



PRESS ROOM – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Must! Charities Launches *Healthy Smiles, Stronger Futures* Partnership with Tolosa Children's Dental Center

PASO ROBLES, Calif. — More than 5,000 children each year will gain access to essential dental care through Healthy Smiles, Stronger Futures, a new Must! Charities initiative in partnership with Tolosa Children's Dental Center. Must!'s **\$700,000 investment over the next three years** will bring preventive dental services to Lillian Larsen Elementary School in San Miguel and expand restorative treatment for underserved children throughout San Luis Obispo County.

At the heart of the initiative is the expansion of Dentistry at School, a proven model that brings preventive dental care directly to school campuses. Through cleanings, X-rays, fluoride treatments, sealants, oral health education, and treatment planning, children receive care where they already spend their day. This approach helps eliminate the transportation, language, financial, and scheduling barriers that often prevent families from accessing routine dental services.

The partnership will expand Dentistry at School into San Miguel, one of the county's most underserved communities for pediatric dental care. At Lillian Larsen Elementary School, 83% of students are designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged, and more than half speak Spanish as their primary language. Despite the significant need, there are currently no dental providers located in San Miguel, requiring many families to travel more than 20 miles for care or to forgo treatment altogether.

Through Must! Charities' investment in Dentistry at School, Tolosa Children's Dental Center will provide preventive services on campus while connecting children to ongoing dental care, restorative treatment when needed, and long-

term support. The program is expected to provide essential oral health care to nearly 400 children in San Miguel between 2026 and 2028 while strengthening Tolosa's ability to serve children throughout San Luis Obispo County.

In addition to expanding school-based care, Must! Charities' investment will increase Tolosa Children's Dental Center's clinical capacity, allowing more underserved children across the county to receive restorative treatment and ongoing care. Together, these efforts are expected to directly serve more than 5,000 children annually, creating a ripple effect that benefits more than 12,500 family members each year.

"When we saw how geography continues to limit access to pediatric dental care for families in San Miguel, we knew we had an opportunity to create lasting change," said Randy Gray, Director of Community Investments at Must! Charities. "By bringing *Dentistry at School* directly to children, we're removing barriers before they become lifelong disadvantages. This investment is about more than healthier smiles. It's about helping children stay healthy, succeed in school, and build brighter futures."

"Tolosa Children's Dental Center is honored to partner with Must! Charities on this multi-year investment, which will significantly expand access to pediatric oral health care for vulnerable children throughout SLO County. The funding will support the construction of a permanent dental suite, organizational growth, and establish a financial foundation for a long-term, sustainable Dentistry at School program," said Alexandra Chamberlain, Executive Director of Tolosa Children's Dental Center.

Must! Charities operates on a collective giving model, by pooling individual donations of all sizes and investing them in long-term partnerships that address the root causes of complex community challenges. By working alongside nonprofit organizations to strengthen programs, build organizational capacity, and create sustainable solutions, Must! improves the quality of life for children and families throughout San Luis Obispo County.

Together, Must! Charities and Tolosa Children's Dental Center are investing in more than healthier smiles. They are creating healthier children, stronger families, and brighter futures by improving school attendance, reducing preventable dental emergencies, and ensuring every child has access to the care they need to thrive.

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About Must! Charities

Must! Charities is changing the model of philanthropy by uniting donors, pooling resources, and investing strategically in long-term solutions that strengthen San Luis Obispo County. Through collective giving, strategic investments, and hands-on partnerships with nonprofit organizations, Must! creates lasting change for children, families, and communities. Learn more at www.MustCharities.org.

About Tolosa Children's Dental Center

Tolosa Children's Dental Center is the only nonprofit pediatric dental center in San Luis Obispo County, dedicated exclusively to improving children's oral health. Through comprehensive clinical services, school-based prevention programs, oral health education, and community partnerships, Tolosa Children's Dental Center works to ensure every child grows up with a healthy, confident smile.

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