

GNHC DENTAL CLINIC CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY

On a cold February morning 10 years ago the Good Neighbor family gathered at the old building on West Gray and officially cut the ribbon on the newly opened GNHC Dental Clinic. It was a momentous day, for the dental clinic had long been in the planning stages. Many friends of the agency joined us, filling much of the space at the back of the building near the dental clinic itself.

Then, as now, there was a critical need in the community for affordable dental care for low-income families. Many of our patients simply delayed treating painful dental problems for months, fearing the high costs of care. But with the opening of the GNHC Dental Clinic, our patients now had the opportunity to access quality dental services as part of the comprehensive care available overall at Good Neighbor.

Former longtime Board Member Douglas M. Simmons, D.D.S., served as the volunteer Director of the Dental Clinic during those first several months. Indeed, the entire Board of Directors had worked hard for years in seeing the dental clinic become a reality. The University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston graciously donated the use of five dental operatories – equipment we used until we were able to purchase eight new operatories for our new home at the West End.

In looking back at the Grand Opening in 2000 many familiar faces were involved with the festivities of the day, underscoring the continuity that is one of the special hallmarks of GNHC – our Board Chairman, the Rev. F.N. Williams, II, Executive Director Janet Donath, Julie Lam, and board member Trey Wilson among them, along with Dr. Simmons.

Later that year, Dr. Alan Simmons would join Good Neighbor as the first full-time Director of the Dental Clinic. The dental clinic instantly became highly popular among our patients and remains so today. Congratulations to the entire Dental Clinic Team!!!