



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



SMILES
Foundation
USA

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Photo & Privacy Notice

In accordance with child protection and privacy regulations in the Dominican Republic, photographs in which children's faces are clearly identifiable may not be published.
All images included in this report were taken prior to the implementation of these regulations.

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

With deep gratitude, we say goodbye to 2025 — a year that reminded us that patience, resilience, and perseverance, when guided by love and goodwill, truly do bring meaningful results and move our goals closer to reality.

As we look toward a promising year ahead, I find myself reflecting: How can I do better? How can I reach further? How can I strengthen the impact and continuity of Smiles Foundation's work?

My life is so closely intertwined with the Smiles family of charities in all three countries that it is impossible to separate the personal from the charitable. They are not two paths, but one. Volunteering has never been measured in hours or days for me; it is the essence of who I am and the purpose that gives my life meaning.

There never seems to be enough time to accomplish all I hope to do. And as each year brings greater wisdom and strength, the same question gently returns to my heart: Am I doing enough to help secure Smiles Foundation's future for generations to come?

The answer is complex. Each of us contributes in our own way, shaped by our abilities, circumstances, and dreams. While our paths may differ, we share a common truth: we can bring our deepest intentions to life when we act from the heart. For me, this is the only way to live and lead.

Over time, I have learned that the energy we give to others must also be protected and renewed within ourselves. To continue serving with vitality and joy, we must care for our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. We cannot pour from an empty cup. Nurturing ourselves is not a luxury — it is essential. When we live in balance and inner peace, the energy we share with the world becomes stronger, kinder, and more sustainable.

My hope for 2026 is to encourage each of us to begin with self-compassion — to fill our own cups with love, understanding, and strength — so that together we can continue making this world a better place, one smile at a time.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to every supporter, volunteer, partner, and friend who helps Smiles Foundation create lasting impact in communities across Canada, the United States, and the Dominican Republic. You make this work possible. Because of you, we continue to make a tangible difference in countless lives. I also extend a warm invitation to anyone who feels inspired to join our Smiles Family in any way that resonates with your heart and spirit.

Thank you for your generosity, your trust, and for walking this journey with us.

With warm appreciation,

Elina Katsman.



Elina Katsman
President and Founder
Smiles Foundation Group of
Charities

WHO WE ARE



Smiles Foundation is an international network of three registered charities in the Dominican Republic, Canada, and the United States, united by one mission: to create Brighter Smiles Around the World.

For over 40 years, we have empowered children, families, and communities through accessible oral care, health education, and active living programs. Our work began in the Dominican Republic, where we operate 10 permanent clinics and mobile units, providing free dental care to children and community-based wellness programs.

Through Smiles Foundation in Canada and Smiles Foundation USA, we support and expand this impact by coordinating donations, equipment, and volunteers, as well as leading initiatives like *Smiles in Action*, bringing active lifestyle programs to communities across Canada.

Founded and led by Elina Katsman, Smiles Foundation is driven by compassion, collaboration, and a deep commitment to health equity and human dignity.

OUR MISSION & VISSION



Vision

Communities transformed by access to care, united by compassion, and empowered to thrive across generations – because a healthy smile makes a world of difference.

Mission

To serve underprivileged children, the elderly, and families through health initiatives and a variety of programs—restoring dignity, building hope, and creating lasting impact, one smile at a time.

WHY THIS WORK MATTERS

Millions of people face barriers to oral health care, basic health education, food security, and opportunities for active living.

In underserved communities, these challenges are interconnected, affecting children’s health, education, confidence, and long-term opportunities for them and their families.

Smiles Foundation responds with a holistic approach that combines care, prevention, education, and community support, creating sustainable change where it’s needed most.

“Although there are dental professionals in the Dominican Republic, most services are private and expensive, which limits regular access to oral health care for many individuals, particularly those in low-income communities.¹”

“Oral disease remains a significant public health concern in the Dominican Republic, reflecting gaps in access, prevention, and education that affect quality of life.²”



¹ Sánchez, J., Pérez, M., & collaborators. (2022). Access to dental care services in the Dominican Republic. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(15), 1–12.
² Martínez, R., Gómez, L., & team. (2024). Evaluation of an oral health program for children in San Francisco de Macoris, Dominican Republic (2019–2024). *ResearchGate*.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are at the core of Smiles Foundation's impact. Their dedication, compassion, and generosity of time make it possible for us to expand access to care, strengthen our programs, and serve communities with dignity.

In 2025, our volunteer network included:

- **38 active volunteers in the Dominican Republic**
- **More than 25 active volunteers in Canada**
- **20 active volunteers in U.S.A.**

Across these countries, volunteers contribute in meaningful ways: from supporting dental clinics and outreach initiatives to assisting with food distribution programs, fundraising efforts, and operational logistics.

In the Dominican Republic, local volunteers play a particularly vital role in supporting clinical operations and mobilizing resources within the communities we serve. In Canada, volunteers help strengthen partnerships, coordinate initiatives, and sustain the infrastructure that allows our programs to thrive internationally.

Beyond numbers, our volunteers bring empathy, cultural understanding, and an unwavering commitment to service. Their work directly contributes to healthier families, stronger communities, and brighter futures.

We are deeply grateful to every individual who gives their time and heart to this mission. Behind every brighter smile is a volunteer who cares.



OUR IMPACT IN 2025 AND BEYOND

220,686

People impacted in 2025



Patients Treated
96,839

114,657

Patients Educated

Food Distribution

3,745 beneficiaries

Outreach work

5,098 people



347 Dental Auxiliary Program Graduates

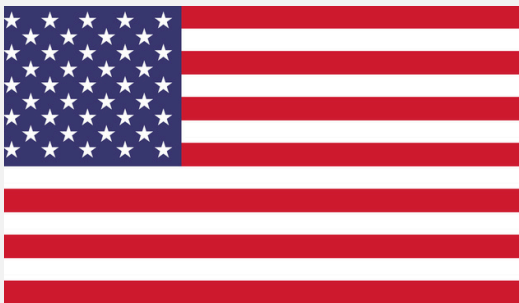
\$1.7M+ beneficiaries

in in-kind donations from USA & Canada

People engaged through *Smiles in Action*

871+

Over
7 millions
beneficiaries in 39 years of work



U.S.A.

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U.S.A. - OUR WORK

We play a crucial role in bringing life-changing care to children and families in the Dominican Republic by mobilizing resources, partnerships, and logistics across the United States.

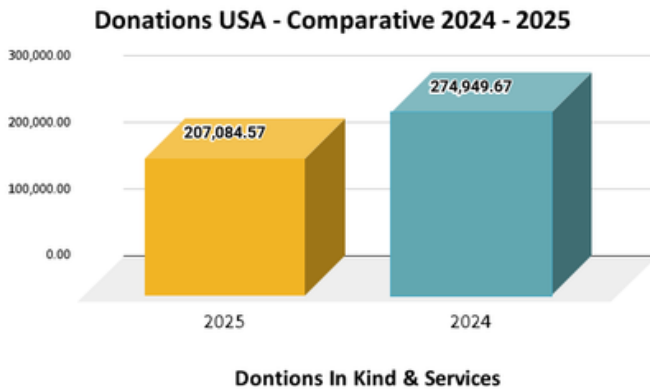
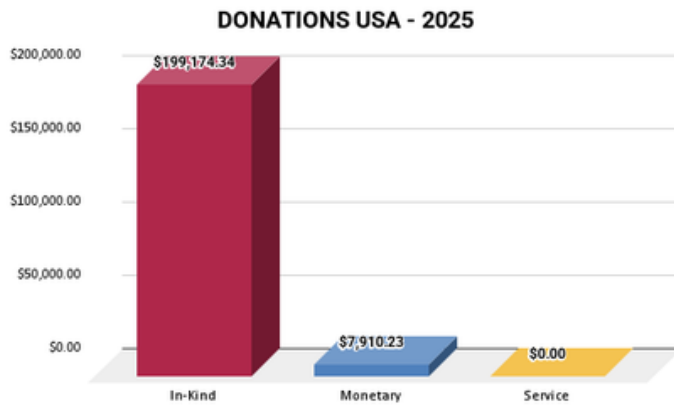
Through the generosity of donors, volunteers, and corporate partners, we collect, organize, and ship dental and medical supplies, transforming contributions into tangible care. Every item — from essential instruments to everyday disposable materials — helps our clinics provide treatment, comfort, and hope to children who would otherwise go without.

Programs & Services:

- **Partnerships, Logistics & Volunteer Engagement:** We coordinate donation drives, warehouse support, and international shipments, working closely with volunteers and partners to ensure efficient and reliable delivery of supplies.
- **Strengthening Care Through Connection:** From our warehouse partner in the United States to clinics across the Dominican Republic, we serve as a vital link in our global network of care. Donations from individuals, companies, and organizations are collected, organized, and prepared for shipment.

Every contribution is transformed into essential tools for care. When supplies arrive at our “Sonrisas” clinics, they empower local teams to provide treatment, comfort, and hope, creating “Brighter Smiles Around the World”.

U.S.A. - DONATIONS



Smiles Foundation USA plays a vital role in expanding access to life-changing dental care for children and families in the Dominican Republic by mobilizing resources, partnerships, and logistics throughout the United States.

By coordinating donation drives, managing warehouse partnerships, and overseeing international shipments, Smiles Foundation USA serves as a critical link in our global network of care, transforming generosity into tangible treatment, comfort, and hope.

While donations from the United States experienced a 24.68% decrease in 2025 compared to 2024, Smiles Foundation USA remained focused on maximizing impact through strategic partnerships and efficient resource allocation.

This evolution reinforces our commitment to building a resilient and diversified donor network to support our mission moving forward.

U.S.A. - SHIPPING TO DR

Our work is made possible through the strength of meaningful partnerships. We are deeply grateful to Suddath, whose continued support and collaboration play an essential role in advancing our logistics and outreach efforts.

In particular, the dedication of their Florida-based team reflects the shared commitment that helps turn generosity into impact.

The majority of donations shipped from the United States were generously provided by Henry Schein Cares, a long-standing and valued partner. Their ongoing support enables us to deliver critical resources to communities in the Dominican Republic, transforming contributions into tangible care and lasting change.

These partnerships demonstrate the power of collaboration in driving social impact. We invite organizations and supporters to join this growing network and help extend our reach to communities that need it most.





DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

D.R. - “SONRISAS” DENTAL CLINICS

“Sonrisas” Dental Clinics, both permanent and mobile, are at the core of La Fundación para la Prevención y la Salud bucal de los Niños, Inc.’s mission to provide accessible, high-quality oral health care to underserved communities in the Dominican Republic. La Fundación para la Prevención y la Salud bucal de los Niños, Inc. **currently operates ten (10) permanent dental clinics, thirty-seven (37) portable dental units, and a mobile dental clinic permanently stationed in Cabrera**, allowing us to deliver essential oral health services in both established clinical settings and hard-to-reach communities.

Guided by a human-centred approach, our services prioritize prevention, treatment, and education, ensuring every patient is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.

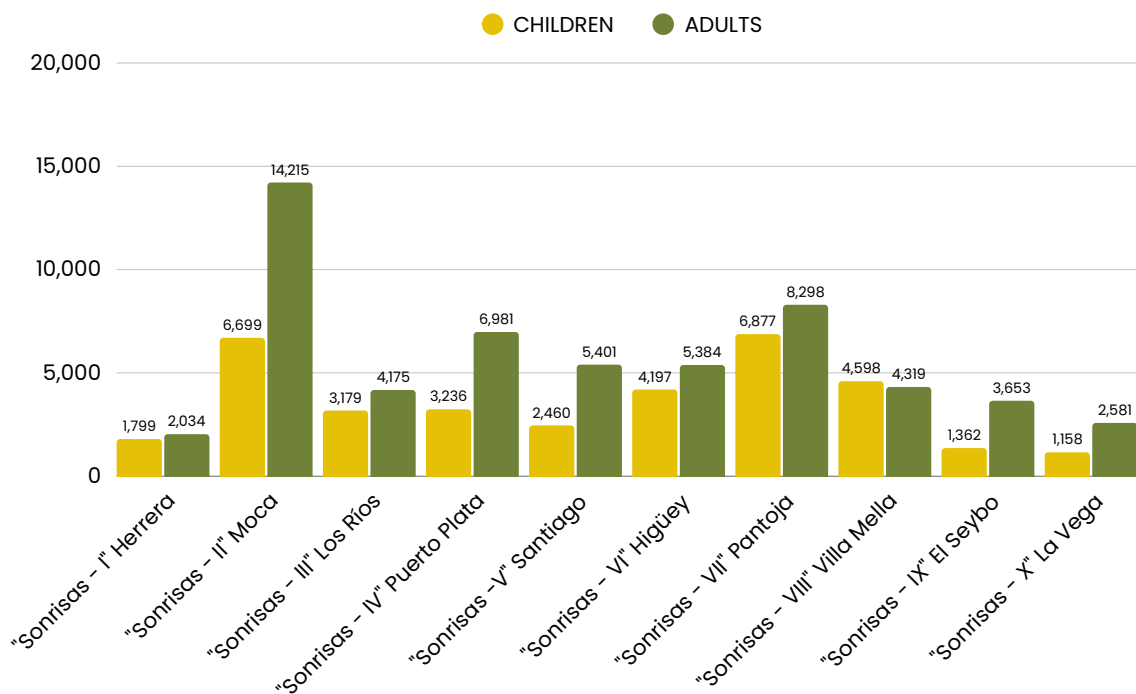
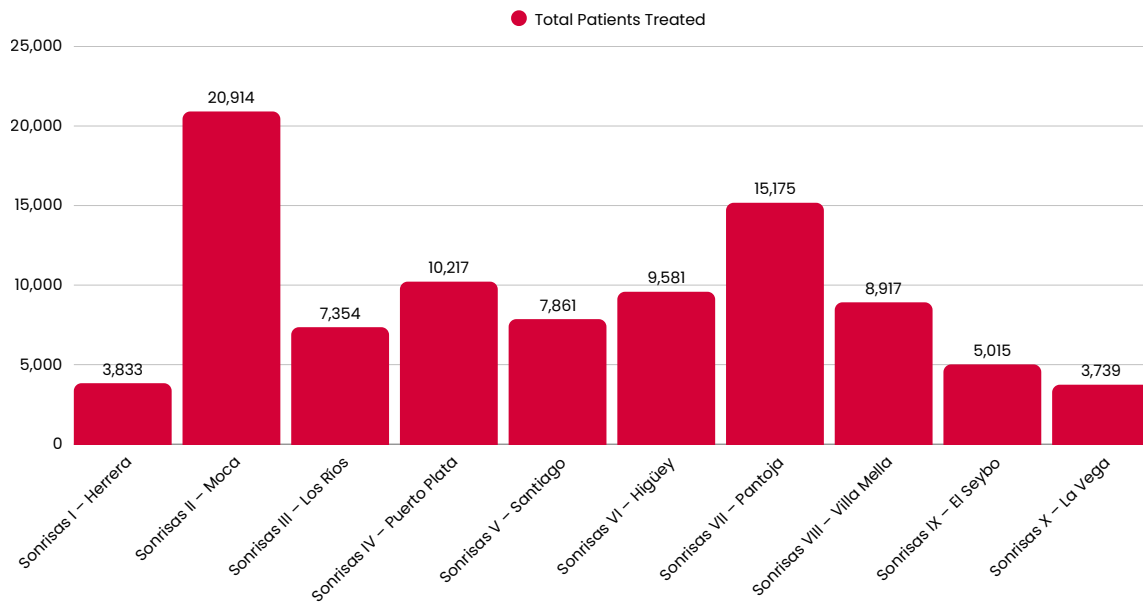
Across all “Sonrisas” clinics, patients receive a full spectrum of dental services, including preventive and diagnostic care, restorative treatments, prosthetics, specialized procedures, and oral surgery.

In 2025, “Sonrisas” Dental Clinics provided dental care to 96,839 patients; each visit represented not just a clinical procedure, but a meaningful step toward improved health, confidence, and quality of life.



D.R. - "SONRISAS" DENTAL CLINICS

In 2025, La Fundación para la Prevención y la Salud bucal de los Niños Inc. delivered dental care across ten permanent clinic locations in the Dominican Republic. Below is the breakdown of total patients treated per clinic:



D.R. - MOBILE CLINIC – CABRERA

In partnership with a valued Canadian donor who prefers to remain anonymous, the Mobile Clinic in Cabrera continued expanding access to dental care and preventive health services in 2025 for communities with limited access to formal dental facilities.

Through this initiative:

- **4,233 people** received free dental treatments.
- **4,352 families** benefited from oral health education and disease prevention programs.
- A total of **8,585 beneficiaries** were reached through combined dental care and preventive education efforts.

This program plays a critical role in reaching underserved rural populations, reducing untreated dental conditions, and strengthening long-term preventive health practices within families.



D.R. - PRIMARY HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

At “Sonrisas”, care extends beyond the dental chair. Health education is an essential part of our approach, empowering patients with knowledge and tools to maintain long-term oral and overall health. Through hands-on demonstrations, educational sessions, and the distribution of hygiene kits, our teams help patients build lifelong preventive habits.

In 2025, **114,657 patients** were reached through oral and primary healthcare education programs, reinforcing our belief that sustainable impact begins with education and prevention.

A special highlight of this work is the Mobile Dental Clinic in Cabrera, made possible through the generous support of a valued anonymous Canadian donor. This partnership has allowed Smiles Foundation to deliver free dental treatments and vital health education directly to the community, creating lasting change for children, families, and seniors. We are deeply grateful for this continued support, which exemplifies how compassionate partnerships transform lives.



D.R. - “SONRISAS” CAMP

Since 2002, in Pantoja, we have carried out the “Sonrisas” Camp, an initiative that began with just 25 children gathered under a large tree, united by the desire to learn, share, and grow.

Each year, during a dedicated time, the camp provides children with a safe, inspiring environment that combines education, recreation, and values-based learning. Over time, many participants have maintained their connection with Smiles Foundation, becoming committed volunteers and even professionals in the field, including dentists and dental technicians.

In 2025, enrollment reached **50 children**, who continue to learn, develop new skills, and create meaningful memories that strengthen their confidence and future aspirations.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



In 2025, Smiles Foundation continued its strategic partnership with Zakat Foundation of America to deliver humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities in the Dominican Republic.

Through this collaboration, we implemented large-scale food distribution initiatives during Ramadan and Udhiya, ensuring culturally appropriate, respectful, and dignified support for families facing food insecurity.



Impact in 2025:

- **2,015 families received Ramadan food packages.**
- **1,730 families benefited from Udhiya meat distribution.**

These programs provided essential nourishment, reinforcing community solidarity while addressing immediate food insecurity among underserved households.



Through this partnership, emergency relief is delivered with compassion, cultural awareness, and dignity that transcends religion.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



Beyond humanitarian relief, our partnership with Zakat Foundation of America also supports long-term capacity building and economic empowerment initiatives in the Dominican Republic.

In 2025:

- **347 students graduated from the Dental Auxiliary Training Program.**

This program equips participants with professional skills, hands-on training, and certification opportunities, creating pathways toward employment within the dental field and strengthening local healthcare systems.

Many graduates go on to work in our “Sonrisas” dental clinics, directly contributing to the delivery of quality care within their own communities.

By investing in education and workforce development, this initiative fosters sustainable community growth and expands access to quality oral healthcare services.

Together, we are addressing both immediate needs and long-term opportunities, building stronger, healthier futures.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, Smiles Foundation was honoured to receive a generous in-kind donation from Jamieson Laboratories, a recognized Canadian brand known for its high-quality natural vitamins and commitment to preventive health.

Through this contribution, we were able to distribute premium natural supplements to over **5,000 families** in vulnerable communities in the Dominican Republic.

This initiative strengthened preventive health efforts by:

- Supporting overall wellness in underserved populations
- Promoting nutritional supplementation as part of community health education
- Expanding access to essential health resources beyond dental care

Jamieson's generosity reflects a shared commitment to holistic well-being and sustainable community impact.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



In 2025, thanks to the generous support of **The DeBoer Foundation** via **Raymond James Canada Foundation**, Smiles Foundation was able to finally purchase a new generator for our “**Sonrisas**” Clinic in **Moca**, Province of Español.

For **two years**, our local volunteer teams worked tirelessly to raise funds and advocate for this critical need. Their commitment, together with the generosity of our Canadian partners, made this long-awaited investment possible.

In the past, treatments had to be postponed due to power failures and an aging generator that was no longer operational. Today, the Moca clinic can provide uninterrupted care to the communities that need us most, even when the lights go out.

After two years, we finally secured this critical piece of equipment. In a region where frequent power outages disrupt essential services, reliable electricity is vital to delivering safe and uninterrupted dental care.

This investment strengthens our capacity to serve children and families with consistency, safety, and dignity.

Together, we continue building healthier futures; one smile at a time.

WITH GRATITUDE

None of the work shared in this Annual Report would be possible without the generosity, commitment, and belief of those who stand beside Smiles Foundation USA.

We extend our deepest thanks to our **donors, partners, supporters, team members, and volunteers** who continue to invest their time, resources, and trust in our mission. Your contribution fuels every clinic, every program, and every smile restored.

To our corporate and community partners: thank you for walking alongside us, sharing our vision, and helping transform compassion into action. To our volunteers in Canada, the United States, and the Dominican Republic, your dedication and heart are at the core of everything we do.

We are especially grateful to the local dental teams, coordinators, and community leaders in the Dominican Republic whose tireless work ensures care reaches those who need it most.

Together, we are not only providing dental care, we are building healthier futures, restoring dignity, and creating lasting impact.

Thank you for believing in our mission.
Thank you for making smiles possible.



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