

# House Call Dentist Makes Care Easy for the Homebound



Dr. David Blende and Registered Dental Assistant Kathryn Sullivan with the mobile dentist van, equipped with everything from portable x-ray equipment to dental tools, near his office on Laurel St. in San Francisco. Photo: Jocelyn Knight

“Usually, every day we send a dentist and an assistant out in our blue-striped, white Honda Element,” said Blende, “traveling between San Jose and Santa Rosa.” The car sports “House Call Dentist and 877 - HOUSE - 07” on the sides and the roof. Because performing dentistry in home settings can prove challenging, Blende said his team tries to keep it simple. Procedures include exams, digital x-rays, cleanings, fillings, dentures, crowns, restorations, extractions and emergency treatments to eliminate pain and discomfort. In addition to x-ray equipment, Blende’s team brings along computers, drills and special portable lighting.

Blende’s office explained that the House Call visit fee includes travel costs and the availability of the latest portable and specialized equipment. While Bay Area House Calls Dentists is a fee-for-service practice, they do submit claims for patients seeking reimbursement from dental insurance providers.

For more information call 877-HOUSE-07 or page 877-468-7307.

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BY ANN MIZEL

If you dread going to the dentist, or are literally unable to go, you can now have the dentist come to you, thanks to Tiburon’s Dr. David Blende. Dr. Blende’s service, Bay Area House Call Dentists, a division of the Blende Dental Group in San Francisco, consists of three dentists and 14 employees. The service began informally about five years ago, attending to homebound or disabled patients for whom adequate dental care involving travel became impossible.

“We see many patients in hospitals, assisted living communities, nursing facilities and other group and private residences,” said Blende. “It is especially gratifying to be able to provide dental services at senior facilities where patients may have gone without dental care for many years.” Blende is Chief of the Dental Division at California Pacific Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco, and is on staff at Marin General Hospital. He has been in practice for 25 years. Blende’s colleagues are Erica Haskett, DDS, and Cheryl Elacio, DMD.

“The house call concept was an easy one for me to see,” Blende told *The Ark*. “My dad was a doctor, and I used to go out on house calls with him when we lived in a Canadian wilderness area. Providing mobile dental services seemed a logical extension of our services. I have always been committed to and passionate about special needs dental care, as well as removing barriers to oral health.”

The connection between oral health and overall health is a given. Harmful bacteria in the mouth can grow out of control, enter the blood stream, and can cause conditions such as Endocarditis—an infection of the inner lining of the heart. Heart disease, clogged arteries, stroke and aspiration pneumonia may also be linked to oral bacteria.

## Feel Beautiful & Better

The American Cancer Society hosts its “Look Good, Feel Better” workshop from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, June 15, at the San Rafael Corporate Center, 750 Lindero St, Suite 100, San Rafael. Women who are about to undergo or are currently receiving chemotherapy or radiation are invited to attend and get the latest tips to enhance their natural beauty and disguise skin and hair changes that may occur due to treatment. Each attendee will receive a free high-end makeup kit. There is no fee. To register call 1-800-227-2345 or 415-454-8464, ext. 3.

## Pancake Breakfast



Five-year-old Haley Ritchey chomps a pancake at the Pancake Breakfast benefit at the Paradise Shopping Center in Corte Madera on Saturday, May 28, a benefit for the Reed Union School District and SPARK, the Larkspur School Foundation. The fundraiser was attended by 1,200 people and raised over \$10,000. Photo: Jocelyn Knight

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