



# Veteran Connection

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## Project & Goals

- Dental Hygiene students of EWU connected with SSVF to analyze the need for oral health care for the Spokane veteran population and formulate questions to link the veterans to the EWU dental clinic, or other clinics to receive care.
- Us dental hygiene students collaborated with SSVF to formulate oral health questions for veterans to assess the need for oral health care access
- We also conducted a script and phone line to connect EWU dental hygiene students to reach out to veterans and get them scheduled to receive oral care at the EWU dental hygiene clinic

## Background & Critical Issue

- SSVF works with Veterans and their families in the Spokane area to provide services to them.
- As a partners with SSVF, EWU dental hygiene assessed the needs of SSVF and found that they needed help connecting veterans to dental services.
- As a program we decided the best way to do that was to connect veterans to our clinic and then direct them through DentistLink or schedule an appointment with them at the clinic.

## Partner Organization

- Spokane Veterans Stand Down is another partner organization that is put on by the Salvation Army of Spokane. The Stand Down has a history of benefiting the Spokane community since the first event that was hosted on January 23rd, 2020.
- The Stand Down has over 40 vendors and two dozen sponsors that usually participate, providing resources such as housing services, energy assistance, healthcare services, legal services, VA benefits, education, food assistance, employment readiness, and suicide prevention.

## What We Did

- Dental Hygiene students of EWU provided oral healthcare resources such as toothbrushes, floss, mouth rinse, denture cleaner, and interproximal aides to those who attended
- We gave information and resources regarding access to affordable dental care at our clinic as well as what services we provide
- An important part of this process was overall education and awareness. Most of the community that attended were unaware of our clinic, and the resources that are available to them and their oral health needs.



## Veterans Program



## What is Next

- Implement new methods and opportunities for access to dental care amongst the veteran community.
- Gather data in regard to our script assessment to help implement the needs of the veteran community.
- Connect the veteran community with Eastern Washington Universities Dental Hygiene Clinic as we are a great resource for care, education, and affordable prices.
- Educate veterans that are in need of finding care through DentistLink, they are there to help and can provide great information.
- Expand the professional care and educational standards of our program and SSVF to provide to other parts of Washington state.
- Our goal is help achieve oral health and improve the knowledge of dental care and access to health to as many people as possible.



## Contributing Themes

- Increasing access to dental care for clients of SSVF.
- To evaluate oral health needs through a public health questionnaire.
- To work with a community partner to improve our educational objective of planning a public health program.
- Using key resources to accommodate more affordable care to a target population.
- Meeting the needs of a target population.
- To accept and support veterans and their families who are interested in improving their oral health.
- Raising awareness of available resources.

## Civic Perspective

This partnership with SSVF provided an opportunity to collaborate with community serves to identify the need of veterans in the local community. Through this project, we have created a list of questions to understand about the veterans' oral health and educated them with dental homecare.