

# Results in Review

Newsletter for referring dental professionals

Issue 22

## Blende Dental Group is Home of the House Call Dentists

The Blende Dental Group: Home of the House Call Dentists has been serving both general patients and those with special needs, including seniors, phobics and others with physical, medical or cognitive challenges in the Bay Area for over 25 years. As Chief of the Dental Division at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) as well as Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Dr. Blende and his team have been able to provide seamless care - in the patient's home, in our offices, or in the hospital - in order to deliver appropriate dentistry tailored to each individual's needs.

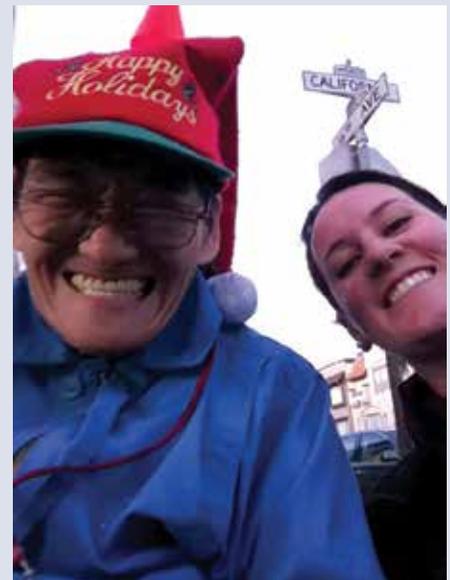
Five years ago, The Blende Dental Group established a house call service. Our credibility as trailblazers in the healthcare community stems from being among the first to establish a means of safely reaching vulnerable patients who are unable to leave their homes. Our service area covers a 60 mile radius around San Francisco. Throughout the region, we provide care to patients who are confined to their homes. To accomplish this, our team consists of a dentist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice (RDHAP), and a registered dental assistant. After our initial visit and assessment, we follow up by treating the patient in their home or, when necessary, in a hospital setting. For those those with continuing health challenges, our team's affiliations with eight (8) Bay Area hospitals allows us to provide treatment in a hospital setting. In either case, the improved dental health makes a huge difference in the lives of our patients. From the vantage point of being in one's home, much is revealed about the way the household and a patient's condition together work to support or challenge his/her dental health. This ability to resolve acute dental health needs and to develop a targeted daily care routine for our homebound patients is essential. For this reason, our house call practice has provided a deeply meaningful experience for our patients and for our team.

## Quarterly Cause: Cerebral Palsy

Each quarter, The Blende Dental Group highlights a different special needs community. On the occasion of Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day, we interviewed Blende Dental Group patient, Bruce Oka, Board member of SFMTA (San Francisco Mass Transit Authority) and Disability Rights Advocate, to learn more about his participation in the Cerebral Palsy community. He advocates for special needs communities within our city government and beyond. He shared his experiences about his life as an individual with a disability, and as Board member of the United Cerebral Palsy of the Golden Gate. After learning about their work, 100% of Blende Dental Group staff contributed to this amazing cause that provides after-school learning and playing opportunities for CP children. We also plan on volunteering for their annual holiday party, a highlight for children with CP in San Francisco. Please join us by visiting the UCP of the Golden Gate web site at <http://ucpgg.org/>

To learn more, please join Blende Dental Group on Facebook

For up-to-the-minute updates on communities and causes that are meaningful to the Blende Dental Group, please "like" us on Facebook by searching Blende Dental Group.



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Changing lives, one smile at a time: awake, asleep, or at home.

## Featured Patient Story: Bruce Oka

Not only are the doctors and staff at the Blende Dental Group advocates for individuals with a wide variety of medical and dental needs, but they also care for those who dedicate their lives to individuals with disabilities. Below is the case study of Bruce Oka, whom most residents in San Francisco recognize because of his poster, alongside the mayor of our city, in every public parking garage. Mr. Oka is a Board member of the SFMTA, as well as an advocate for the special needs community. In those photos, he has missing teeth. Thanks to a complex and successful case performed at The Blende Dental Group, Bruce now has a beautiful smile.

He was referred to the Blende Dental Group by Dr. Paul Subar, Assistant Professor and the Director of the Special Care Clinic and Hospital Dentistry Program at the University of the Pacific (UOP), for specialized care for his dental health with appropriate management of his complex medical needs, including cerebral palsy and a previous neck injury and surgery resulting in delicate cervical tissues with functional limitations. Mr. Oka's primary concern upon meeting Dr. Blende was a long overdue check-up and broken teeth. Upon examination, Mr. Oka was found to have significant dental caries and multiple broken teeth due to clenching and grinding. Because of the complexity of the case, difficulty positioning the patient because of neck limitations, and the extent of dental care to be accomplished, it was determined Mr. Oka would be most comfortable while asleep, under general anesthesia in a hospital-setting, at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center.

During a 4-hour procedure in the operating room at Kaiser, the team removed three severely decayed teeth. They eliminated cavities on remaining teeth, placed three composite restorations, and prepared multiple crowns and bridges. Mr. Oka was seen a few weeks later in the office for cementation of four porcelain-fused-to-metal bridges and nine crowns. The crown and bridgework was designed to open Mr. Oka's bite, restoring the significant collapse due to tooth wear.

### Treatment Plan:

3 extractions, 3 composites, 9 single crowns, 3 PFM bridges

Vertical dimension of occlusion opened [Bite opened to restore a natural, even bite]



## Special Event: Oral Cancer Awareness

We are hosting an educational/culinary event to gather on the occasion of Oral Cancer Awareness Month (April). Come join the Blende Dental Group team and community members on Tuesday, April 24, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at our office at 390 Laurel Street, Suite 310 (cross street Sacramento) in Presidio Heights in San Francisco.

Dentist David Blende, DDS and hygienist Lorna Smith will be giving a 15 minute presentation on oral cancer (what most people don't know about oral cancer - higher mortality rate than skin cancer, preventable with early detection, etc.) from 6:15-6:30p.m. We will be serving local wines, tea coolers, hors d'oeuvres and even desserts, all crafted by community members. We are certain you will enjoy learning more about dental health and trends in a convivial setting, where culinary experiences and great conversation make a winning combination. We hope you can make it. Please rsvp to [community@drblende.com](mailto:community@drblende.com).

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