

Fordland Clinic

Thanks to the Skaggs Foundation Legacy Grant, Tri-Lakes Community Health Center has had the privilege of providing dental care to the students of Reeds Spring and Blue Eye School. We average about 630 students each visit! Now that we have been involved for 3 years, we are seeing the difference in the students' overall oral health care. The students we saw in Kindergarten that were too afraid to even open their mouths for us now come in to our room with excitement even stating, "I love the dentist!". They are excited to tell us how they have taught their younger siblings how to brush and floss.

Our older students' hygiene has improved tremendously. There is one particular high school student who comes to mind. When we saw him as a freshman, it took our hygienist over 45 minutes with a high power water scaler to try to remove the amount of build-up he had. The hygienist wasn't even able to complete it all within that time due to the swelling and gum irritation from his poor hygiene. We were able to get him to come to the office where we could numb him and get down to the gum area to remove what was causing the inflammation. We then saw him in the school 6 months later and again it took about 45 minutes to get his teeth cleaned. But this time we were able to complete it in the 45 minutes. We kept stressing the importance of brushing and flossing. Fast forward to Junior year, this last school session... that same young man comes in, very excited to tell us how much better he has been doing and how much better his gums and teeth feel. We prepare our hygienist for a hard, long cleaning time and to our surprise, he had made a complete change. It was obvious he really had been practicing better oral care, his teeth were clean and his gums were healthy. We were able to complete his cleaning in 20 minutes.