



SMILES FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT



2024



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Vision & Mission

Smiles is our Identity...

Because everyone deserves it.

S - Strengthening Communities

M - Motivating Change

I - Improving health

L - Lifting others

E - Empowering Lives

S - Spreading Smiles

VISION

To empower generations with "Brighter Smiles Around the World"

To educate and strengthen children, families, and communities through our wellness and active living programs.

MISSION

To provide life – enhancing activities, dental care and primary health care education to children, free of charge.

To offer underprivileged communities tools to develop and improve their health, environment, and safety through our educational and social enterprise programs.



Our Organization

Since 1987, Smiles Foundation has been a Canadian Charitable Organization dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable communities in the Dominican Republic.

We concentrate our efforts on providing essential services in areas such as dental care, active living, primary health education, and sustainable development.

In 2017 a Canadian program "Smiles in Action" has been added to our scope of work.

Through partnerships and community-driven initiatives, Smiles Foundation strives to empower individuals, creating long-lasting positive change, and fostering better opportunities for future generations.

In the Dominican Republic, we operate ten permanent dental clinics and various mobile units in high-needs areas, offering a wide range of preventative and restorative care. Through this work, we have directly impacted the lives of over 6.8 million people, providing free treatments to children and affordable services to families. In addition to dental care, we conduct vital health education, focusing on topics like nutrition, children's rights, and disease prevention, as well as several community-centered programs.

Our focus is on raising awareness and generating support for our programs. Through local events, partnerships, and educational outreach, we encourage everyone to actively participate in transforming lives. We aim to build stronger connections, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and global citizenship.





Message from our President & Founder

Elina Katsman

Canadian Dental Hygienist and Holistic Nutrition Coach

Is volunteering worth it?

I see volunteering as my unique, individual footprint on this beautiful, yet turbulent planet Earth. What truly matters is what we're building today, in this very moment - that's creating, shaping, and guiding something extraordinary.

It's about bringing a vision to life and creating an enduring meaningful impact.

Through the outreach of Smiles Foundation, I want to give children from low-income families better opportunities, brighter smiles, healthier environments, and stronger communities.

It's about making a difference NOW so they can have a more joyful childhood and a better life.

I invite you to join me in building a vibrant, meaningful future together! And if you're already part of our Smiles Family, thank you for your invaluable support!





2024 at a Glance

People impacted in 2024

257,123

Over 6.8 million beneficiaries in 38 years of work.

Dominican Republic:

Patients Treated: **113,318**

Patients Educated: **133,549**

Projects beneficiaries:

- Food distribution: **3,200**
- Dental Auxiliary Program: **206**
- Outreach work: **6,180**

Canada and USA:

Two 40ft high cube containers from the USA and Canada were shipped to the Dominican Republic, loaded with over **2 million** dollars worth of donations in-kind.

“Smiles in Action”

Delivered active living programs to **670 people of all ages**





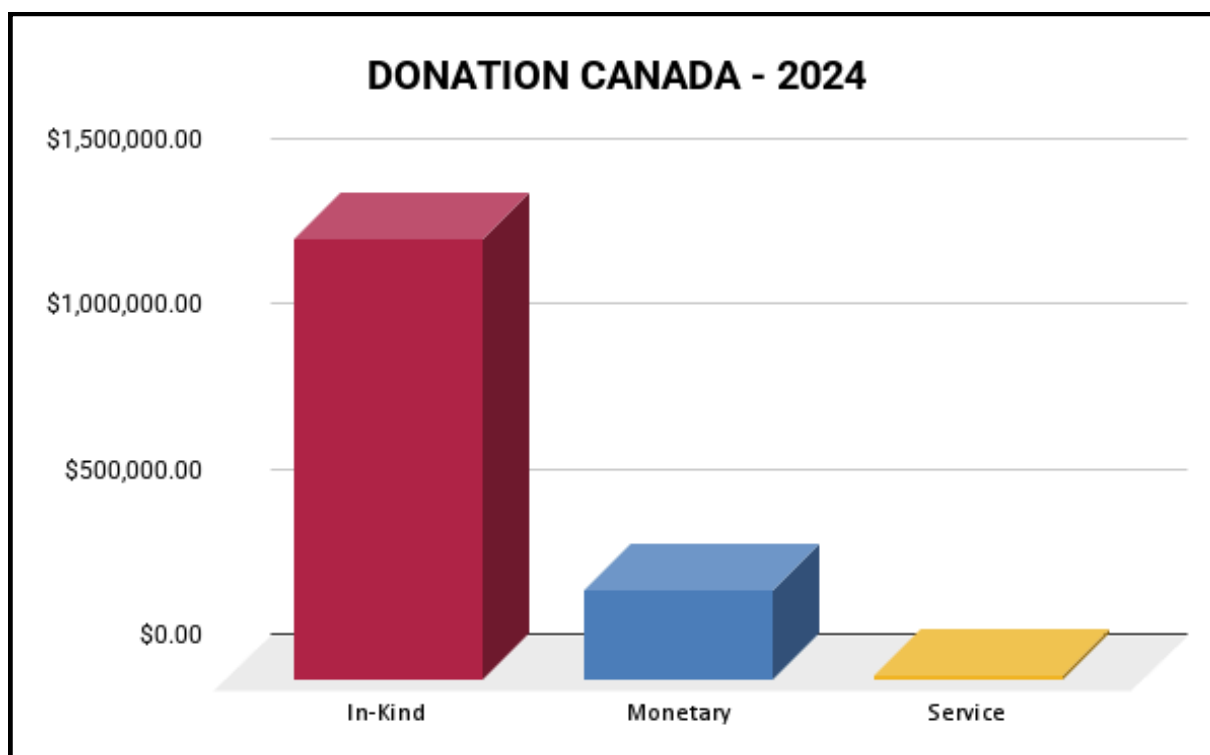
Canada

An increase of in-kind and monetary donations from **2023** to **2024**, reflects the growing generosity of **21.58%**.

In 2024, Smiles Foundation experienced enhanced engagement with valued supporters, including new donors and renewed contributions. Our events, campaigns, and outreach initiatives helped expand Smiles Foundation's donor base and boost the total amount donated.

Targeted campaigns have been particularly successful in 2024, encouraging more people to contribute both in monetary terms and through donations in-kind.

Overall, this increment demonstrates a growing commitment towards our mission.





Shipping to the Dominican Republic

Container loading was successfully carried out at **Tippet Richardson Warehouse**, with immense support from their skilled and professional team.



Reilly Back LLP generously supported the process by conducting an external audit to ensure transparency.



For several decades, Henry Schein has been a vital donor of much-needed materials and supplies, allowing us to offer essential dental care to the communities in need.



*A full list of supporters is available on our website at www.smilesfoundation.org



"Smiles in Action"

Program



"Smiles in Action" offers dynamic Fitness and Dance classes to individuals, couples, schools, seniors, and workplaces, reaching 3,000 people in the past seven years.

This fun, adaptable program not only promotes wellness but also supports our mission to make movement through music accessible to everyone without discrimination of age, ethnic background, or socio-economic status. It fosters inclusivity, celebrates cultural diversity, and encourages creativity and self-expression.

Through "Smiles in Action," we empower communities to embrace physical activity, build confidence, and break down barriers, making active living accessible for all.

670 Canadians benefited from "Smiles in Action" Program in 2024 through:

Discovery Public School and All Saints CES **School Programs.**

"Stepping Out Towards a Better Tomorrow, Inc". **Program for young adults with special needs.**

Mackenzie Health **Seniors Program.**

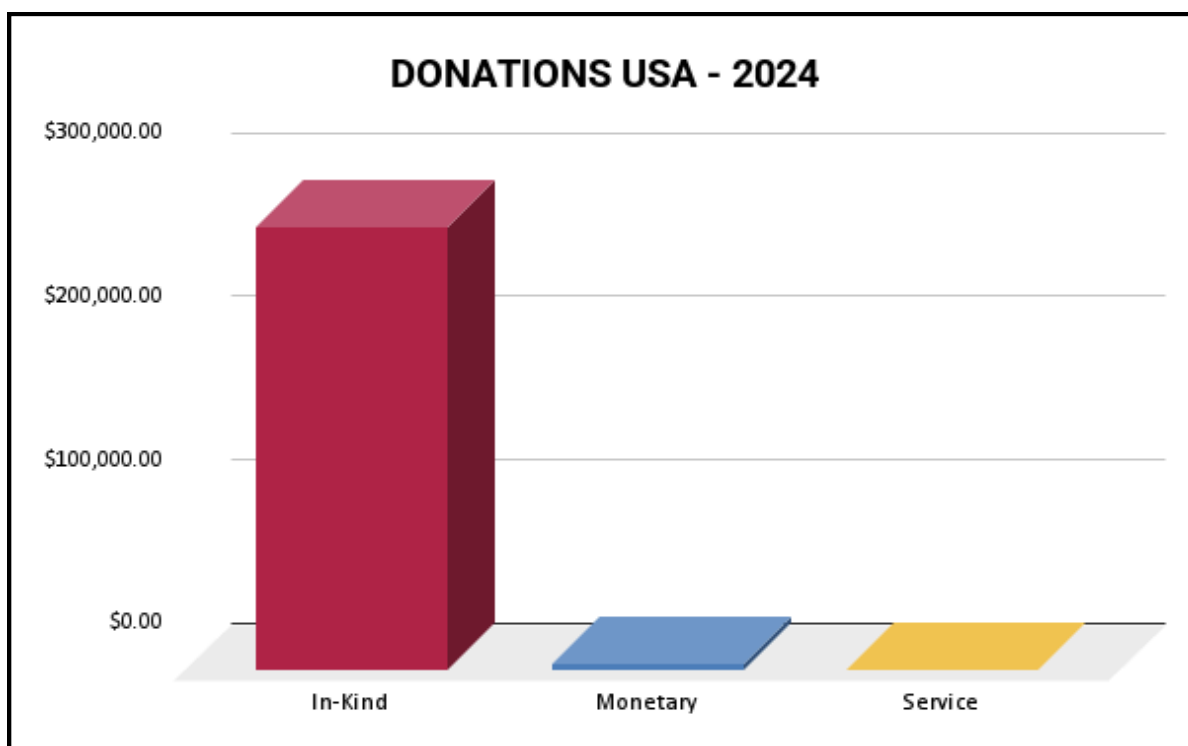
Vaughan Studios & Event Space, Garnet A. Williams CC, North Thornhill CC, Maple CC, and Vellore Village CC, **The City of Vaughan community programs.**



USA

From 2023 to 2024, the donations from our USA supporters saw a decrease of approximately **14.4%**

The economic conditions, such as inflation, changes in consumer spending and financial uncertainty, might have affected the ability or willingness of donors to contribute as much as in the previous year.





Shipping to the Dominican Republic

In February 2024, 40ft high cube container loading took place at the well-organized **Suddath Warehouse** in Fort Lauderdale. Our heartfelt thanks to the company, in particular to the **Deerfield team**, for their ongoing support.



Most of the donations shipped from the USA were generously provided by **Henry Schein Cares**, our long-term valued partner.

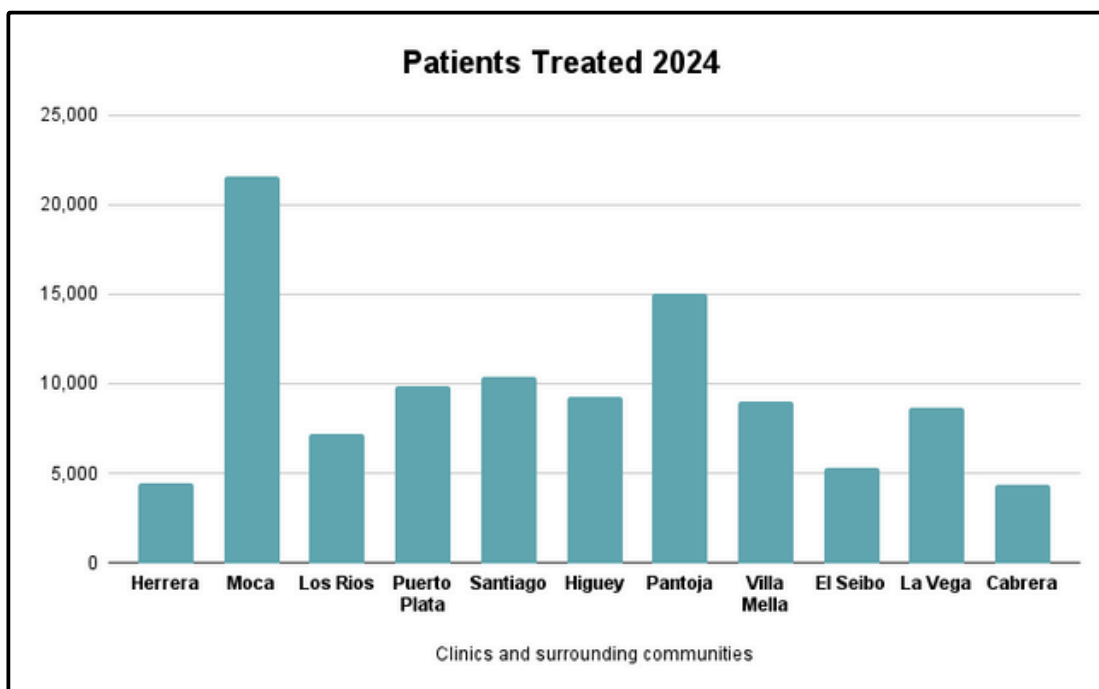




Dominican Republic

Every “Sonrises” (Spanish for “Smiles”) permanent and mobile dental clinic offers a full range of treatments such as:

- Comprehensive examinations and X-rays
- Prophylaxis
- Fluoride application
- Whitening
- Sealants
- Full range of restorative treatments
- Prosthetics (crowns, bridges, dentures)
- Endodontic and orthodontic procedures
- Implants
- Oral surgery.



113,318

Patients Treated in 2024

Dental Treatments

The astonishing results of our work

Before

After



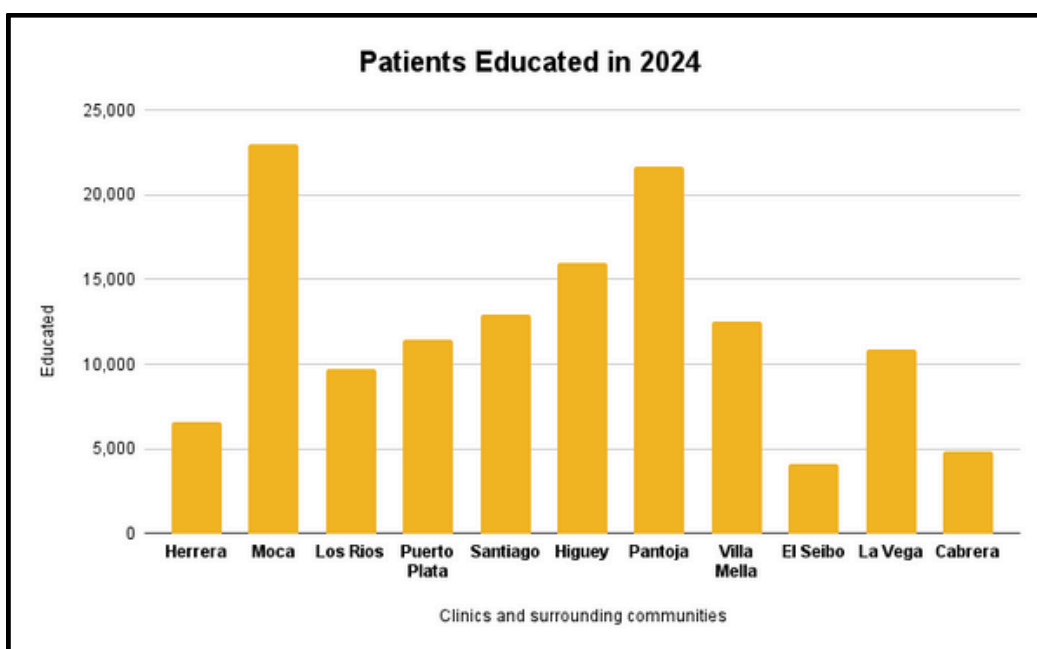


Primary Healthcare Education

Health promotion and disease prevention are crucial to Smiles Foundation's efforts to improve health in the communities we serve.

It includes primary and oral health education, focusing on disease prevention and proper hygiene practices. Our dentists and health educators actively teach adequate brushing and flossing, encouraging patients to practice these skills on-site. Patients of all ages receive brochures and kits containing toothbrushes, floss, and toothpaste.

In addition to oral health, we offer lectures on topics such as environmental protection, domestic violence and bullying prevention, children's rights, STD transmission, as well as proper nutrition practices, addressing the specific needs of each community.



133,549

Patients Educated in 2024

Primary Healthcare Education





Mobile Clinic

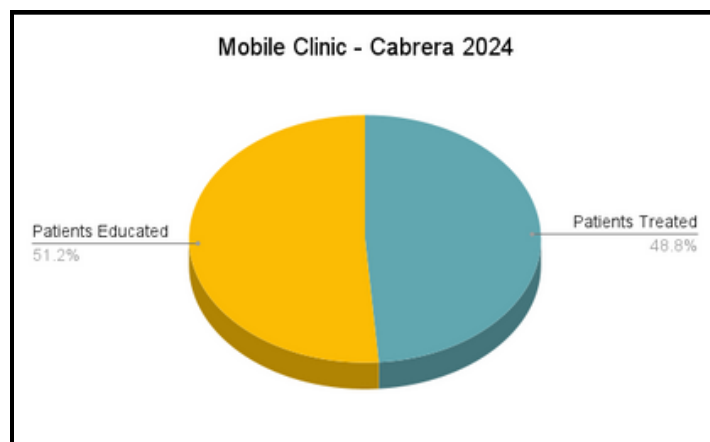
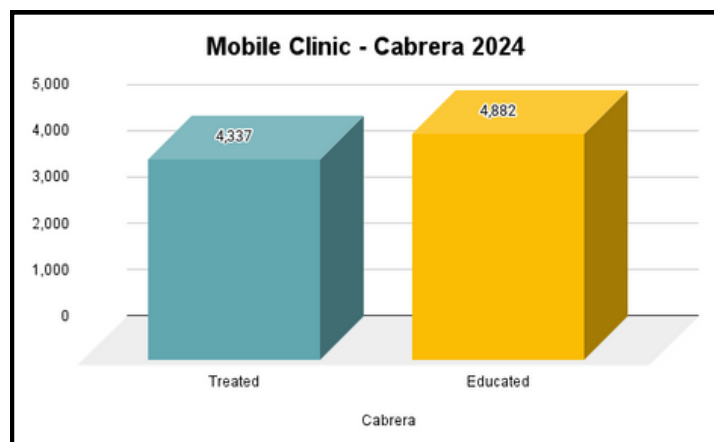
Stationed in the Municipality of Cabrera

In Partnership with an
Anonymous Canadian Donor

In 2024, our team provided free dental treatments to **4,337** individuals and educated **4,882** people on proper dental hygiene and basic preventative health care practices in Cabrera.

These educational sessions were designed to enhance both oral and overall health in the community.

This impactful, life-changing work would not have been possible without the ongoing support of our valued recurring donor, who prefers to remain anonymous.





Health Education In Cabrera

In Partnership with an
Anonymous Canadian Donor



Dental Treatments in Cabrera Mobile Clinic

In Partnership with an
Anonymous Canadian Donor

Before

After





Partnerships:

In Partnership with
Rotary Club of Willowdale and
The De Boer Foundation

Food Distribution Program:

We are immensely grateful for the continued support from our partners, including **Rotary Club of Willowdale** and **The De Boer Foundation**, whose dedication has significantly impacted the communities we serve.



Thanks to their efforts, we were able to carry out various food distribution initiatives in the Dominican Republic in 2024, directly benefiting **880** children and seniors in need.





Partnerships:

In Partnership with **Zakat Foundation of America**



Dental Auxiliaries Program / 4 modules – 206 graduates

The aim of this program is to inspire and equip young individuals to pursue a careers in dental assisting with the long-term objective of helping them join our organization or secure similar employment opportunities. This initiative aligns with our mission and positively influences the lives of graduates by providing them with a chance to contribute to the community while gaining stable employment.





Food Distribution Program:

220 packages delivered to rural and low socioeconomic areas in the Dominican Republic.

April 20th, 2024, over **1,100** beneficiaries.

Approximately 2 kg of meat per family, with an average of 5 family members, were distributed in rural and low socioeconomic areas in the Dominican Republic.

June 26th, 2024, over **1,600** beneficiaries.





President & Founder's

Visit to the Dominican Republic

In November 2024, the President and Founder of Smiles Foundation, Elina Katsman, visited the Dominican Republic clinics to ensure alignment with the Foundation's mission of providing accessible, high-quality healthcare to underserved communities.

Elina conducted the annual board meeting, as well as met with the volunteer group and local auditors to review and reinforce next year's goals and plans.

This visit allowed for direct engagement with staff, patients, and local partners, resulting in immediate improvements in resources, staffing, and facilities. By addressing key challenges and identifying areas for growth, it reinforced the Foundation's vision of sustainable, community-driven care, ensuring continued impact and future expansion.





Acknowledgements

Thank you!

On behalf of the underserved communities impacted by Smiles Foundations work, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all generous contributors, partners, and sponsors. Your unwavering support has made it possible for us to positively impact over 6.8 million lives throughout 38 years of dedicated service.

Together, we can continue making a lasting difference for many more years to come!

Detailed information about our reach, the incredible individuals and organizations behind our work, is available on our websites at www.smilesfoundation.org and www.smilesinaction.org.



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Canada | United States of America | Dominican Republic



www.smilesfoundation.org

