

The Branch



APPLE TREE DENTAL

Access • Compassion • Excellence

Staff News & Announcements

Leadership Message

Karen Engstrom, RDH, Chief Operating Officer



The beginning of the New Year is always a time for reflecting on all of our accomplishments while looking forward to the coming year with hope and purpose. I have a great deal of gratitude and appreciation for our Apple Tree team and for the excellent and compassionate care that was provided in 2022 - especially given the continued impact of the pandemic and the workforce shortages.

When I joined Apple Tree in 2005, I worked as a clinic and mobile dental hygienist for our Coon Rapids program. At that time, we had just 3 Centers: Coon Rapids, Hawley, and Madelia. It's incredible for me to look back and reflect on the progress and growth we've made over the years. At the end of 2022, we completed construction on a permanent clinic for our Little Falls Center and added our 9th Center with the purchase of ADT Dental in Minneapolis. In the future, the New Brighton location will officially become our 10th Center. After 37 years, Apple Tree has now surpassed \$4 million in total services provided, has delivered 1.5 million dental visits and screenings, and has grown to approximately 255 employees. Each and every one of you contribute in a very special way to fulfilling our mission and purpose for serving those most in need.

Looking ahead, I am very proud and excited to work with our team and with our community partners to continue the legacy of Apple Tree's work to overcome barriers to oral health throughout Minnesota. With heartfelt thanks and best wishes to everyone for a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2023!

Inside this issue

New ADT Staff!

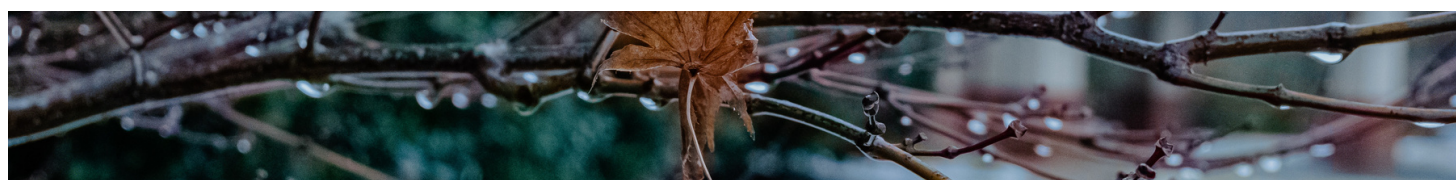
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Fairmont Center and Schmeeckle Foundation



We believe Juanita Ellen (Teubner) Schmeeckle would be very proud of the new Fairmont Center and all the outstanding work being accomplished there. Over the past five years, the Schmeeckle Foundation, which was created to carry on the legacy of Juanita, provided more than \$2.6 million to create the new Fairmont Center. Now, the Foundation pledged an additional \$264,500 to help cover costs for the new mobile dental program and garage, recruitment and retention, new dental equipment, and even some charity care for uninsured school children. Thank you to the Schmeeckle Foundation!



ADT Dental Joining the Team!

In late December, Apple Tree Dental signed the paperwork to acquire ADT Dental, a dental clinic located in Minneapolis. We are so excited to welcome all of our new Minneapolis team members!

If you didn't get a chance to see Dr. Helgeson's December video welcoming everyone to Apple Tree, [you can find it here.](#)

Please make sure that you take the time to welcome the new team as you interact with them!



Dr. DellaTorre - Dentist
Dr. Ottavi - Dentist
Annalise L. - DT
Becky X. - CCC
Canetta H. - Accts Rec.
Catherine O. - LDH
Christine D. - CA
Darlene Z. - LDH
Dr. Miller - Dentist
Der L. - CCC/CA

Dionne H. - LDA
Emily B. - CCC/CA
Irene K. - LDH
Judith F. - LDH
Karena E. - LDA
Dr. Knox - Dentist
Linda L. - DT
Maria C. - CA
Marilynn B. - Office Mgr.
Michelle S. - DA Sup.

Pa Y. - CCC/CA
Phala A. - LDH
Rosa R. - LDA
Susan Z. - Billing
Verny M. - ADT
Zonia R. - DA Sup.





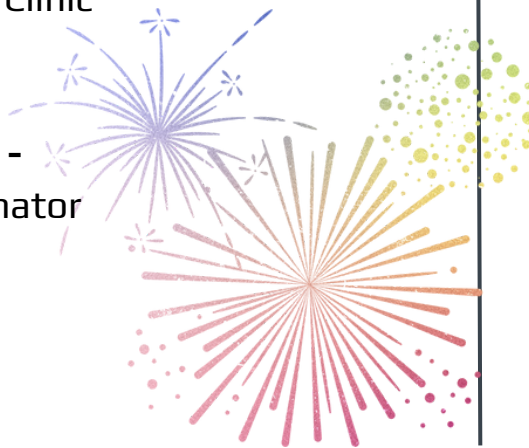
Professional Announcements

Promotions

Abbie Lindberg (FF) - Licensed
Dental Assistant

Mackenzie Wolff (CR) - Clinic
Care Coordinator

Dorothea Edwards (CR) -
Community Care Coordinator



Our MV Pediatrics
team got some
fresh new photos!



Employee Spotlight

Connie Knutson, Human Resources Coordinator

Connie is a true asset to the Human Resources team. She is dependable and I greatly value and appreciate her and her work ethic. She works hard every day and gives her best effort, often behind the scenes setting up Employee Benefit plans, sending out COBRA notices, setting up a new employee in ADP or often fielding many calls and emails to give employees the answers they're looking for. Connie is approachable and caring and a great asset to our team. We're extremely lucky to have her!

- Chad Engstrom, HR Director





ADP Onboarding

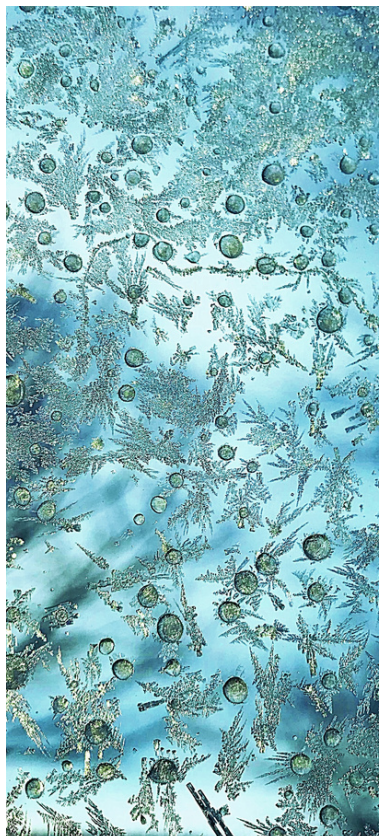
The Human Resources team is excited to be implementing a new ADP Onboarding Module after a lot of behind-the-scenes work to get it set up and tested. The Onboarding Module facilitates making the onboarding process easier and more electronic. It has eliminated the piles of paperwork that some employees had to complete in the past. The system also allows us to share policies and procedures and track everyone's completion of their assignments. Our goal is to enhance the new hire's onboarding experience. We have started to use the new system and have received some positive feedback thus far!

January Work Anniversaries

Karen Engstrom – 2005
Jennifer Rusness – 2006
Carmen Figueroa Garcia – 2008
Kirsten Krieter – 2011
Ivan Makovec – 2011
Casey Berge – 2014
Cassandra Walker – 2016
Sarah Wegleitner – 2020
Jennifer Oskerson – 2021
Jamie Lund – 2021
Britanni Doerring – 2021
Mariah Preston – 2022
Emma Throldahl – 2022
Carmen Tedford – 2022
Tiana Degnan – 2022

Would You Rather...?

[View the results!](#)

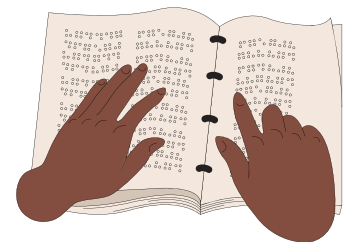


Upcoming Events

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Jan 16
Imbolc/St. Brigid's Day - Feb 1-2
Groundhog Day - Feb 2
President's Day - Feb 20
Little Falls Grand Opening has been rescheduled.

Notable This Month

National Braille Literacy Month
National Blood Donor Month
National Soup Month
CRNA Week in Minnesota



Thanks for reading! Please send us any news, kudos, suggestions, or updates that you would like to see in the Branch.

- The Branch Committee (Deb Jacobi, Chad Engstrom, Mary Larkin, Emma Larson)