

# Improving Oral Health for Native American Communities

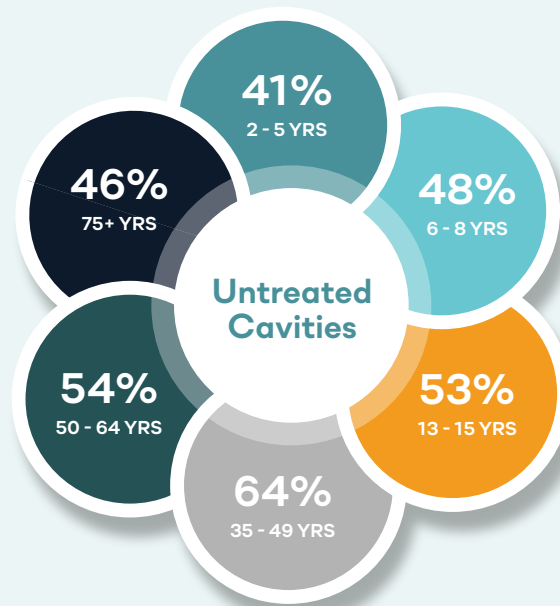


## Restoring Smiles with Trust, Honor and Respect

Since 2003, Smile Network International has provided life-altering cleft repair surgeries and related oral healthcare services free of charge to under-resourced children and young adults outside of the U.S.

Smile Network is expanding access to surgical and dental services for Native American communities to reduce disparities in oral health that have hidden smiles for generations.

## Untreated Cavities in Native American People



Source: 2014 and 2015 IHS data on oral health for preschoolers and adults

"American Indian and Alaskan Native children have **five times** as much untreated decay in their permanent teeth from ages six to eight as compared to the general U.S. population. One factor that continues to play a dominant role in this inequality is **access to care.**"

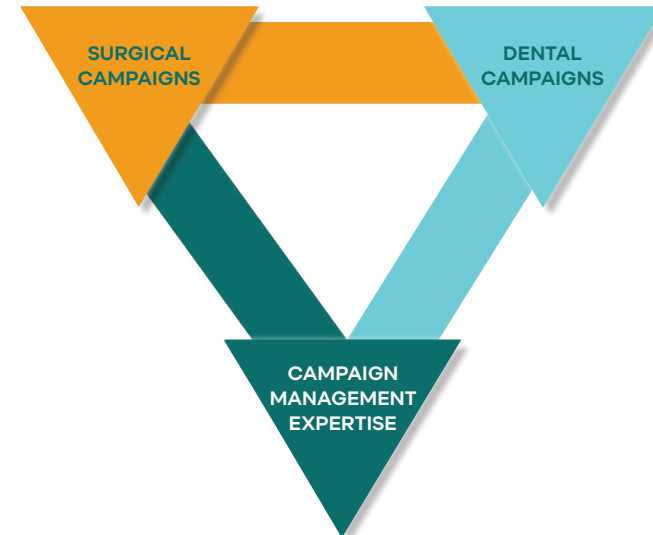
– 2017 IHS data study

## Delivering Better Outcomes Together

Smile Network is committed to empowering people and working in partnership to restore health, dignity and prosperity to impact the next seven generations. We are honored to be visitors in your community and will work alongside your people in a trustworthy manner.

Our oral health programs encourage and empower children to care for their own teeth and expand access to preventative dental exams and services.

## Expanding Access to Surgical and Dental Services



"Prevention of oral disease is more valuable than treatment."

– Smile Network International

## Who We Are

Smile Network International is a Minnesota-based, non-profit that provides life-altering, reconstructive cleft surgeries and related oral healthcare services at no charge to under-resourced children and adults across the globe.

20 years ago, Smile Network International founder, Kim Valentini, was moved to provide a voice for the less fortunate, wanting to make a difference in the lives of people who were dismissed simply because they were born different.

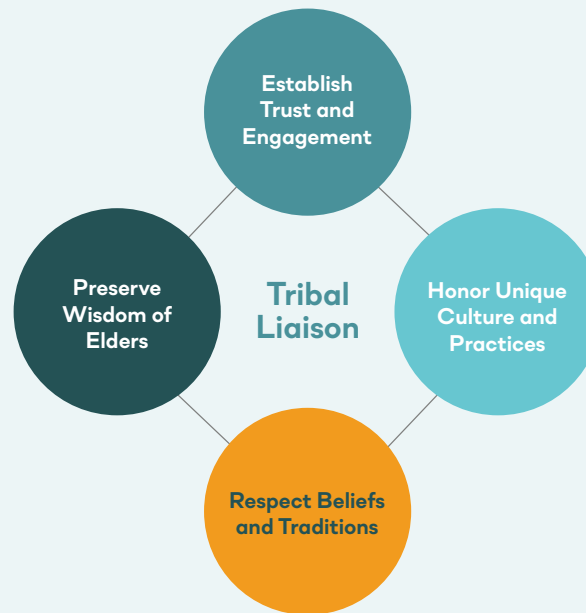
Since 2003, Smile Network International has performed over 4,300 surgeries in 13 countries on five continents. Our staff, volunteers, donors and supporters are passionate about giving their time, talent and resources to help improve the lives of others. Our campaigns achieve the best possible outcomes because we practice what we value: **trust, safety, quality of care and learning.**



## Role of Tribal Liaison

It is the responsibility for the Tribal Liaison to ensure that we honor your unique culture, respectfully recognize historical traditions, and preserve the wisdom of elders as we work together to achieve life-altering outcomes for your people.

The Tribal Liaison engages Tribal Leadership to establish trust and facilitate a partnership with Smile Network International to improve oral health outcomes.



Mark Sweet, founder of Native Nations Alliance, serves on the Board of Directors for Smile Network and will serve as our Tribal Liaison. He has 35 years of development experience with a focus and outreach towards Economic Development for Tribal Communities.



## Interested In Partnering?

Surgical and dental campaign sites are selected based on the needs, facilities, and relationships in each community.

### NEEDS

- What services are most needed in your community?
- How are gaps in care impacting your community?

### FACILITIES

- What facilities and services are currently in place?
- Is there a safe and accessible facility to perform the work?

### RELATIONSHIP

- Do we have endorsement from Tribal Leadership and elders to work in partnership?

Contact us at [info@smilenetwork.org](mailto:info@smilenetwork.org) or call Lynn Herbert, 612.377.1800