in who haven't been to the dentist in 10 years, if ever," UCSD student clinic director Ellen Beck said.

But that doesn't matter to the men and women who are volunteering their time to provide free dental care to underserved people.

"The students devote themselves to one patient at a time to make a difference in a person's life," Beck said.

Clint Botha spends most of his time doing missionary work and for the last decade, he has had little time to visit a dentist.

"They have been slowly repairing holes in my teeth that needed repairing," Botha said.

Last year, the program provided about \$400,000 of dental care to the needy.

"We have great doctors and do all the procedures and they show how to fix everything from step one to the final procedure," said Dr. Lorenz.

The volunteer dentists said they don't mind spending the extra time teaching.

"The students are so dedicated. We are so lucky to have all these students," volunteer dentist Dr. Riza dela Fuente said.

And patients like Botha feel lucky, too.

"It really impresses me that people just give up so much of their time for other people -- that's what it's all about," Botha said.

The clinics depend on donations and grants to keep running.

For more information on the program, [click here \(http://acs.ucsd.edu/~ucsd/dfdc/index.php\)](http://acs.ucsd.edu/~ucsd/dfdc/index.php) or call (858) 534-6110.

Baker Clinic Baker Elementary School 4041 T Street

Downtown Clinic First Lutheran Church 1420 Third Avenue (near the corner of Third Ave. and Ash St.)

Pacific Beach Clinic *Temporarily closed due to renovations* Pacific Beach Methodist Church 1561 Thomas Street (near Pacific St.)

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