



Dr. Charles Goldstein



Dr. Guillermo Vicuña

Established in 2008, the CDA Foundation Humanitarian Award recognizes California dentists who have distinguished themselves through a lifetime of selfless contributions toward humanity in the field of dentistry. With this award, Dr. Silverstein joins past recipients Drs. Charlie Goldstein and Guillermo Vicuña in exemplifying the dedication that has affected countless lives.

2010

CDA Foundation Humanitarian Award

It has been said that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. If true, then Irvin Silverstein, DDS, MSED, is a man who found himself years ago.

The roots of Dr. Silverstein's service began in the late '70s when he provided pro bono care to special needs patients from the Home of the Guiding Hands, a San Diego residential facility for the developmentally disabled. But Dr. Silverstein is probably best known for his tireless efforts at the University of California San Diego Student-Run Free Dental Clinic.

Prior to Dr. Silverstein's involvement, the clinic, which began in 2002, was opened sporadically with very little treatment performed. Dr. Silverstein reorganized the system and was instrumental in turning it into the success story that it is today. In fact, from 2002 to 2010, the clinic has provided more than \$3.2 million in dental care to homeless and working poor throughout San Diego. Students have volunteered more than 49,000 hours in the clinics, and they have seen nearly 10,000 patients. Not bad for a school-run system that doesn't even have an associated dental school.

In fact, the clinic is the only undergraduate program in the country that runs and manages three free dental clinics for the underserved and gives students considering a career in dentistry valuable experience as well as an understanding of the value of volunteerism and social responsibility. And for his tireless dedication, Dr. Silverstein has created a legacy of selfless commitment that will inspire students and young dentists for generations to come.



Irvin Silverstein, DDS, MSED

"One by one, we can be the better world we wish for."

— Kobi Yamada